

Paris, October 7, 1947

POSTSCRIPT TO OBERHAUSEN REPORT

On page 4, in the paragraph concerning the Duisburg conference of the 'Internationalen Freiwilligen Dienst für den Frieden':

I had a good talk with Willy Begert and Heinrich Carstens today which seems to indicate that the version of the Duisburg conference which I got from a running translation of Georg Endemann's report to the camp, and from the group of people concerned with this report, was not altogether accurate.

The conference

- (1) decided to change the name of the organization from 'Internationaler Freiwilliger Dienst für den Frieden' to 'Internationaler Zivildienst' chiefly because the former was too bulky, also because the latter name has been the name of the Swiss branch of the organization for some twenty years; and is in fact the international name of S.C.I.;
- (2) expressed some sentiment on a few of the disadvantages of the PAX emblem, not because it had peace movement connections, but because emblems in general are not always desirable, especially perhaps in the current German atmosphere;
- (3) decided to steer clear of fixed connections with any of the small Friedensgesellschaften in Germany, not because the organization does not consider itself a part of what we may call the peace movement, but because these local organizations are too narrow in their own individual scopes for the wider purposes of Internationaler Zivildienst.

The small group in Oberhausen was concerned because they feared that IFDF was definitely avoiding "peace" as an integral part of its purpose: their concern grew out of an interpretation of the report which they got from Georg Endemann, the camp leader; and Georg's remarks were probably as much influenced buyout-of-conference conversation with the conferees as they were by the actual proceedings of the conference. By a series of personal interpretations of the conference and of the report on the conference, relayed to me by translation and broken Italian-French-English-German, the real decisions of the conference had become somewhat twisted.

This has certainly cleared up my misunderstanding of this conference and has banished a good deal of my wondering about the future of the German branch of SCI. I hope this footnote will allay any similar perplexities caused by my paragraph in the report.

Bob Adams