

11th September 1946

Mr.
Paul Krahe
Frankfurt am Main,
Zietenstraße 3 II,
Germany

Dear Friend,

Many thanks for your letter of August 27th, received this morning.

We are very pleased to know that there are friends in Germany who are interested in developing the International Voluntary Service for Peace and we are anxious to do what we can to encourage them. We believe, as a result of the camps which we have been able to organise this summer in the British Zone, that it would be possible to develop in Germany, quite a large movement in favour of IVSP. This is a situation which we feel requires a great deal of care. If the movement developed very rapidly so that people were joining it without a real and deep understanding of its aims and methods, we should defeat our own objects. We feel that it is essential in the first place to work on a fairly small scale and that the people forming the nucleus of the organisation should get to know each other very well and also have close contacts with the IVSP members in other countries.

We are particularly anxious that organisation in Germany should develop from work, so that it is an expression of a living spirit rather than a machine.

With these thoughts in mind we should be very grateful if you would kindly keep in as close touch as possible with Basil Eastland, IVSP, HQ5, British Red Cross Commission, Civilian Relief, BAOR, Germany.

I also suggest that you should get into touch with the International Secretary of IVSP, Willy Begert, S.C.I., Rennweg 30, Zürich 1, Switzerland. He is hoping to come to the British Zone of Germany towards the end of October and it might be possible for him to visit the American Zone and to discuss matters with you.

There is also to be a meeting towards the end of October of German delegates from the 4 IVSP camps which have taken place in Germany during the summer, and it may be that from this meeting the beginning of some kind of German organisation may develop.

Yours sincerely,