

Dr.-Ing. Hans-Ulrich Smoltczyk

The  
European Secretary of  
Service Civil International  
L o n d o n

9. 7. 1962

Dear Roger,

I am just back from Berlin where by order of our committee I made some inquiries which might be of some value for your journey. Here they are.

As you certainly know, the World Council of Churches organizes work camps rather regularly on both sides of the iron curtain. So in the DDR even. They not only got the permission but I was told that they have even gained a kind of cooperation with the authorities. So theirs seems to be the only private work camp activity in the DDR at present. They are the same people who form the East section of the German movement "Aktion Sühnezeichen" (look at the pamphlet in this letter), which then started together with SCI the Servia activity. Their founder and chairman, Präses Lothar Kreyszig, is now hindered to come to West Berlin. This has not encouraged him but made him activate the initiative in the East. I was told that he has organized a service for a hospital of mental diseases in Magdeburg on the lines of Aktion Sühnezeichen. He as well organized an Eastern contribution to the Coventry cathedral. Of course, these both are church activities. But, as they are done with at least tacit acknowledgement by their authorities, you should not miss the chance to contact them as well in order to get a picture more complete. Please, note the address :

Representative of the World Council of Churches' camps : Mr. Gutsch and Mr. Kreyszig  
both : Berlin C 2  
Friedrichsgracht 53 (St.Petri vicarage)

Mr. Kreyszig, who is quite familiar with SCI and knows me well, speaks French very well. Of course, they have certainly not yet had international camps, but this might just be a source of information about the arguments used against international participation.

By the way, curious to say, there is just now some refugee flux a-going from the DDR to Poland. What about a project in favour of them ?

Now, serious again : Would you not think it is necessary to have a short visit to Italy ? We here are very uneasy about the internal quarrels of the Italian branch. We are not at all interested in hearing any more details about personal misunderstandings (why not having two competing groups ?), but we are deeply interested in having a successful service in Calabria.

Very sincerely yours

Hans-Ulrich

C. Carlotta