

*SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL
International Secretariat*

Minutes of the 28th International Committee Meeting held at Marly-le-Roi 28. - 30.10.1961
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9. EAST-WEST SERVICES

Poland : There were two camps this year in cooperation with the Polish Rural Youth and the Polish Socialist Youth. There were some difficulties in these camps. The shortage of Polish volunteers was particularly mentioned. The tense political situation as certain times may have been at the root of some of the difficulties, especially in regard to the Berlin crises. But there have been organisational and administrative difficulties as well and also some misunderstandings between Waclaw Wygledowski as organiser and some SCI volunteers.

Waclaw suggested to have again 1 - 2 camps in Poland next summer and promised to send a number of Polish volunteers to camps in Central Europe.

USSR : A friendly letter from the Soviet Youth Organisation was read in which the reasons for not being able to send a delegate to our meeting were explained. A camp in the summer 1962 is planned.

Yugoslavia : 13 Volunteers have been sent to the work brigades of People's Youth of Yugoslavia. As the camps organised in Yugoslavia do not really correspond to SCI camps, it was not thought advisable to send another SCI group officially to Yugoslavia in summer 1962. However, the exchange of volunteers on an individual basis should be encouraged in the programmes of national SCO branches to maintain the contact which now exists between SCI and PYY.

East Germany : Chris Hollaender reported on his talks with Mr. W. Rumpel, responsible for the exchange of volunteers in East Germany. According to Mr. Rumpel, only the attitude of our German branch may present a source of difficulties in regard to cooperation with SCI. As the DDR is not recognised by the West European governments, it is difficult for East Germans to get entry visas. They obtain them only in West Berlin, but it is now difficult to go there for citizens of the DDR. The best chances are to get applications for going to neutral countries such as Sweden, Austria and Switzerland.

Chris continued and raised the point of sending volunteers to the camps of the Freie Deutsche Jugend in East-Germany, as the Quakers have done this year.

Klaus Buchheister mentioned that up to now contacts with the Eastern part of Germany have been, in principle, the responsibility of the German branch of SCI. Would this still be so in the future ?

A thorough discussion followed and many opinions were voiced.

In so far as the first point was concerned, it was decided to organise in summer 1962 a special camp to which five or more volunteers from the DDR would be invited, together with some experienced volunteers from West Germany. There would, of course, be also a strong representation of volunteers from other countries. This camp would be considered as a test. It would have to be organised either in Austria, Holland, Norway or Switzerland. As no Delegate or Secretary present could commit his or her branch, it was decided that the Committee of the four branches should discuss the matter and let the European Secretary know by December 15, 1961, whether they would be willing to organise such a camp in their country.

As to the second and third point, it was decided to ask the European Secretary to explore further the desirability and possibility of sending SCI volunteers to camps of the Freie Deutsche Jugend. In the future the European Secretary is to be responsible for the co-ordination of contacts and relations in the DDR together and with the help of a branch or group of SCI to be determined later.

Etienne Reclus then gave a report on the meeting of the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Vienna on October 18 - 20, 1961 where the programme of next year was discussed (1 - 2 camps in Poland, 1 - 2 in the USSR, 1 in Sweden and 1 in France) and some organisational misunderstandings (question of visa) cleared up. There should be a good exchange of volunteers. Information about projects and the names of the volunteers should be available before April 30, 1962, especially in so far as the projects are concerned. The efficiency of the tripartite partnership (a national youth organisation / WFDY / SCI) was questioned, but no change was decided for 1962.

A telegram from Mr. Klos, Director of the WFDY Tourist and Youth Exchange Office in Budapest was read, in which he apologized for not being able to attend our meetings.

Finally, to a question from Etienne Reclus, it was replied that the IC had decided earlier that the relationship with organisations in Poland and the USSR as with any other Popular Democracies was in the first place the responsibility of the European Secretary and that the French Secretariat will help him in organisational and practical camp matters.

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30.11.1961

Ralph Hegnauer