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GENERAL REPORT

The IZD Kleine Ausschuß meeting at Buckeburg on Saturday and Sunday May 21 and 22nd was preceded by a visit by Earl Fowler to Mulheim, so that plans for the summer are now going well ahead.

It was finally decided to have six IZD camps - perhaps 5½ would be more correct. In view of the possibility of shortage of volunteers (after our experience of Easter) I was of the opinion that this was too many. Also, from my own point of view, new arrangements and instructions would have to be made with the various secretariats.

On this point, I have been wondering more and more why SCI in general takes the trouble to decide many things in conferences which are not carried out. We are either very bad conferees or very bad carriers-out; in any case we seem to be bad at learning from experience. I should refer at least the experiment of adhering rigidly to decisions, once made, until they could be altered at the next meeting. A certain amount of wastage might be caused, but probably, in the future, talk and action would be more closely co-ordinated.

I asked the meeting to discuss the particular question of how long an Englishman should stay with IZD - in preparation of my visit to England and the Executive meeting. It was agreed that the financial benefits were very important indeed to IZD. The finance action has been launched, and it is hoped that the volunteers will follow it up by profit canvassing ( the results so far are disappointing ). If the SR stayed until January the extra three months would give IZD breathing space after the summer camps to try to get on its own feet financially. I expressed the opinion that - judging from the splendid way the Education Officers are helping volunteers to get their Exit papers, it should be quite possible for a German to take over the job. I added, however, that I did not think the German could be found who was capable of doing it. I also thought that January, rather than October, was a better time to hand over the work.

I asked IZD, however, to try to find someone who would be able to commence the taking over in September, assuming that I go back to England in October, and someone replaces me. I do not wish to load everything on to him for the short space of three months. He would be the employer of Herbert and temporary go-between the IZD learner and CCG, and there would be much that could just as well be given over to a German as to him. I mentioned as a possibility, the SR. staying until CBSRA withdraws from Germany - possibly about March, but I said that January was most probable as the final date if London agreed to having someone here after October.

I asked the meeting to estimate the financial advantage to IZD of the SR. They calculated that it was around DM 600 to 700 per month. This is considerably above the total possible income from yearly subscription - which are by no means unanimously paid (500 x DM 9 approx.). The items included in the estimate were Herberts Salary, telephone, postage, stationery, Board and Lodgings of helper, and travel costs.

It was suggested that some of the work of the secretariat might be divided between the Groups. It was decided that such things were better left until after the summer camps, when the position of the SR and the new helper in the secretariat might be already known.

Bill Bowman