

SCI
International Secretariat

Minutes of the 21st International Committee Meeting held at Königswinter 5. - 7.4.1958

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2. SERVICES IN EASTERN EUROPE

a) POLAND

In view of the numerous good vols who have applied for the camps in Poland and considering the importance of the camps for a better understanding between East and West, it was decided to have 3 instead of 2 camps in Poland this summer.

It was agreed that some preparation should be provided for SCI vols going to Poland, and that it was especially important for the leaders and co-leaders to know each other beforehand.

Regarding the financing of Polish vols abroad, Noël reminded secretaries that the foreign vols going to Poland should be requested to credit the SCI secretariat of their home countries with the sum equivalent to the Polish money they may receive as pocket-money.

A possibility of émigré Polish organisation financing the Polish vols abroad was mentioned. It was recommended that such help be accepted but that no names or particulars of vols should be given.

b) SOVIET UNION

Members were brought up to date with the situation. It was regretted that the proportion of SCI vols (20 out of 70) was so small and the French branch was encouraged to try to enlarge that proportion. Etienne Reclus requested the applications as soon as possible.

Commitments of branches : Belgium 2 vols; Holland 1; Great Britain at least 2; Germany 3; Italy 1; Switzerland 2; France fills the gaps. It was emphasised that we should have a number of Americans, especially through AFSC.

Dorothy reported that 8 vols from the Indian branch were ready to go, and to pay their own travel expenses to the Soviet border. In view of the small total number of SCI vols, it was agreed that 4 would be selected, holding the other 4 in reserve in case any of the former dropt out.

The Swiss branch expressed their earnest hopes regarding the actual organisation of the camp in USSR namely : somebody from SCI should go to prepare it on the spot in advance - there should be possibilities of contacts with the local people - the camp should if possible last four weeks - anything published in USSR about the camp should be previously submitted to the SCI leader - the selected vols should have a good advance preparation.

The IC reminded the French branch of the general conditions drafted by the East-West sub-committee and accepted in Middelkerke.

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