
S E N I O R R E P R E S E N T A T I V E I N G E R M A N Y
F O R T N I G H T L Y R E P O R T
N U M B E R 8

J U L Y 10 t o 23

1 9 4 9

--

1.
July 10 to 15 Mülheim
July 16 to 20 Camp leaders' conference at
 Schloß Kranichstein
July 21 to 23 Mülheim

2.
During the last six weeks the conditions under which volunteers enter and leave Germany has altered greatly. This, unfortunately, happened too late for full advantage to be taken of the relaxation's : many of the Entry Permits were obtained under the old procedure, which meant that

- (a) more work and longer waiting time was involved
- (b) the Permit was issued only for the period of the camp, so that the volunteers cannot spend a period after the camp visiting friends.

The position is now as follows :

Volunteers to Germany from abroad

- A. Col. Andrews wrote me as follows, in answer to my enquiries : Volunteers may now come to Germany as tourists. The sponsorship of Education Branch is not, therefore, necessary for all those who come under the tourist scheme (exceptions given later). It is no longer necessary for me to send names of vols. to Entries and Exits Branch or the Combined Travel Board (exceptions given later). Entry Permits will be issued directly to volunteers by the Military Permit Officer in the capital city of each land and may be obtained valid for all three western Zones. Being under the tourist scheme, vols. may spend as much time travelling and visiting friends as the (or SCI) like.
- B. The following confirmatory and additional information came from the Combined Travel Board : Members of various listed organisations, including IVSP but not including AFSC, are authorised to receive, automatically, Entry Permits by applying to the Military Permit Officers in countries listed. Finland is not included.
Special Entry Permits are needed for Berlin, but these are issued by the same Permit Officer.
- C. Under the tourist scheme, volunteers receive at the frontier a Currency Control Book in which all currency transactions are entered. This book entitles them to draw German food rations. A 3-day ration card is issued at the border, the subsequent cards to be obtained at German food offices.
- D. The whole position can be summarised as follows :
 - (a) Entry Permits are issued to volunteers as tourists for the usual period of 60 days. The authorization mentioned in B above would, therefore, seem unnecessary. There is a possibility, however, that Permit Offices will be choked with applications (this seems to be the case in Paris, at least), and, if so, this authorisation may be the key to special speedy treatment for our volunteers. For the same reason I will continue to send my letters of invitation to the sending Branches until told by them that this is unnecessary.
 - (b) Exceptions to this rule are vols. from Finland, for whom special application in Germany is still necessary (Also for Spain and other countries with whom we have not yet dealt). Also

expected : vols. who come for more than 60 days. For them, also, special application is needed,
and we must assume that they are not then free to behave as tourists.

(49 07 23 - 1 02)

E. We are waiting to get confirmation that this new procedure has worked. This should be forthcoming immediately, since the camps have now started.

Volunteers from Germany to other lands

This was fully reported in Report No. 6. It seems that application for visa, etc. should be made three months in advance. There have already this year been vols. whose papers have not come through in time.

3.

CBSRA-sponsored work-campers

A message from Col. Stubbs of CBSRA said that, as a result of the reduced CBSRA Budget, CBSRA-sponsored campers must leave Germany by the beginning of September, and in any case no sponsorship will be allowed outside the British Zone.

The second of these conditions is circumvented as follows : I sent to IVSP a letter of invitation for all volunteers with which Entry Permit was obtainable for the three western Zones. The facilities offered by CBSRA in the British Zone are additional and separate to this transaction.

London is now negotiating with CBSRA to get permission for volunteers to stay in Germany after the beginning of September. If this is allowed, the volunteers may have to pay their own fare back to England.

It was arranged, following the above message, that all IVSP vols. should be booked only as far as Mülheim, and that further documentation for the outward and return journey should be done here. This throws more work on the Sekretariat during the period when I shall be on leave, and requires very careful advance planning to make sure that nothing goes wrong or is overlooked.

I assume that, after September, it will no longer be possible for volunteers to come as CBSRA members. This has the disadvantage that the pooled fares of the IVSP outgoing vols. will rise. On the other hand it has the advantages : (a) a good deal less work here (b) the vols. will be able to draw German rations.

4.

Camp-Leaders' Conference

This conference was organised by Earl Fowler at the HQ of AFSC in Germany - Schloß Kranichstein, Darmstadt, near Frankfurt.

The Schloß is rather like a very large farm building, complete with ancestors and walls, old and good furniture, stags' antlers all over the place, and fine woodland all around. During the conference it was also surrounded by good weather, and many of the sessions took place on the lawn.

Present were some 10 Americans, 10 Germans, Willy Begert and myself. The idea was to prepare the camp leaders of both the AFSC and the IZD camps. The AFSC portion of the conference started on July 10, and the IZD contingent joined from July 16 to 20. Heinrich Carstens, Herbert Böttger and Peter-Heinz Müller-Link were also present, in addition to the leaders and head-sisters.

