

Landheim "Luginsland"
Schauinsland / Freiburg
29 February, 1948

SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION

BETWEEN : Ralph Hegneuer (SCI), H.Carstens, H.Böttger (IZD), B.Weber, O.Hannaford (AFSC).

ABOUT : Work camp plans for US Zone Germany, 1948

These conversations were held on several occasions beginning on February 24th when Willy Begert was also present. The following is a summary of the points most frequently and most thoroughly discussed :

BACKGROUND :

- 1) AFSC policy toward the organization of work camps in Europe. It was understood at the Brussels Conference (1946) that AFSC would not organize camps in areas where a branch of SCI was established. AFSC has not previously had any camps in Germany, but it was agreed at Askov that they should undertake three camps in the US Zone in 1948. A close cooperation with IZD was anticipated in this work. AFSC does not contemplate organizing volunteers into a new separate group in Germany and would rather feel that its efforts would strengthen the IZD.
- 2) OMGUS Education and Religious Affairs Branch has expressed great interest in the proposal of international work camps, but this is the first "experimental" year for them and they wish to proceed carefully. The conditions which they require to be met three months before the opening of the camp are outlined in R.T. Alexander's letter of 15 January 1948 to Mr. Mackie of the World Student Christian Federation.
- 3) Difficulties of joint administration where two organizations are equally responsible for the policy and operation of a camp.
 - (a) This is bound to result in some duplication of efforts and delays in administrative procedure because even though the camp leaders were responsible to a joint administrative committee, that committee would still be responsible to two separate bodies.
 - (b) There may also be some ideological confusion in the minds of the participants if the camp is not distinctly an IZD or an AFSC camp. The AFSC, while it does not require conformity from all the participants in its projects, is nevertheless a religiously based organization and it stresses pacifist leadership. IZD on the other hand is a clearly secular organization and may have different criteria for leadership. A number of other points, seemingly unimportant, may become troublesome when they cannot automatically be governed by the custom or policy of one group.

ALTERNATIVES :

The Working Committee of the IZD should be asked to consider the following possible courses of action :

- 1) Re-examine the advisability of having any work camps at all in the US Zone in 1948. The AFSC cannot transfer to IZD the tentative permission to operate camps which it has received from OMGUS, but if the IZD feels that the operation of camps in that zone by the AFSC would be detrimental, AFSC would at the request of IZD reconsider its present plans.
- 2) AFSC camps in co-operation with IZD.
 - (a) AFSC carries full responsibility in relation to Military Government.

(b) AFSC responsible for polity and administration of camp life.

A 48 02 29 - 1 02

(c) A co-ordinating committee (consisting Weber, Böttger, and one or more others whom they might add) would consult on such matters as the selection of personnel, distribution of food, dates of camps, and insurance.

3) Camps under joint administration.

(a) AFSC carries full responsibility in relation to Military Government.

(b) A joint administration committee (consisting Weber, Böttger, and one or more others whom they

might add) would be responsible for internal arrangements (selection of personnel etc.) and for administrative policy. This committee responsible, both to AFSC and to IZD.

(c) Volunteers and leaders responsible to the joint administrative committee .

RECOMMENDATION :

The second course of action (2) is recommended.

Copies to : Hegnauer,
Carstens,
Böttger,
Weber,
Hannaford,
Begert,
Wright.