

Dear Willy,

Many thanks for your letter about the Paris Conference; I shall be pleased to come. I don't know when I shall arrive exactly, probably on the Monday evening. When I arrive I have to get a visa to re-enter Germany for the Service at Prüm. I have an introduction from the French Youth Officer at Freiburg.

I have had a little time to make almost a report, a personal one. I should like to add more about the aspect of co-operation with the Nothelfer Gemeinschaft and its implications.

The experience was a very happy one. Each group cooked separately in the same kitchen and though there were slight difficulties it worked very well. But there were separate stoves and separate sections for storage of food. Difficulties could arise between groups. Here the Nothelfer were established a week before us, and, limiting themselves to 20 volunteers they more quickly established a sense of community, and a very close one. For a period we had, everyone thought, too many volunteers and we were too busy assimilating them to want to mix too much with the other group. The only difficulty which did arise was that one of their member was told by one of our members, who had departed soon after, that another of our member had said that the Nothelfer got better food and did her work thou us! Which wasn't true and didn't worry anyone. After the first social and dance everything went cordially, we used each other's common rooms, and except at mealtimes it would be difficult to know which group are belonged to.

Whether our experiences can give a guide to larger social co-operation I don't know, but here are a few general conclusion, if they are not too general.

1. Each camp should preserve its own identity - have its own quarters, common room, kitchen if possible and its own House Meeting and programme for discussion, etc.
2. Each camp should have a chance to first develop its own sense of community before too much contact with other groups is attempted. I should say at least a fortnight.
3. Contacts should develop as naturally as possible and not be forced.
4. Socials and dances, and perhaps sports, are useful for breaking the Ice.
5. There should be some activities in common, one per week, or perhaps more. Socials are easiest and perhaps discussions the most difficult.
6. Each camp should publish its programme and extend an open invitation to members of the other groups to join them if they are interested.
7. Each group should have the same conditions, food, privileges and work as far a possible.
8. Competitive spirit might be useful but an excess of it would damage relationship and as soon as there are signs of it there should be special attempts to mix up the groups and/or change the work.
9. Certain facilities such as Library, First aid might be shored by all groups (Unfortunately the UNESCO Library never arrived at Donaueschingen).
- 10 If the quarters are close, there should be a common time for quiet at night.
- 11 Where the work lends itself to such arrangement it might be better for groups to work on their own section at first, and in any case groups should not be too large.

There are many other points one could think of, perhaps.

I am enclosing 2 or 3 photographs of the Donaueschingen Service in case they are of any value. I could tell you where the negatives are if necessary.

I should like a copy of Unesco's booklet on International Work Camps if it is possible to get it here before I leave, but I doubt it.

Best wishes.

Amitiés

Bill Skinner

P.S.

Please could I have the photo's back if you don't need them? - when I call