

Minutes of 25th Meeting of the International Committee together with the 20th Meeting of Branch Secretaries held in Doorn, Holland, on April 16th - 17th, 1960

Present : Marius Boelsma, René Bovard, Hansjörg Braunschweig, Mickie Briottet, Klaus Buchheister, Esma Burrough, Heinrich Carstens, Tino Cirelli, Odette Eyssautier, Dorothy Guiborat, John Harvey, Chris Hollaender, Frank Judd, Kayoko Kobayashi, Gerson Konu, Henri Majewski, Fernand Marschall, Parashiva Murti, Etienne Reclus, Henri Sellier, Ingebjørg Sletten, Douglas Sowerby, Ursula Tennenbaum, Irene Vermes, Roswitha Villinger, Louise Wetter, Anita & Mariette Williems.

Int.Secret.: Yvonne Elizière, Ralph Hegnauer, Mary Mansour

For some sessions only : Silvia Braunschweig, Albert Guiborat, Diny Kraamwinkel, Piet Kleerebezem, Hans Turksma

1. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING

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d) EAST-WEST

Henri Majewski gave a report about the Co-ordination Committee's Conference in Niš, and the IC was particularly interested to hear that it was proposed to increase the exchange of volunteers between East and West European countries. Henri then continued to report about his trip to various parts of East Europe.

1) Contact was established with the representatives of the Yugoslav Youth and the possibilities of a join summer camp were discussed.

2) Henri visited the headquarters of the Bulgarian Youth Movement "Dimitrov Communist Youth" and had talks with one of their secretaries. They have replaced their former work camp programme by technical courses for students. Although no concrete proposal for action this year came out of these contacts, they may prove useful for the future. The Esperanto Club of Bulgaria plans to send some volunteers to our summer camps and to organise an international camp in Bulgaria if the Government grants permission. Henri furthermore established contacts with some individuals and a group of students which publishes a monthly paper.

3) Henri met a number of friends in Poland who had been in SCI services. They decided to form a special group within the Polish Rural Youth in order to help organise camps as well as any other future cooperation, particularly in Channelling Polish volunteers abroad. Publicity was also discussed. More details about the future set-up will be examined in Autumn. At least one has been fixed in cooperation with the Polish Rural Youth for this summer. New contacts have been made with the Polish Socialist Youth. They plan a camp of 80 volunteers to take part in it.. Building work in a war-stricken small township is planned. Joint camps with them on the lines as those with the Rural Youth might be a possibility in the future. Henri had also talks with representatives of the Student Union and the Boy Scouts.

4) News of the planned 1960 summer camp in the USSR in cooperation with the Soviet Youth Movement was given. Everything seems well on its way.

Henri concluded by saying that as a whole it can be felt that the Youth Movements in USSR and Poland, with which SCI has cooperated, have now full confidence in SCI and cooperation has become fruitful.

The President thanked Henri for his full report and the success of his trip.

The Committee then approved of the report, expressed its gladness about the development in the USSR, Poland and Bulgaria and stated to be in favour of beginning work in Yugoslavia. The French branch was asked to continue representing the movement in our relations with East European countries and to prepare this year, in addition to the teams to be sent to the USSR and Poland, a small team to be sent to Yugoslavia in September 1960 to work in one of the Highway Brigades. The French branch was also asked to follow up in due time the possibilities of an SCI camp in Yugoslavia to be organised in cooperation with the People's Youth. Boža Smazura will be asked to be our representative in Yugoslavia to help with negotiation within the authorities and preparing the planned camp generally.

Klaus Buchheister and Roswitha Villinger reported about the planned summer camp in East Germany on the Island of Rügen (Baltic Sea). The camp is being prepared with the Teachers Trade Union of the District of Rostock. Harvesting work will be done. Branches are asked to send volunteers who understand the importance of human contacts on the personal level and who are ready to abstain from passionate political arguments. The German branch stressed also the importance of finding a German speaking leader of non-German citizenship.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth has invited SCI to organise and lead a seminar or work camp at the next Youth Festival of the WFDY in 1961.

The IC welcomes a work camp seminar within the Youth Festival in 1961. It, however, thinks that SCI should not do the actual organising of the seminar. But we would be ready to have a representative in a preparatory work camp committee. The Polish Rural Youth, AFSC and the Friends Work Camp Committee might be the other organisations to be represented in this committee since they all have a concern and much experience in the field of work camps. The French branch is asked to represent SCI in its cooperation with the WFDY in respect of this seminar and to get in contact with the organisations mentioned to form the preparatory seminar committee. These organisations will be contacted about their cooperation before a final answer is given to WFDY.

The Soviet Youth Movement plans to organise this year a forum to discuss various matters such as colonialism, questions of race discrimination, etc. As this forum does not relate directly to work camp activities, the IC thinks it not possible to accept the invitation to send an SCI representative to the preparatory committee for the planned forum. The IS is asked to write a letter to the chairman of the Soviet Youth Movement explaining our stand.

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