

## SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

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Draft MINUTES of the meetings of the I. C. Sub-Committee on "East-West" held in Berlin, June 16 and 17, 1956.

PRESENT : Hans-Ulrich Smoltczyk, Gerhard Krückeberg, Etienne Reclus, Roger Briottet, Noel Platteuw, Dorothy Abbott.

1. The WFDY's present attitude to SCI and work camps.
2. Practical aspects of co-operation with the WFDY.
  - a) No. of participants.
  - b) Recruiting of volunteers in East and West.
  - c) Bonnat and Leipzig.
3. Guiding principles for choice of project.
4. Meeting of the WFDY Exec. Committee at Sofia.
5. Position of SCI vis-à-vis WFDY's interest in work in under-developed areas.
6. Procedure for future meetings of the sub-committee; date e.g. next meeting.

1. Etienne Reclus briefly described the approach of the WFDY to work camps from the time they had sponsored large camps in Eastern countries through the period in which they had concentrated on big international Youth Festivals to their present interest in co-operating with SCI and having contact with Western organisations of many kinds engaged in youth work.

In discussing reasons why the WFDY now wants more co-operation with SCI it was generally agreed that, while SCI's contacts with the WFDY in the past few years had gained from the latter a sympathetic understanding of the value of work camps, the main reason for the present co-operation is the change in the world political situation. It was emphasized, that the present détente provides the possibility for personal contact with people from Eastern Europe and a good opportunity to work towards preventing a reversal to the old policy. We should make the most of this opportunity for international understanding but at the same time be clear about our own conditions for co-operation knowing that the sudden reversal in international politics might change the present attitude of the WFDY.

Roger Briottet suggested that a camp for several years running in an "independent" communist country like Yugoslavia, on the border of East and West, would represent a solid contribution towards preventing a reversal of policy.

## 2. Practical aspects of co-operation

### a) No. of participants.

It was agreed that a half-and-half basis was the best one for East-West camps. In the future provision should be made for the participation of more girls than Bonnat allowed.

### b) Recruiting of volunteers in East and West.

It was agreed that there was no reason why SCI should not make contacts and recruit in Eastern countries, including East Berlin and East Germany outside WFDY circles as well as through the WFDY, just as the WFDY recruits direct some of its volunteers for the camps in Western countries. As a matter of courtesy, we should inform the WFDY of this decision.

With regard to passports and visas for volunteers recruited by us in the East, we could ask the WFDY's help in specific cases, but we should be careful not to regard them as our agents for Eastern Europe.

We could also ask the WFDY to help us make known SCI in Eastern countries through personal introductions and distribution of publications.

c) Bonnat and Leipzig.

It was agreed to encourage individual SCI members who are interested to attend the WFDY camp at Leipzig provided good reports have been received on their service with SCI. Branch secretaries should be requested by a circular from the Int. Sec. not to supply the FDY address to volunteers who have an unsatisfactory record.

The Int. Sec. should also request secretaries to find volunteers to complete our quota of 15 for Bonnat.

3. Guiding principles for choice of projects.

The following was agreed : 1) that projects should not be connected with Festivals and the like; 2) that the work should meet a special need; 3) that joint WFDY-SCI camps should be prepared by both organisations together; 4) that there is no reason why SCI should not have the right to look for projects for a joint camp in the East as well as in the West (e. g. in Eastern Germany).

4. Sofia meeting of the WFDY Executive Committee, August 20 -23.

It was agreed that SCI should send an observer to the Sofia meeting, as we have done previously to Helsinki and Stockholm, but that since we have now achieved co-operation on practical levels, we should inform the WFDY at Sofia that we may not in the future send observers to their meetings. The reason is that the WFDY now knows SCI's policy sufficiently well for us to be able to continue our co-operation on practical levels without incurring the expense of sending an observer the long distance to a meeting which is concerned with many matters not of direct interest to SCI. We should also ask in advance for time at the Sofia meeting to present and discuss general conditions envisaged by SCI for our future co-operation. (Detailed conditions would have to be worked out separately for each work camp we organise together). The conditions proposed for Warsaw should serve as a basis and these should be sent by the Int. Sec. to members of the Sub-Committee. Other conditions as discussed at these meetings should be added.

5. Position of SCI vis-à-vis the WFDY's interest in work in underdeveloped areas.

It was agreed that we cannot co-operate in economically under-developed areas with any organisation that takes a political stand. Our present co-operation with the WFDY is concerned with "East-West" camps and exchanges. We cannot co-operate with the WFDY in organising camps in "new" areas nor can we send individual volunteers to them.

We would welcome individual participation in our work in "new" areas on the same conditions as those for any other volunteer, namely, good experience in SCI services organised by branches in the home country. In the case of India, the branch would naturally make its own contacts, particularly in Asia. If it wishes, for example, to invite a Chinese volunteer through the WFDY to an Indian service, it should do so just as European branches invite East European participation through the Eastern organisations affiliated to the WFDY.

Closer co-operation may be possible in the future but at present we cannot know whether the interest of the WFDY in working in economic under-developed areas has or has not any political implications. We must therefore refrain from co-operation at present.

6. Procedure for future meetings of the Sub-Committee : date of next meeting.

The next meeting should be convened by the Int. Sec. which should also prepare the agenda and send working papers if necessary. In the meantime, copies of any important correspondence relating to "East-West" should be sent to members of the Sub-Committee. It was proposed that the next meeting be held at the time of the I.C. meetings in November.

Hamburg, June 21st.

Dorothy Abbott