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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

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1.

July 24 to August 4   Mülheim  
August 4 to August 31   Leave.

2.

The period preceding leave was spent chiefly in leaving detailed instructions for the handling of volunteers during my absence and making last minute alterations to the arrangements for the CBSRA-sponsored volunteers. I can remember nothing which was worthy of special mention.

3.

On my visit to London office on August 5 I learned that there was no chance of my staying in Germany as CBSRA member beyond September 30, and we discussed the possibility and desirability of seeking the same facilities by paying for them. Neither Derek nor I were convinced that this would be either very practicable or desirable. We felt that the time had come for IZD to stand on its own feet, which, I considered, it should well be able to do since it is very strong in local Group activity. My own work had during the last few weeks become very much easier, and - when the work connected with CBSRA and CCG were deducted - could be done by the German Branch. The chief drawback was the great financial advantage to IZD, but it would not be possible to retain this - if at all - except by payment by IVSP. It was unfortunate that the decision had been taken so quickly, because IZD had been planning on January as my pulling-out point, and had delayed discussion on the future until after the summer camps. I asked Derek, however, to write to the IZD leaders immediately, putting forward the position, which he did. Willy Begert would visit England after passing through Germany, and I hoped to meet him on my way back and discuss the matter.

4.

I missed Willy on my return visit on August 30th, but Derek told me that Willy's opinion had been the same as ours - i.e., that the time had come for IZD to stand on its own feet. He had spoken to Heinrich Carstens, who had also been of this opinion. Willy's suggestion was that, failing the possibility of keeping the Sekretariat open in Mülheim, one capable person should be appointed as secretary, to work in a town where a local group already existed, so that she could draw help as needed; and that she could possibly be reinforced by a second person during the busy period.

I also spoke to Derek about my own future with IVSP. I said that I wished to hear if IVSP had any definite suggestions before making up my mind to return to ordinary life. Derek promised to bring this up at the next Executive meeting. I said that I should now wish to find some sort of work which would leave me with free time - i.e. evenings and week-ends for private purposes.

5.

I found, on returning to Germany, that the summer camps had all gone well. I was particularly pleased that the emergency service at Prüm was going very strongly. Accommodation had at first been in tents, but a damaged building had been taken over. The first evening of my return was taken up by the

unfortunate affair of Margaret Midgley. Margaret had been at the IAL camp at Druhwald, but came to Prüm in August.

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She brought with her an American girl who contracted infantile paralysis and died shortly afterwards. Margaret was told by the German doctor at Prüm that, on account of infection, she should leave the camp. She came to the secretariat and spent some days visiting various English officials in Mülheim and Düsseldorf. I am not clear yet as to why it was not ascertained or realised by somebody that she was eligible for full medical and hospital treatment by the military. Supposedly infallible sources of help and information which I had mentioned before going on leave were either not consulted properly or else failed to realise the situation. Margaret was unable to find anyone who would take proper care of her except an Englishman who happens to live in my billet and has a kind heart. The English doctors told her that she ought to be in isolation, but didn't do anything about it. She even went to the British Council in Düsseldorf, but was unable to get help there. She might herself have taken the disease, in which case it would have been a very sorry story. When I returned, however, she had been declared out of danger by a British army doctor, and was quite fit and well, so I arranged for her to get back to Prüm.

Her story was very complicated, and, having a lot to do after my leave, I did not see fit to start on the thankless task of finding out who had not done what he ought to have done and putting in a complaint about it. It had been a distressing period for Margaret, the secretarial staff her, and all concerned. The only cheerful side of the matter was the kindness of the rather rough diamond who put her up at my billet and looked after her generally.

Bill B.

To : London  
Int.Sec.