

HQ 5 Vlotho

NOTES FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK-CAMP CONFERENCE - 14 May 47

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A) SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WORK-CAMPS, particularly in Germany.

- Scope International (necessity of high proportion of foreign volunteers)  
 Voluntary.  
 Work of public utility, or in cases of catastrophes.  
 No one political, religious, or radical axe to grind, but a catalytic action, fusing the best in any and all groups - a channel of experience, leading cut and back to those groups.
- Work should not be only thing; spiritual side - long-term - "going deep"
- Historical facts (by Willy Begert, International Secretary of the IVSP, and liaison officer between the various work-camp organisations)  
 about international work-camps. The first camps; the total number of camps held in 1946 in all countries; the total number planned for 1947 in all countries. Present co-operation between AFSC, FAU, IAL, FH, FHT & SCI, and its value.

B) RAPID SURVEY OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF RUNNING SUCH CAMPS, and how 'Civilian Relief' and other organisations in Germany can co-operate to overcome them.

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|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Food                  | 2) Travel          | 3) Permits - in & out      |
| 4) Materials & Equipment | 5) Working clothes | 6) Organisational details. |

C) RAPID SURVEY OF PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK-CAMPS PLANNED IN GERMANY.

- 1) IFDF (Internationaler Freiwilliger Dienst für den Frieden)
- 2) IAL (Internationella Arbetslag)
- 3) FRS - Hannover; Oberhausen; Oldenburg; Cologne; Berlin; Goslar;
- 4) AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) - American Zone
- 5) Salvation Army Relief Teams
- 6) British Red Cross Relief Teams
- 7) Possibility of work in the Russian Zone

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D) DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THESE PLANS

NB (?) Possibility of FRS members in England coming out for short periods?

E) DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE DIFFICULTIES

- 1) Food Bulk supplies (Holland, BRC, Denmark, US gifts)
  - a) German Food
  - b) food for foreign volunteers.
- 2) Travel Currency made special difficulties.
  - a) Foreign volunteers coming to and through Germany
  - b) German volunteers going out of Germany through other lands
  - c) German volunteers travelling throughout Germany  
 Special railway rates (example of French railways)
- 3) Permits Necessity of having accurate details to save time
  - a) Foreign volunteers - procedure
  - b) Germans going abroad - procedure, invitations &c.
- 4) Materials, equipment and Tools.
- 5) Working clothes.

6) Organisational Details:

- a) Camps should be well prepared - plenty of time; well run; and well rounded off, to leave a good impression.
- b) Work careful choice;  
Unskilled manual work;  
Should be taken seriously  
7 or 8 hour day;  
Ideal when consisting of small groups working together;  
Must be socially useful;  
Relations with paid, skilled workers working on same job;  
Suitability of work affects; number of women on service
- c) Volunteers Type - how to get them - age - students - workers  
Special vacations and release from work  
Each should offer his service on a special form so that they each know exactly what they are in for  
Optimum period of stay - 2 -3 weeks (?)
- d) Camp Definition - not necessarily a tented camp ;  
Accommodation one of the first things to look for after suitable work.  
Cooking facilities.  
Camp should be simple.  
Not too isolated (transport of provisions; and inaccessibility both for participants and visitors).  
Optimum number of volunteers on a camp. Advisability of a "core" of fine personalities.  
Men : women ratio (?)
- e) Leader - Spiritually strong; an advisor and guide - able to delegate his responsibilities; not a "führer", but a "leiter".  
Camp should be thus well-disciplined; should create within itself a community spirit; should create fine relations with local inhabitants; should work well - and play well, spending leisure time fruitfully, in discussions &c.
- f) Head-sister.
- g) Paper-work Regular reports on whole camp (work accomplished &c.)  
Final report on camp  
Confidential reports on volunteers by (?)
- h) Regular "Housemeetings"
- i) Importance of languages
- j) Health Insurance; nearest doctor and medical aid;  
First aid; medical equipment &c.;  
Inoculations.
- k) Finance Costs  
Insurance for Germans  
Insurance for foreign volunteers - should be insured in their own country, and carry on them insurance accident claim forms).  
Food  
Accommodation  
Tool, materials &c.

F) ASSESSMENT OF VALUE OF THE CONFERENCE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSER CO-ORDINATION OF EFFORTS IN THIS INTERNATIONAL WORK-CAMP SPHERE IN THE FUTURE