

HOLM-SEPPENSEN PROJECT  
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Extract from letter from : Jack Eglon, General Secretary F.A.U.  
International Service, Steep, Peterfield, Hants.  
to : Miss Joan Cautherley, F.S.C. Advisory Officer,  
HQ 5, CBSRA Commission, Vlotho, BAOR 1

"In the course of this I visited Horst Rothe at Hamburg both at his office and in his home and I also went out to see Holm-Seppensen. I was accompanied by Ernest Roberts, our Accountant, and by Alan Bowness, our Section Leader at Cologne and we gave very careful consideration to the whole project. We were greatly impressed by Horst Rothe; we think his scheme is an excellent one and we wish very much that we could give him some useful help. Unfortunately at present the truth is that we are not strong enough to help him. His fundamental need is of an older English or American with good practical experience to act as a kind of Works Manager to tie together all the many complications inevitable in the erection of the Nissen hut and the larger barrack.

We know from experience that unless such a man can be found there will be a good deal of frustration and disappointment in the practical work, for no amount of enthusiastic semi-skilled assistance will solve the technical problem of digging out the basement which is essential for Horst's scheme, and of erecting the wooden hut above it. Our recent experiences at Cologne have served to underline this fact for me.

Our limitations are such that nowadays I am very careful to choose work which takes them into full account, and for this reason I have had to decide most reluctantly that I should not recommend our committee that we should assist either at Holm-Seppensen or at . . . What I should like to do would be to give some occasional help at Holm-Seppensen if someone else can take the responsibility for organising the building, and for the moment such a possibility seems rather distant . . . It may be possible for us to send out a couple of extra workers to help at Holm-Seppensen with Cologne as their base in Germany.

I personally am greatly disappointed that we cannot give Horst more useful help for the moment. I put in a strong plea for his project to Kay Taggart of A.F.S.C. at Dusseldorf, and also to Pat Dunham also of A.F.S.C., who is concerned with work camps . . . At the same time I talked to Willy Begert, the International Secretary of the I.V.S.P. in Paris. Meanwhile we are trying to think of some effective ways in which we can give Horst Rothe some support which will show that we are really interested."