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I.V.S.P.
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B. A. O. R., Germany

SKETCH OF FUTURE PLANS FOR I.V.S.P. DEVELOPMENT IN GERMANY (BRITISH ZONE)
in the early part of 1946

Arising out of a report made / to the Education Branch of the Central Commission Germany, upon the work-camp run by one of the I.V.S.P. relief sections, at Friedland, near Göttingen, where many German students worked and lived along with British personnel, carrying out vital duties in the refugee camp there, came a request that I.V.S.P. should be allowed to run similar camps in Germany in the summer of 1946. This permission was given in the form that "the results would be reviewed by the C.C.G. after the schemes were ended"; this implied permission to hold the camps.

Four schemes were organised, at Geldern; Meschede; Hamburg; and Rendsburg. All but the first one which was a specifically youth camp and only run until Sep 14th, all the schemes ran from Aug 5th until Sep 30.

Each week from each of these camps one man or woman was elected by the other 24 - for the camps had on an average 25 members in each; 20 men and 5 women; all staying for a period of no less than a week, and preferably two - to represent that particular week at a conference proposed to be held in Hanover on Sat and Sun October 26/7. At this conference, consequently, some 32 people would be present, representing all eight weeks of the four schemes. Other interested people of an influential nature would also be invited, so that in all about 50 - 55 people would be present.

At this meeting which would be chaired by an English person, an attempt would be made to form a group of I.V.S.P. in the British Zone of Germany. A copy of the Swiss constitution would be presented duly modified to cover the conditions prevailing in Germany; and the future work would be discussed.

It is felt that in the present unstable conditions in Germany, it is better for a certain amount of supervision to be exercised still, until it is felt that a unity of purpose is guiding the German branch.

It will be proposed that a special "training scheme" for IVSP leaders should be undertaken in the Winter, to which volunteers from other countries should be invited to come. A concentrated course of experience with trained IVSP personnel in the thing most vitally needed at the present moment. The scheme would be in the British Zone.

It is too early in the moment to say whether the volunteers from other lands would be able to come under the wing of the C.C.G. or of the Brit Red Cross, or of COBSRA.

It is too early yet to propose that any one German be invited to the conference of International Secretaries in Brussels in October.

The following difficulties cannot be over-emphasised lack of adequate food; shortage of working-clothes; despondency; demand on all sides for man-power, asking utilisation of vacations for IVSP problematic, and virtually excluding working-class folk from participation.

Go Slow. There is quite a considerable danger that an overwhelming sweep of enthusiasm for IVSP may attract the wrong sort of person. IVSP is popular wherever it is talked about. It is just the thing that the German youth want at the moment. And that is all the more reason why a sound foundation should be laid.

Basil Eastland