

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL
International Secretariat

Minutes of the 30th International Committee Meeting held at Noisy (Oise) 2. - 4.11.1962
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7 e) Europe

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ii) Yugoslavia : Ivar Høivik reported that Walter Schenkel had accepted to go to Yugoslavia soon to investigate the possibility of a small joint work camp with the People's Youth of Yugoslavia. The Norwegian branch was thanked for its work. On a question by Dorothy Guiborat, the Norwegian Delegate said an SCI delegation was sent to Yugoslavia this summer but was split between various caps, which was not satisfactory. The following decisions were made :

- The Norwegian branch is asked to prepare a project in Yugoslavia with equal participation from PYY and SCI
- The Norwegian branch will continue to channel SCI volunteers wishing to serve in Yugoslavia.

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8. EAST-WEST ACTIVITIES

In introducing the item, the European Secretary said that he did not wish to add anything to the working paper explaining the East-West programme for 1963, but only start discussions on the main problems :

a) East-West Project in India : In close collaboration with the Asian Secretariat, it was decided to organise for the first time an East-West work camp in India in 1963 together with BITEJ and CYO. This would include European LTVs then present in Asia

b) Project in the German Democratic Republic.: In accordance with the decision of the last ICM, contacts were made by the E.S. in the G.D.R. As a result a provisional agreement was signed between the Freie Deutsche Jugend and the E.S. of SCI. An excellent British volunteer, Michael Holman, who had taken part in East-West services could act as SCI representative for the purpose of preparing the camp.

Klaus Buchheister said that the German text of the protocol was a wrong translation from the French : "Gesellschaftlichen Charakters" means in the G.D.R. a large project organized for the benefit of the State. The E.S. answered that another wording could be submitted to the F.D.J., if necessary. Klaus Buchheister then said that it was apparent that only F.D.J. volunteers would be accepted in the G.D.R. The E.S. answered that F.D.J. would accept other East German volunteers channelled by the F.D.J. Marcus Jucker doubted whether the atmosphere in the G.D.R. was favourable to East-West camps, but Dorothy Guiborat expressed the view that it was the duty of SCI to work in countries where such challenges existed.

The problem of possible repercussions on the German branch was then discussed. Klaus Buchheister said that the governmental grant to the German branch and the work for C.Os might be endangered by contacts with the G.D.R. The majority of the Committee felt however that the risk should be taken while giving full consideration to the particular situation of the German branch. The following resolution put forward by the E.S. was finally put to the vote and carried (13 for, non against, 1 abstaining) :

"The International Committee :

- i) ratifies the agreement reached between SCI and the FDJ regarding the organization of an East-West camp in the G.D.R. in 1963;
- ii) requests the International Secretary, in collaboration with the German delegate and the European Secretary, to improve the German text of the agreement in order to make it correspond exactly with the French text and to submit the new text to the FDJ for approval;
- iii) agrees to appoint Michael Holman as SCI representative for the preparation of the East-West work camp in accordance with the agreement;
- iv) requests the European Secretary to make all necessary practical agreements with one or more branches for the technical preparation of the camp."

c) Berlin : The German delegate informed the Committee that the German branch intended to organize a work camp of a social character in Berlin in 1963. The E.S., referring to the Minutes of the 29th ICM, declared that the I.C. should have been informed. The German delegate pointed out that this information was included in the Minutes of the German Branch Committee Meetings. After a somewhat confused discussion, it was decided that the President, the German delegate, the I.S. and E.S. would meet in order to find a solution to what appeared to be a misunderstanding, and would report to the full meeting. The I.S. reported later that an agreement had been reached on the following text :

- i) Agreement was reached about the wording "wirksame soziale Arbeit";
- ii) Errors were recognised on three points : inadequate way of presentation of project to the I.S., insufficient attention from the I.S. and from E.S.
- iii) It was found that some of the differences of opinion apparently have their roots in two misunderstandings by some members of the German Committee :
 - because of misunderstood motives for the earlier I.C. decision. Therefore these motives were explained as follows :
 1. Berlin has become an international concern and the I.C. wants to share responsibility,
 2. the International Committee wants to help,
 3. any action at present in Berlin may have repercussions on our East-West activities,
 4. the decision is provisional and should be reconsidered after one year.
 - In the light of this clarification, it was recognised by all persons present that the I.C. decision was understandable and legitimate.
 - The German Committee had understood that the I.C. decision did not necessarily apply to short-term camps of the usual type of work. It was explained that the reasons for the decision were also valid for that sort of camp.

After the misunderstandings had been removed, it was thought that there were no more any reason for not complying with the I.C. decision for the Branch concerned.

This text was endorsed by the full International Committee..

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