

ES / 984 E= DDR

29<sup>th</sup> March, 1963

CONFIDENTIAL

Not to be copied or published  
outside the German Committee.

Bertram Schröter  
34 Göttingen  
Gosslerstrasse 66A

Dear Bertram,

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your collective letter to the German Committee and others concerned, about your talk with Gerhard Krückeberg about the camp in the D.D.R.

You will easily understand that I am rather worried by the implications of Gerhard's attitude, although I know him well enough to be sure that he is acting in the best possible spirit, and is trying to safeguard the interests of both the German Co-ordinating Committee and the German branch of SCI.

Since I am mainly responsible for the East / West programme of SCI in general, and for the negotiations with the FDJ in particular, it is very important that I should be informed very quickly and very clearly about the intention of the German branch in this respect.

Several questions arise from the situation created by Gerhard's talk with the officials of the Familienministerium in Bonn :

- (1) It has been made clear, I think, at the last German AGM, which I attended, that the German branch had no reason to make any positive statement in favour of services in the DDR. The camp organised in collaboration with the FDJ falls under the responsibility of the International Committee, and does not involve the German branch directly.
- (2) On the other hand, it would be a pity if no German volunteer could be sent to the camp, since SCI is an international organisation and we have never considered it possible for one particular branch to refuse sending volunteers to a particular camp, unless their exist very serious reasons presented to the IC in due time.
- (3) Of course the obvious threat to cut off the grant of the Bundesjugendplan to IZD is a serious one. But I would like to be sure that the German Government would in fact go as far as this, considering that their attitude has been slightly more liberal on this question lately (i. e. facilities for Kles's Visa, etc.).

I wonder if you could possibly let me have more detailed information on all these points, once they have been discussed by your Committee. If you have serious reasons to think that the German branch may take action of any kind endangering the present preparation of the camp in the DDR, I think the best would be for you to submit a paper to the International Committee in April, either through your delegate or through me. The last point regards the position of the British branch, which, as you know, is responsible for the preparations of the camp. I feel it my duty to send a copy of my letter to Frank Judd, and I should be grateful if you would authorise me to let him have a copy of yours, dated March 20. Please believe that I do understand your difficulties and that I shall always be prepared to help you as much as I possibly can, while safeguarding the interests of the international movement.

With very best wishes

Roger Briottet

cc IC, IS, Frank Judd.