

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

MINUTES of the 17th International Committee Meeting at Rambouillet, France, April 1 - 2, 1956

Present :

First session : John Harvey, Douglas Sowerby (Great Britain), Martin Menzi (Switzerland), Roger Briottet (France), Chris Hollaender (Holland), Noël Platteuw (Belgium), Hans-Ulrich Smoltczyk (Germany), Hans Antoni (Austria), Ralph Hegnauer (Int.Sec.)

Second session : The same, but Joachim Wesseloh replacing Hans-Ulrich Smoltczyk.

Third session : As in the second session, but Paul Piot replacing Martin Menzi, and the following :

Michael Sørensen (Great Britain) , Idy Hegnauer (Switzerland), Etienne Reclus (France), Inez Boon (Holland), Randi Kittelsen (Norway), André Lemaire (Belgium), Gerhard Krückeberg (Germany), Ernst Weber (Austria), Emil Tanner (Algeria), Yvonne Elizière (Int.Treasurer), Conny Sowerby (Guest), Nora Grevenstuk (Int.Secretariat).

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Third session

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Moscow 1957

The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)' invitation to SCI for having another joint work camp in Moscow 1957 during the 6th Youth Festival and to participate in the Preparatory Festival Commission, as well as in a special conference on work camps was thoroughly discussed.

There were some strong objections against linking any SCI activities with those of the World Youth Festivals. Other committee members were very much in favour of any "East-West" camps, only objected against having a service at the same place as the Festival. Etienne Reclus proposed the following compromise :

- a) that the work camp should be held elsewhere in Russia and before, during or after the Festival, according to possibilities; preferably before the Festival;
- b) that some volunteers coming from or going to the work camp should go on to Moscow to take part in the planned conference on international voluntary work camps.

The IC asks all branches to state the conditions on which they would accept further co-operation with the WFDY. At the end of the discussion the following statement was drawn up :

1. The IC favours an "East-West" service in Russia 1957, previous to and at a different place from the planned Festival of the WFDY.
2. The IC agrees that a group of SCI work campers attend a particular work camp conference at the occasion of the Festival, if such a conference is organised. It is not excluded that SCI be responsible for the organisation of such a conference.
3. The IC does not think it necessary to send a delegate to the Preparatory Festival Commission.

The German friends proposed to appoint a commission to study the "East-West" question. Suggested were : 2 members of the French committee, 2 members of the German Committee, Noël Platteuw, Hans-Ulrich Smoltczyk, one of the International Secretaries. These suggestions were accepted. The German secretary will organise the first meeting of this commission, which should particularly study the implications of an WFDY / SCI service in East-Germany.

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