

# INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR PEACE

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28 Oct 46

BE / DE 9

Dear Derek,

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## Hannover Conference

which was in every way a success. Willy, an excellent chairman, contributed very largely, also to the success of the weekend, whilst the real luxury of the accommodation made a most congenial and homely atmosphere. Miss Robers who attended one of the sessions said at the Advisory Officers' meeting today, that she had rarely seen such a fine collection of keen young people anxious to make a success of a meeting and willing to express themselves freely and openly, and yet, which is wonderful for our German friends, to the point.

As you will learn from the report of the meeting which I shall be sending out as soon as possible, a working committee was set up - eight German and two British people - responsible for organising future schemes. The chairman of the committee is Heinrich Carstens of Hamburg (a good man). The name of the organisation agreed upon was "Internationaler Freiwilliger Dienst für den Frieden" (shorted to IFF). The Swiss statutes were provisionally adopted, and the committee instructed to apply to the Allied Control Authority for recognition of IVSP in all four zones first, and to the British Control Commission afterwards. This was only really a gesture, so that afterwards it could be said applications for the whole four zones had been very first step. Any other way might prejudice the chances of recognition in other zones at a later date.

## Control Commission

represented at the conference was very impressed; there won't be any difficulty in getting their permission. At another interview, they readily accepted Willy's offer to take a small number of German people to the Swiss Folk High School for perhaps two months. This might be a way of opening up the door for German volunteers to come abroad. Certainly the Folk High School that Willy has in mind is also a place where the Swiss branch of S.C.I. will almost certainly hold a scheme in which the Germans could take part for perhaps a fortnight.

## Winter Schemes

These are now taking shape - and thank to Stan's scouting around, there will almost certainly be a wood-cutting scheme in Schleswig (to provide fuel for refugees on the tree-less island of Sylt).

I hope that another scheme will be able to run in Duisburg - demolition. If the promised volunteers from abroad are able to come (two each from Swiss - France - Belgium - Holland - U.S. (at present with the FRS in the British Zone) - Denmark - Norway (?) - and Sweden (?) ) then we shall be able to add one or two British volunteers, I hope; balance the number against the number of Germans, and have two schemes of about sixteen volunteers each.

Easter Plans

I have not any; Willy thinks that some German volunteers might go to the Swiss "training" scheme - if they can leave the country.

Summer Plans

I'm afraid that I shall probably not be in Germany to see them develop. But I hope that the committee will have taken over.

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That's all for the moment.

Very best wishes,  
Yours aye,

Basil Eastland