

RS/143/IVSP,
British Troops Berlin

26 Aug 46

To:
Education Department,
Berlin Military Government

Subject : Suggested Organisation in Berlin of voluntary practical work schemes for young people aged 16 to 19 inclusive

- 1) German authorities in Berlin are, as is well known, deeply concerned about the moral condition for youth in the city. It is only too true that existing youth organisations are not making much impression on this problem.
- 2) Their lack of Success is at any rate partly due to the fact that they have nothing practical to offer; and German youth is not to be impressed by speeches and propaganda unless there are given some immediate and tangible realisation.
- 3) The experience of I.V.S.P. in running four work schemes in the British Zone and a smaller scheme at Nikolassee goes to show that young people can be brought to do a practical job of work and at the same time to associate it with the idea of internationalism unconnected with political or religious divisions whilst giving a practical demonstration of democracy at work. It is also true that the experiment has aroused a good deal of interest in older German people who have visited the schemes and are interested in youth work.
- 4) This unit suggests that is be given the task of organising further work schemes for young people in Berlin, for the good conduct of which it should be directly responsible.
- 5) Organisation considered by Military Government to be reliable would be asked to suggest men and women suitable to take charge of work schemes.
- 6) These people would be personally interviewed by the unit and twenty of them, ten men and ten women would be selected as possible leaders. The women would have to have a sound knowledge of cooking, washing and needlework.
- 7) A suitable job of work, similar set's that at Nikolassee, would be found, with accommodation for the volunteers to live and sleep there.
- 8) For at least two weeks and probably three, the scheme would run under the direct supervision of unit members who would live and work with the volunteers. During that time the unit would endeavour to demonstrate how a work scheme for young people should be run and would at the same time select twelve people suitable to run further schemes, - six men and six women
- 9) Concurrently attempts would be made in conjunction with the German Sozialämter to find suitable work and accommodation for six work schemes of say 15 young people each. these would each be put in charge of one man and woman volunteer. For at least the first week, a unit member would also live and work with the group and would thereafter be personally responsible for seeing that the scheme was being conducted properly.
- 10) Finance. The leaders of schemes would be paid by the Sozialamt at the rates payable to leaders of youth clubs. The organisation for which work was done would pay at least the costs of food, accommodation and leader's wages. The work undertaken would always be work of social value to the community and would never be such as would produce a profit for a private individual.

Volunteers would receive free board and lodging but would not be paid unless the scheme should be evolved which would definitely last longer than eight weeks, in which case pocket money of say RM 5 or 10 per week could be paid after an initial period to be determined.

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- 11) Food. Military Government and the German authorities would be approached with a view to obtaining a higher food card for volunteers, who, it is intended, would be mainly employed on unskilled heavy manual work.
- 12) Material assistance by Unit. It has been frequently stressed by Military Government that voluntary societies should give all the help they can in the matter of food to adolescents. It would therefore be appropriate for the Unit to use part of its relief supplies to supplement the rations of volunteers. Help could also be given to a limited extent in the matter of clothing and footwear.
- 13) It is the opinion of the Unit and of many reliable German people with which it is in contact that schemes of this sort if encouraged by Military Government would attract to them a large number of young people who are at the moment impervious to anything which might be "propaganda" or who are simply without leadership or interest in the obligations of citizenship.

Timetable

5.00	Early risers to prepare breakfast
6.00	Rise
6.30	Breakfast
7.00	House jobs
7.30	Work
9.15 - 25	Break
12.00	Dinner
13.30	Work
14.45 - 55	Break
17.00	Work end
18.30	Supper
19.15	Washing up, Evening problems
21.45	Lights out

House Duties

Checking tools
Filling stoves
Carrying water
Wood
Sweeping out rooms
Post
Cleaning out stove

Appointments (Talks)

15 Aug 46	Talk on "The human Brain"
16 Aug 46	Talk on "Modern Music"
19 Aug 46	Talk on "Development of Human Personality"
21 Aug 46	Talk on "English Schools" (unit member)
22 Aug 46	Talk on "Relief Work in Greece" (unit member)
23 Aug 46	American visit
24 Aug 46	Vegetarianism
26 Aug 46	French journalist on "French Youth"
28 Aug 46	Internat. student Movement pre-1933

(talks by Germans unless otherwise indicated,
followed by discussion)

Problems of camp organisation are discussed and settled by the whole group.