

ES / 575 / EO  
1962

19th September

Chris Hollaender, S.C.I.  
32 Prinses Margrietstraat,  
Castricum, Netherlands

Dear Chris,

I am very sorry to have waited so long before answering your letter. As you probably know, I have been travelling quite a lot since then, and I just could not find enough time to cope with my mail.

I am very grateful to you for your comments on the question of contacts with the DDR. Since Dorothy and you agree that my going to Berlin would be of some use I have decided to meet the F.D.J. representative on September 26th. As I have already explained to Dorothy and Ralph, my idea is to discuss with the F.D.J. before the ICM so that I can present a practical and precise plan of action for next year. I shall only make definite arrangements with the F.D.J. if they agree to prepare and organise a camp next year in collaboration with Mr. Gutsch and SCI along the lines already explained in my letter 516. I am personally against sending volunteers to the DDR if they are merely included in a very large camp organised by F.D.J.

I fully agree with you that as many volunteers as possible from the DDR should be invited to Austria next year. The difficulty here is to organise an East-West camp in Austria, both from the political and the administrative point of view. I have asked the French branch if they could be willing to help the Austrian group to prepare such a camp, but Etienne is not very in favour of such a project, after all the difficulties he had last year with East-West contacts.

Thank you very much for your information regarding the camp at Laon. I agree with you that we should be very firm next year, and that the C.Y.O. should understand that we cannot continue our collaboration if they do not send more volunteers to Western Europe. It may be, however, that their attitude has changed since their representative in Warsaw told me that 10 - 15 Soviet volunteers will go to Western Europe in 1963.

The East-West camp in India will be organised under the responsibility of the A.S. I hope that we shall find enough money for this project. Unfortunately the decision by the Development Fund Committee led me to think that either we will have to abandon part of our East-West programme for next year, or that the branches will have to find money for this project in their General Fund. I shall discuss this point with Ralph and Valli at the end of this week.

Thank you very much for inviting me to stay with you. Unfortunately I do not think that this will be possible, as I shall go to Paris before going to Berlin, and I plan to return from Berlin as quickly as possible. You will understand that work is piling up while I am away, and each day is very precious indeed. I do hope that I shall have an opportunity to visit you some other time.

Best wishes

Roger Briottet