

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

Minutes of the 18th International Committee Meeting held at Middlekerke near Ostende, Belgium
on November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1956

PRESENT : Heinrich Carstens (President), John Harvey, Douglas Sowerby (vice-presidents), Roger Briottet, Hans Antoni, Alice Brügger, Marius Boelsma, Noël Platteuw, Martin Menzi, Hans-Ulrich Smoltczyk, Philippe Vernier, Anita Williams.
Ex office : Dorothy Abbott, Ralph Hegnauer, Yvonne Elzière, Phylis Clift.
By invitation : Michael Sorensen, Wilfred Court, Rose Kwei, Gopal Sarma, Nobuyasu Yamada (for certain sessions).

APOLOGIES : Ingebjørg Sletten-Vesstvad, Guido Colucci

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9. East-West Camp

Etienne Reclus and André Lemaire reported on the work in the past, its resulting problems, the WFDY meeting which André had attended, the East-West summer service which had lacked participants from the East, and future plans, which included the possibility of camps in Norway and Czechoslovakia.

The question of which branch would undertake the responsibility for the camp in the West was referred to the Secretaries' Meeting. The conditions laid down by the Norwegian Cttee for acceptance were in contradiction to the principles of co-operation agreed upon by SCI and WFDY.

Discussion about work in the East produced the following conclusions :

- 1) With the view of continuing work for East-West rapprochement, the IC restates that SCI services and actions are decided upon and carried out with emphasis on the principle of service on peace-promoting and humanitarian grounds
- 2) The following recommendations by the East-West Sub-Cttee were ratified by the IC as a basis for future co-operation :
 1. Basic principle
The work camps are to bring together volunteers irrespective of political affiliations, religious belief or philosophic outlook. Their particular aim is to provide a meeting-place for volunteers from East and West for a better understanding between the two.
 2. Recruiting of volunteers
The volunteers are recruited freely by each of the two organisations through their customary means of publicity.
 3. Organising of camps
 - a) the choice, preparation and leadership of the camps shall be the joint responsibility of the two organisations.
 - b) no project will be accepted that is not of obvious usefulness.
 - c) the camp shall not be dependent upon or related to an international festival or any other mass demonstration which would harm the group's community life.

- 3) The IC asked the French and Belgian Cttees to pursue their contacts (in co-operation with the Int.Sec.), in Eastern countries in view of continuing in 1957 East-West services, particularly in Czechoslovakia and/or Poland. The IC agreed that the contacts should be attempted directly with the national organisations, thereby considering WFDY as a co-ordinating committee, rather than organising committee.
- 4) The IC asked the Swiss and Austrian Branches to make use of their contacts in order to investigate a possible SCI action in Hungary.
- 5) The IC asked the German Branch to investigate possibilities of co-operation with East German citizens.
- 6) The continuation of the East-West sub-committee was re-affirmed. It is to be composed of one delegate from each of the followings : France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and I.S.. It will be responsible for working out concrete suggestions for action which will then be referred by the I.S. to the IC for discussion.
- 7) In order to finance the work of the sub-committee, item 07 of the budget for 1957 was changed to read only East-West Work - 100,000. The IC accepted with thanks the offers of the Swiss, German and French branch to provide the travel costs of their representatives on the sub-committee outside the international budget.

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Clichy, November 21, 1956.

Phyllis Clift
For the International Secretariat