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Dear Roger,

You have asked the German committee about our views on SCI activities in the DDR (East German Republic). First I should like to thank you for this apparently new method, i. e. to ask us as the most concerned branch by nature. This has not always been like that, as you might know, since Henri Majewski went into discussions with the FDJ even without telling us he was doing so. Later on this was explained as a tour d'information of the Coordination Committee, though it seemed to us that his emphasis lay on possible SCI activity in the DDR in collaboration with the FDJ.

Now this is just what you are embarking for. If I now were the body of the International Committee I would give a very simple, though thoughtless answer, namely : "The DDR represents an acute situation different from that which existed in the past." I wonder if you feel this as a sufficient answer for immediate postponement of your voyage to the FDJ. I hope you will take this remark a little more serious than a joke.

At this point I also should like to mention the role Michael Holman possibly might have according to the minutes of the 29th ICM. We simply do not wish that any member of any branch unknown to the German committee should be authorized to make official contacts in the DDR. We understand and would agree to that he can act only on your command and only in so far as your negotiations in this highly delicate matter are concerned, possibly as an interpreter.

Before giving you a clear answer I have to say some words about principles of policy. We have not forgotten that the International Committee objected the idea of cooperation with the Kennedy Peace Corps, because the Peace Corps is a governmental agency. It would be a fundamental misunderstanding to expect the FDJ to be a youth organisation in the West European sense - the FDJ is a governmental agency with very special functions it has to fulfil in an essentially undemocratic state. We neither have forgotten that the International Committee asked the European Secretary not to go to Spain because of the fascist character of that state. By an economic point of view there are naturally great differences between a fascist and a communist state, from a political or a moral point of view they are very much alike. Nowadays it seems that the Spanish Franco State is relatively more liberal than the German Ulbricht State.

So, what is the reason for SCI's political inconsequence ? I can see one reason : The distinct and uncritical wish of several members of the International Committee (or even of the International staff ?) to jump into acute situations different from those which existed in the past (What can we do for the former Belgian Congo ? What can we do for the Angolan refugees ? Why aren't we hurrying up to help in Algeria since she has won her independence ?). Wherever you can notice a crisis, SCI must jump into acute situations ! But if then we succeed to organise some sort of action - (in the case of Berlin just a normal work camp the participants of which unfortunately tried to think more deeply than the International Committee about the division of Germany and the division of Berlin and the possible task SCI might have there, and who even did not send telegrams to Herrn Ulbricht, to Herrn Adenauer, to Mr. Khrushchov, to Mr. Kennedy, or who ever you can think of to send a telegram to - sending telegrams is a normal thing, explained Henri Majewski at Montry, and the International Committee members nodded with their heads - a telegram like : We, the participants of an international work camp in Berlin with the following nationalities represented . . . and so on) - and something does not please us the International Committee members cry : "Stop ! Stop ! There's an acute situation ! Postponement ! British subjects back home !" We behave like immature people.

Nevertheless, we want to contribute to SCI's East-West bridge working. But why necessarily in the DDR, the perfect Stalinist state of the whole East Bloc ? Are there no possibilities in Czechoslovakia, in Rumania, in Bulgaria ? And if necessarily in the DDR, have we then thought about our possible partner, the FDJ ? Must we cooperate with an organisation that recruited and armed eighty thousand young people, that terrorized and terrorizes the population in the DDR, the members of which who object to all that terror and to military service are expelled of the organisation, and so on ? How do we think that this bridge working shall function in the DDR ? Do we want to counterwork peace -militarist propoganda ? Do we want to influence their minds ? Can we do that without endangering our volunteers ? Or do we want to be unpolitical ? But what sense has this bridge working got then ? Or do we simply want to replace some of the roughly three million refugees of the DDR or the roughly 50 people who were shot by their police at the Wall ? (Didn't Mickie explain me that SCI should not replace people who were leaving Berlin and wasn't that the reason why the British branch boycotted the Berlin camp ?) Unanswered questions !

Now to give you a concrete answer :

- A. Participation of FDJ people in SCI camps. Yes, wherever it is possible, in the Soviet Union, in Poland, in neutral countries.
- B. FDJ / SCI camp in the DDR. No,
 - a) because we do not want to endanger our stand in the Federal Republic,
 - b) because we do not want to collaborate with a half military organisation against the population in the DDR
- C. World Council of Churches / SCI camp in the DDR. Yes.
- D. FDJ / World Council of Churches / SCI camp in the DDR. Yes. This is, though it seems to be the most difficult to organise, the best combination to my feeling, since it would really mean a chance for some bridge working. I think you will have got the address of Praeses Kreyszig, Berlin C2, Friedrichsgracht 53, to discuss the problem with him.
- E. To use FDJ as a channel for SCI volunteers. No.

I do not give much importance to the question what sort of projects SCI possibly should join in. I think, our Committee will not mind a camp in a Kolkhozes (by the way, there are no more private farmers in the DDR !)

Now a last remark. We do understand that you will go to the FDJ and possibly other organisations (Protestant Church) for preliminary investigations. We give you full freedom for your talks, but we do not wish to face a fait accompli. The German branch still is a branch of SCI, and a branch that makes a yearly contribution to the international budget of 15 DM per member not regarding the support to the Near East groups which is even higher, and we do not like to discuss if the German branch necessarily must be a branch of SCI.

I hope you will not mind my letter

Yours cordially

Klaus

Copies to : IS, Zürich
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