

Heinrich Carstens
24a Hamburg-Blankenese
Caprivistraße 59
Tel. Hamburg 46 25 86

29th December, 1946

SUBJECT: Work-project "Jugendburg Ludwigstein" by Internationaler Freiwilliger Dienst für den Frieden.

TO: Mr. W. Hayes-Beall
Education & Religious Affairs Youth Section
OMGUS, - Berlin, Kronprinzenallee

Dear Sir :

owing your name and address to Mr. Basil Eastland, IVSP Advisory Officer, HQ5 British Red Cross, I take the liberty of asking your assistance in the following matter

The "Internationaler Freiwilliger Dienst für den Frieden" has applied for recognition to the Allied Control Authority, Education branch. If recognised it will form the German section of the international organisation "Service Civil International" whose headquarters are at present in Switzerland. I am writing to you in my capacity as chairman of a provisional working committee of the "Internationaler Freiwilliger Dienst für den Frieden" (IFDF).

IFDF plans to establish work-camps on an international basis in all zones of Germany in 1947, after five such camps under the sponsorship of the British section, "International Voluntary Service for Peace" (IVSP), have proved very successful in 1946.

Our first project is that of the "Jugendburg Ludwigstein". Probably you have heard of the Ludwigstein as a youth-hostel and center of various youth activities both until 1933 and since 1945. The Burg has a capacity of about 200 boys and girls which could be increased to nearly 500 if proper sanitation were provided. Now, IFDF proposes to break stone in a nearby quarry, to transport it to the Burg, to make the necessary excavations for a new sanitation building and to help with the erection of this building. The project is to be open for 20 male and 5 female volunteers, half of whom should come from foreign countries; it will run from 17th March 1947 until 30th April 1947. -

A second work scheme is planned for the summer holidays 1947 as a special youth camp for boys and girls between 14 and 18. - Both work camps would bring direct and valuable help to the German youth movement and would provide excellent opportunities for the re-orientation of our youth.

IFDF would appreciate very much if you could kindly lend us your help in the following way

1. So far we have not contacted AMG at Kassel in whose region the Ludwigstein is situated. Before doing so we would be very happy if you could give us a letter of introduction to the officer in charge or if you could write to him announcing our visit. As general recognition of IFDF has not yet been granted we feel that such introduction would facilitate matters considerably and would ensure a success which otherwise might be doubtful.
2. Foreign volunteers will need an entry permit for the American zone if they want to take part in our work scheme. The volunteers will have to turn in application for entry permits in their respective countries. Again, it would be a great help if you could try and secure such permits from this end. May I ask your assistance in this matter after the names of the volunteers who want to come to the Ludwigstein are known?

3. So far we do not know how to provide food for the foreign volunteers. During 1946, all British volunteers were members of IVSP-units stationed in Germany; consequently they drew their rations from the army. This will be different in 1947. I do not think it will be possible to provide foreign volunteers with German ration cards; therefore, may I ask whether you can suggest any American organisation to which we could turn in an attempt to solve the food problem. Foreign volunteers will be able to bring some food with them; however, this can scarcely be expected to be sufficient to cover the whole period of their stay in Germany.
4. As far as I know OMGUS takes great interest in all matters concerning German youth. If foreign volunteers should find it impossible to come to Germany to attend the Ludwigstein work camp do you think there is a possibility of enlisting the help of American citizens resident or stationed in Germany? Whom do you suggest to contact in this matter?

Volunteers use to stay not less than two weeks, preferably longer; they are expected to do manual labour with pick and shovel, to live together under rather primitive but adequate conditions (directly on Burg Ludwigstein), to eat simple food and to join in discussions and social activities in the evenings.

You may wish to know little more about myself. I was student of State University of Illinois, Department of Ceramic Engineering, in 1925/26, my instructors being Prof. Parmelee and Prof. Andrews. From September 1944 until March 1946 I stayed once more in USA, this time as a prisoner of war. At PW-Camp, Camp Carson, Colo, I was in charge of political activities and in February 1946 I attended a course at the Special Project Center, Fort Eustis, Virginia, from where I was discharged as a "selected individual; possible assistance for the occupation forces in the administration of Germany". As a reference in USA I could give Mr. Henry W. Ehrmann, 41-25 Ninth Str.N.W., Washington III D.C., who is working for the Department and who was my instructor at Fort Eusits, Va.. I have more American and British references if you care for them.

In closing, may I assure you of our gratitude for any help you may be willing and in a position to give to our young German movement of "Internationaler Freiwilliger Dienst für den Frieden",

Yours faithfully

Heinrich Carstens