

18th March 1950.

Miss Dorothy Abbott,
A.I.W.C.P.
17, Rue Notre Dame des Champs,
P A R I S (6e), France.

Dear Dorothy,

JOINT PROJECT

I was very interested to read the report of Wolfgang von Marschall on the Kassel conference which was awaiting me when I got back from the mountains. He gave me a very full account of the entire conference and especially of the discussions and conclusions concerning the project at Donaueschingen.

Without being able to give a final and conclusive answer I would like you to know that we are extremely interested in this project and that I am starting correspondence which I hope very much will result in our taking part in this joint project.

As you know our close contacts in many parts of Germany make it almost impossible for us to decide upon any project such as this immediately without giving a good deal of consideration to the desires and plans of our German colleagues, in as much as our policy is to relate these camps as closely as possible to the on-going work of the local church organisations and thereby stimulate these groups, we have to proceed at a somewhat slower pace. What does this mean for the Donaueschingen project? It simply means that I must write to Pastor Hammann, the Landesjugendpfarrer of Baden, presenting this opportunity for a work camp and asking him for his reaction. I know Hammann quite well. He has had a good deal of experience already in work camps having organised one a year ago at Neckarzimmer. As soon as I hear from him we will be able to go ahead with more definite steps in making plans for the camp.

Tentatively I would like to suggest the way in which I think we could best fit into this joint project.

1. Period of the Camp

End of July till the middle of September

2. Living Accommodations.

Outside of Donaueschingen in one of the small communities suggested by the Landrat (e.g. Gutmadingen).

3. Size.

Approximately 30. About 60 – 40 boys and girls.

4. Work Hours.

If the general policy for all camps is to be an 8 hour day we will certainly join than even though in most of our camps we normally work 6 hours, allowing a little longer for discussion, Bible study and so forth. I am quite sure that it would be better for one of our camps to work 8 hours while other camps in other parts of Germany work 6 hours than to have our camp at Donaueschingen working 6 hours while other camps in the immediate vicinity work 8.

5. Finance.

I understand Mr. Lienhart of the Landrat Donaueschingen has promised that the Siedlungsgenossenschaft will take care of the expenses for food, lodging and insurance.

I expect to be going to Freiburg if I get a favourable reaction from Hammann. Until that time I cannot say anything awfully definite but I wanted you to know that I feel that this is an excellent opportunity for several organisations to work together and we would like very much to be in on it.

Cordially,

George H. Booth