

# INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR PEACE

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D. L. Sainty, I.V.S.P.,  
HQ 5 British Red Cross Commission,  
Civilian Relief,  
B.A.O.R.

DLS / 36

12th August 1946

Dear Derek,

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Schemes :

I have no very definite news from the schemes yet, but I gather that there have been no calamities. Rendsburg has started with a very few volunteers, locals, but letters from Marian and Jim sound quite happy. Hamburg seems to be OK. Geldern is going very well, according to Leslie. Meschede I haven't heard from, but Basil has probably written you about both it and Geldern.

Travelling expenses:

My negotiations have come to nothing. I saw first the Vice-President of the Hannover Railways (having been wrongly informed that Hannover was the HQ for the Zone) and he was encouraging , saying that some way must be found to assist. But when I saw the bloke at the Zone HQ he said he was bound by regulations given him by the British controlling officers, and the classes to which concessions could be given were very clearly defined and he could not go outside them. So I went so see the British officers concerned, a Mr. Dibben and his assistant, Mr. Drew. They were very sympathetic, and spent a good half-hour trying to find a method by which they could work our schemes into one of the "permitted categories", but, alas, without success.

Had it been children, it would have been comparatively easy. And Mr. Dibben said if it had been a question of a single occasion, e.g. requiring a special train, he would have put it on and omitted to mention it, but for an arrangement entailing a degree of permanence or at least covering a period of time he couldn't do anything. The railways are being controlled in Germany as a whole with a central co-ordination, and all regulations have to be approved by the four powers. There have been concession regulations under which we could have been brought without a great deal of stretching, but they have been cancelled. I confess that it did not occur to me that even the smooth working of our schemes would be made more difficult by the Russian veto, but there it is. Mr. Dibben said he would try in Berlin to get a concession through if we asked for it through Education Branch, but he doubted if it would be possible. Mr. Drew suggested that we might find public funds to bear part of the cost, because they had found such a fund in Hamburg to help with fares for children going to Switzerland.

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Yours

David