

SCI  
International Secretariat

*Minutes of the 20th International Committee Meeting, held at Marly-le-Roi 1. - 3. 11.1957*

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## 5. East-West

### a) POLAND

It was decided (6 votes in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions) that 2 services could be organised in Poland next summer, each comprising 3-weeks' work; one to be organised with the Rural Youth, as last summer, and the other with the Students organisation. The Socialist Youth should be asked to send volunteers to either of the camps.

It was decided that Esperanto be the main language of one of the camps, that Esperantists from Eastern Europe in particular be encouraged to participate, and that Gilbert Gerrier, a French esperantist, should be asked to lead the camp. The Belgian branch (in cooperation with the IS) should be administratively responsible.

### b) U. S. S. R.

Several committee members expressed doubts as to whether 50 good volunteers could be spared for the proposed service in the USSR. The importance of services bringing together volunteers from East and West was however emphasised as a small but important contribution towards overcoming the tremendous gap between the two. It was pointed out that a probable reason for the decline in volunteers (see statistics) was that our services often do not respond to the needs and problems of the present days. The plea was made to take the risk of deviating from old-established ideas in Western Europe. It was agreed that volunteers for the USSR should also be recruited from other organisations with similar outlook, and that SCI must be stringent in its conditions to ensure the camp being run along SCI lines. Type of volunteers required is not necessarily the same for all our 'difficult' services. In the case of USSR, it is important that they be strong manual workers and that they have learnt as much as possible about the USSR. To a question whether anybody was in mind for preparing and leading the service, the answer was given that the IS could, if requested, spare Noël Platteuw for two months. It was considered important by the committee that the person who prepares the service must also lead it. Preliminary arrangements could probably be made by correspondence. It was agreed that the French branch (in cooperation with the IC) would have administrative responsibility for this service. It was finally decided to aim at 30 West European volunteers 10 American and 10 Asian, mostly Indian. It was hoped to include a few volunteers from Africa. It was decided (9 votes in favour, 2 against) to plan to have the camp wherever a real need could be met.

It was decided that the offer of service form for USSR should require the volunteer to say whether he would be prepared to participate in another service where his help was needed, should the USSR service not materialize.

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IS, 9.11.1957  
Nelly Minder / Noël Platteuw / Dorothy Abbott

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS to the minutes of the 20th International Committee Meeting held in Marly-le-Roi on November 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1957

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Page 3 No 5 a) Poland Instead of "(in cooperation with the IS)"  
read "(in consultation with the IS)"

Page 4 No 5 b) USSR Instead of "(in cooperation with the IS)"  
read "(in consultation with the IS)"

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IS, 9.12.1957  
Nelly Minder / Noël Platteuw