

Memorandum on 'E A S T - W E S T' Service

Henri Roser had already been in contact with Yves Farge, secretary of the 'Partisans de la Paix', who appeared favourable to such a project.

The principles on which the project would be organised would be as follows :

There would actually be two services - one in a country of the 'East', the other, at the same time, in a country of the 'West'. On both services, 50 % of the volunteers would come from each side.

This system of parallel services would offer several advantages :

Young people from the 'East' would get to know our countries.

We should be able to prove that we were not attached to any one 'power'.

It would be a test, to show whether or not people from the 'East' could leave their country.

If however, it was found impossible for the young people of the 'East' to come to our countries, we should, nevertheless, organise a service in the 'East', if possible.

The organisation would be on the following lines :

There must be a group of from 60 to 80 volunteers - half from each side.

The duration of the service should not be more than one month - but the volunteers must be asked to stay for the whole service.

The place of the service in the 'East' is indifferent. It would probably be easier to get an entry into one of the Peoples' Democracies than into Russia itself.

The service in the 'West' could be in France, a country in which our co-operation with the 'Castors' would enable a large-scale service, in a helpful atmosphere, to be found easily.

The work would have to be well-defined - with a clear beginning and ending - so that, the service once over there would remain something finished and durable.

The main participation should to Swiss, British and French. German volunteers should not be too many, to avoid the question of German unification becoming the principal subject of discussion.

The choice of leader is very important. Henri Roser has asked if Ralph Hegnauer could not undertake this task.

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Appendix 4

Organisation of a Large-Scale Service

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Etienne Reclus  
French Branch - October 1952.