The conference was a great success, and, to me, a busy but very enjoyable period of recuperation and activity combined. Kurt Bondi, an 'Educator' of wide experience, at present out of USA, led most of the discussions and brought a most useful technical knowledge to our problems - particularly his relation to psychological aspects of camp life and the problems of working with delinquent and wandering youth in the Berlin and Letmathe camps.

(49 07 23 - 1 03)

The future policy of AFSC in Europe and its co-operation with IZD was discussed at some length, in conference and privately. It was generally felt that the difference between the two types of camps was not, at present, at all well defined in practice, and that, unless a definite distinctness arose or was aimed at by AFSC, it was probably not worth while to have two organisations doing the same job. The future of AFSC camps in Germany, then, depends quite largely on this aspect, and we tried to clarify the differences between the two kinds of camps. We were somewhat hampered by lack of time, however, and no clear distinction was made which would justify an important decision on policy. It appeared, however, that one question alone might make the two kinds of camps necessary - the question of the 'Silent Meeting'.

It was obvious that, on this question, there was far more beneath the surface than could be brought to light. The Silent Meeting represents to the Quakers not only a well-defined procedure based on a definite ideology, but is also deeply rooted in the subconscious mind and in the less precisely apprehended religious awareness. Conversely, among those for whom the Silent Meeting is no essential part of camp life there is similar depth of opposition. There was one session devoted to this topic, and I felt strongly called to give the opposition point of view. Although I have attended a number of Silent Meetings since coming to Germany, and did so at Kranichstein, I have strong feelings whenever it is suggested that the Silent Meeting should be introduced into the camps, the implication of the idea being that it is desirable that all campers should always take part voluntarily ! This is exaggerating a little, of course, but this was the sort of impression that I got from the conference. The result was that we prepared a report on the discussion. This report is to be issued to each camp, and the IZD camps are asked to make it a subject of discussion and, if they wish, experiment. We mentioned that it had been a problem for some time, and tried to give the impression that the whole movement was interested in it, but only those on the camps could provide the essential data and experience.

It was also emphasised that the Silent Meeting does not need to be considered as a religious affair; it can be used for such secular ends as thinking out problems, providing a 'dramatic pause' in the days activities, and even for sleep !

The whole tone of the report, as of the meeting, was that the Silent Meeting could have an appeal of some kind to everybody, but that the 'religious angle' should not be forced and the whole thing be quite voluntary. On such important intangibles does the future AFSC work-camp policy depend.

Also discussed was whether IZD and AFSC should do anything to help the town of Prüm, where a severe explosion occurred during the conference. Decision was withheld pending more information, but it was doubted whether we could be of real help.

An evening excursion was made to Heidelberg.

The value of such pre-service leaders' conferences seems to me to be great. If, as was here the case, an experienced social worker and psychiatrist is present the technical aspects of camp living and camp troubles can be very clearly investigated. In any case, the knowledge of each becomes the property of all, and the leaders go to their camps well equipped, emotionally and mentally, for their job. It is only possible, of course, when the camps start on or about the same date.

5.

A number of campers came from Kranichstein by lorry, and left the following day, Friday for the camps. The whole population of the secretariat, except Christel, my helper, and myself, left for Berlin. Herbert is expected back next Tuesday.

The first two IVSP vols. arrived and were despatched to their camps (Bill Skinner and Esme Kenworthy).

(49 07 23 - 1 04)

On Friday July 22, Maxie Schneiders, a Mülheim girl now studying at Bonn, came in with news that the Bonn Group was trying to arrange a scheme to help at Prüm, the town mentioned above. They had talked with the Oberbürgermeister, who thought he could promise a large caravan to accommodate 20 people, and food and finances. I arranged, therefore, to go to Bonn next Monday to attend a meeting with the Oberbürgermeister, and, possibly to visit Prüm itself. It is hoped that German volunteers from the Bonn and Cologne areas will be able to offer service. We may decide to send foreign volunteers from other camps, or to issue a special appeal to other Branches to send volunteers. The whole thing will, we hope, be decided at the meeting on Monday.

This effort has arisen in the best imaginable way - i.e., those on the spot (Bonn is one of the nearest towns, and the nearest IZD group) set about the job and call in the help of the Branch, who calls in the help of the organisation. It is in great contrast to the usual procedure here - there is far too much work for us, so we organise as many camps as we have volunteers to man them.

Since Prüm is some 120 miles from here, I needed special permission to travel outside the 100-mile limit. In the short time available this involved a special rushed trip to Düsseldorf, and only succeeded in the nick of time. As Düsseldorf is about 20 miles away, the petrol consumption and time involved for the purpose of getting a bit of paper was vastly out of proportion, and the whole thing might be called a triumph of bureaucracy.

6.

I should like to put on record a pep talk that Willy Begert delivered during a walky-talky in the small hours with Pat Dunham and myself, which rekindled in me the feeling of the importance of our work which one is liable to (a) take for granted and then (b) forget.

Bill Bowman

To : London
Int.Sec.