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Donaueschingen, 2.3.1951

Dear Dora and Willy,

That you are getting hold of my answer quicker than before finds its reasons in the fact that I got your letter yesterday and have today my fortnights "office day". I'm afraid I wasn't succeed in writing such "lively letters" very many times. I feel already now I'll be drowned in business if I don't watch after everything at the right moment. At any rate, as long as you get answers it means there is live around here. Though sometimes I may say most of the time, I feel I don't give live chance enough to come in. I am trying to find my place, to Germany opinion, in a certain situation, instead of taking really an active part in creating situations.

I.D.M. : We didn't succeed in finding a longtermer to take James Michies place. At the other hand we think in spite of his lack on experience we still think he can be a valuable contributor. Perhaps not so much for the meeting itself, but anyhow for the group here as he returns. I understand your objections very well, but hope you'll take our advise into consideration. Wrote Meta about it. James accepts conditions you wrote about. (But asks if you can send him the money for his fair before he leaves cause he can't manage to pay himself).

We are very sorry too there is no more room for us in UNESCO training course. Though I am interested in Le Chambon too. I spoke about it with Nelly. She said it would be good to go. Piet Kruithof still can pick up the job for me. Have no money, but some Marks to spend. Do accept all the help you can give. Of course I can hitch back to camp.

Well, first "father Willy" send some of his "children" as admonitions and "mother Dora" hurries to add some things to it. Yes, I think same kind of festlessness made us coming to the idea of leaving. I didn't speak with Roger yet but Gerda, Nelly (said before wouldn't mind to stay longer) and I feel what you mean and agree with staying some longer. Although I must say your words about -exodus-of-so-many-experienced-volunteers, is a bit optimistic. If we see things as they are real only Nelly and Piet are the ones with experience.

I myself yet want to say now, I should like to change this summer anyway. More than four months in one camp, as far as I can see, is enough. I think of your smile "and we in Greece?" We didn't write to anyone else about our plans so far.

Finland : A misunderstanding in Nelly's case. She mentioned her going to Finland at the same time we were speaking about summer services there. But she meant a private trip. Again as Roger and I before had the slightest idea of the eight we are walking in (thrown upon us by the highest of the highest of our SCI) we perhaps should have been a little more careful with making decisions. But we had no notices. And still it makes a bit anxious to read all this you want us to be and to do.

March 5th, got another letter

I came to SCI at first to give a personal answer to the world situation. I think I can do this everywhere; although like to do it there where you think need is worst. Don't know what Roger say, but I shall speak with him anyway. Didn't receive letter from André yet. Did receive one from Meta, in which she tells us to send this month 10 new volunteers. It seems hard for an outsider to get some idea of the practical side of a matter like this.

Whole winter through we are fighting unemployment. Main reason weather. Outside work can't be done before frost is gone. As shortage of nucleus is most serious problem in SCI in this camp it's shortage of work. We object the idea of more volunteers with all weapons we have. Also atmosphere is not yet settled enough to be able to overcome new infections of volunteers without throwing things in to confusion. Workleader on Baustelle also say it has no need to send more volunteers before end of the month. Suggestion to saddle us up with 10 other volunteers came from this good Robert Lienhart. His enthusiasm sometimes goes a bit to far. At the discussion of IDM points it turned out people are not yet aquatinted enough with this problems.

Haus Schwalbach : Svend Hansen went off to join.

Best wishes from all

Ernst Hulst