

Abschrift des Sekretariats :

Dorothy Guiborat, Antony / Seine

30. Jan. 62

Thank you for your circular of Jan. 18 regarding SCI work in Berlin.

I should have liked to receive from your secretariat an evaluation of Berlin from the political angle, to know :

- a) what contribution the camp has made or experienced towards better International understanding and
- b) whether you have managed to keep free from being used in any way for propaganda purposes.

As I know, however, that you are aware of the danger (b), and as at the same time you are proposing to continue work in Berlin, I assume you have been able to maintain a neutral position.

This cleared, the important point seems to me to be : how can Berlin II best contribute to better international relations (i. e. East-West) in the given situation, for that is surely the "raison d'être" of this camp. (I hope you will try not to think that I am an ignorant or insensitive outsider as you read my reply.) I agree with the suggestion made by participants that they study historical background, provided it is possible to have objective sources of information. I think this study should include communism in the USSR from the point of view of what it has done over the years for the ordinary man's well-being. For if we are to get peace in the world, the main opposing ideologies have to learn to live together and that implies for each knowing more about the positive achievements of the other side. As the present psychological war continues, each side becomes more and more impregnated with the negative aspects only of the other, and our team should try to counter-balance this, however small the results may be — in this most difficult of all situations in Berlin.

I would agree therefore, that you should continue in Berlin, with a work and study camp, provided the camp can keep political neutral and can work in the direction of better East-West understanding. (The participants seem clear that in their work they must keep to purely humanitarian tasks.)

Lastly, it seems to me very important to have German participants. Are there any ?

PS. Just a question of procedure : should a branch appeal directly to the IC members for their opinion when it has a difficult decision to make, or should the appeal pass through the IS / ES ?