

*SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL
International Secretariat*

Minutes of the 31st International Committee Meeting held at Boldern / Switzerland 19. - 21.4.1963
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g/ East-West Problems related to the Project in the GDR

The German delegate announced the following decisions taken by the National Committee of the German branch :

- (a) The camp will not be advertised in the bulletin of the German branch;
- (b) German applications will be told that volunteers are not recruited by the German office for this camp, and they will be discouraged from participating in this camp;
- (c) The British branch will be asked to inform the German Secretariat of any German volunteers applying directly to the British office.

Explaining the reasons for such decision, the German delegate said that his branch was not opposed in principle to sending volunteers to camps in the GDR, and that indeed, the German branch had tried to organise such a camp three years ago, but that collaboration with the FDJ did not allow for direct contacts with the East German people. The ES pointed out that the German branch had been kept informed of the development of the negotiations with the FDJ and had never raised major objections. In the course of the discussion the German delegate made it clear that the very existence of the German branch was at stake. Not only financial subsidies might be withdrawn by the Federal Government but also the German branch would become suspect in the eyes of the German public. A working paper giving a full account of the situation will be sent to the IC by the German branch.

After full discussion the following minutes were passed :

- (a) The IC affirms that all West German volunteers should be given the opportunity to participate freely in the workcamp organised in the DDR and ask the Committee of the German branch to reverse their decision on this point and to refrain from influencing negatively West German volunteers who wish to take part in this camp (9 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions).
- (b) The IC requests the International President and the ES to renew contacts with the German branch to explain the IC's point of view and to help them to reconsider their decisions (9 / 0 / 1).
- (c) In case the mission fails, the ES is authorised to renew the negotiations with FDJ in order to explain the new situation and to assure the success of the workcamp (9 / 0 / 1).
- (d) The British branch is encouraged to continue the preparation of the work camp in spite of these difficulties, in order to guarantee maximum success (9 / 0 / 1).
- (e) In case activities of the German branch undertaken in accordance with the present decision of the IC and the general principles of SCI led to a reduction of its general activities, the German branch could count upon the international solidarity in every way, in accordance with similar decisions taken in the past by the IC. (9 / 0 / 1).

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