

S E R V I C E C I V I L I N T E R N A T I O N A L
European Secretariat

34th ICM working paper No. 11 a

Relations with other organisations, and Conferences

1. Workcamp organisations :

IAL (Sweden), MS (Denmark), KVT (Finland), and AFSC, have continued to exchange volunteers with us. The FWCC (English Quakers) and UNA / GB have also had a limited exchange of volunteers with us. (see also ESM w. p. No. 2, Clearing House)

2. Coordination Committee for International Voluntary Workcamps :

Roger Briottet and the ES participated in the CoCo Conference at Linz, March 1964, and the ES in the CoCo meetings, and in the subcommittee meetings concerned with proposed Regional Secretariats of CoCo and long-term service. SCI and CoCo worked in close consultation at various meetings listed below, along with (on different occasions), AFSC, Cotravaux, IAL and Jeunesse et Reconstruction. Combined efforts were shown to be more effective than isolated representation would have been, particularly when basic principles need to be repeatedly expressed in order to make an impression on delegates not already very much familiar with voluntary service.

The Coordination Committee has increased its membership, and is at present attempting to raise money for those aspects of its programme not financed by UNESCO. A small leaflet describing the current activities of CoCo will be available at the ICM.

3. UNESCO :

Besides a limited exchange of information of a general nature, SCI was represented at the UNESCO Youth Conference at Grenoble; a brief report on this Conference has already been circulated by the ES (dated 17.9.64). Two UNESCO travel grantees are at present in Europe.

4. FAO :

Following discussions between the ES and the representative of FAO at the CoCo Conference in March, an exchange of letters took place regarding the possibility of sending LTVs on FAO projects. Agreement depends on the decision of the ICM. FAO provided a list of projects in Africa which it was hoped Frank Judd might be able to visit during his tour in the summer.

5. Standing Conference on Volunteer Service (Strasbourg) :

SCI attended the first Conference organised by this body two years ago, and has accepted an invitation to be represented at the October 1964 meeting. Papers circulated by this body indicate that the organisers intend to establish a coordination body concerned with LT service.

6. Seminar on International Voluntary Service (Moscow) :

This Seminar, held as an autonomous meeting within the framework of the World Forum of youth Solidarity, was inspired by proposals from BITEJ to the Forum organisers. Invitations were issued to several CoCo members, but only very shortly before the Seminar took place. As a result attendance was poor (UNESCO, CoCo, SCI, IAL, Jeunesse et Reconstruction, about six BITEJ members, and about fifteen delegates from developing countries). This, and other organisational difficulties, reduced the effectiveness of the Seminar as such. A full report has been made to the IC Executive and the text of the communiqué issued by the Seminar is attached (Annex A). This Seminar provided an excellent opportunity for discussion with representatives of youth organisations from Eastern Europe which are members of BITEJ. Besides those with whom we are already in contact (all satisfied with present cooperation), the Bulgarians and Rumanians expressed interest in exchanging short-term volunteers with SCI.

7. BITEJ and member organisations :

BITEJ has maintained contact with SCI (and with CoCo) to good effect (see references above); however, due to the absence of key personnel from Budapest during the early months of the year, information sent by the ES relating to SCI camps where Eastern European volunteers were expected to attend was not circulated by BITEJ to its members. Information was eventually sent direct, very late.

The methods of exchange of volunteers between SCI and BITEJ members needs to be revised. The French branch is not satisfied with the present administrative arrangements, and neither is the ES (see ESM agenda, point 9). The administrative work will increase if more volunteers are recruited from Eastern Europe, as will the financial administration arising from currency exchange difficulties (It is common practice to give volunteers pocket money in Eastern Europe. SCI volunteers have been asked to pay to SCI sums equivalent to the pocket money they will receive before going to the camps. The money thus accumulated can be used for volunteers from Eastern Europe who are not in a position to obtain Western European currency).

Separate annexes are attached regarding DDR (ANNEXE B) and Yugoslavia (ANNEXE C).

ES 17.10.64 London

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