

SCI
International Secretariat

Minutes of the 3rd International Committee Meeting, held at Versailles 27. - 29.12.1950
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VII. SCI AND PRESENT WORLD POBLEMS

(a) East - West

1. Alice Brügger spoke of her recent visit to Berlin and of her hope that S.C.I. could work in the Eastern zone of Germany. One possibility might be co-operation with the W.F.D.Y. The I.C. would approve of such a project, but stressed the need for sending to such a service volunteers deeply imbued with the truest spirit of S.C.I. and rather nature.
2. Points from further discussion :
 - It is extremely difficult, at present, to avoid being classed in one of the two world 'blocs'.
 - Even language has required a basically different meaning in the two blocs, a different conception of the use of words. For us, geographically in the Western bloc, it is difficult to understand the language of the other. But it is essential that we should make the greatest effort to do so.
 - Could we not, by working together, create an atmosphere in which we could discuss all questions together frankly and with a real desire to understand ?
 - If we are not able to go and work in communist countries, should we not at least work with communists in our own countries ? Yes, as long as it is working, in the tradition of SCI.
 - Are the communist groups generally interested in our sort of work ?
 - Are we, by our co-operation with bodies like Unesco, automatically classing S.C.I. in one of the two blocs and making contacts with the other more difficult ? (See Minute VIII).
 - In every country there is a spiritual 'third force'; S.C.I. must try to vitalise that third force, to help it to express itself in action. How ?
 - The truth we can offer to all, if we really believe it, is that in serving others in the spirit of S.C.I. we serve truth. We must keep this truth pure and not worry too much whether our action can have political influence.
 - The world is so confused that we too become confused. S.C.I. should aim at creating in its volunteers a certain spirit, and nit try to draw up a programme of solutions for political and economic problems.

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Dora Begert