

Unofficial translation by ES, of :

COMMUNIQUE of the Seminar of the leaders of the international and national organisations concerned with the organisation of voluntary service in Asia, Africa and Latin America.  
Moscow, 16. - 23. September 1964

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### I.

The participants in the Seminar concerning voluntary service by young people, which was held as an independent meeting within the framework of the World Forum of Youth and Students in the Fight for National Independence and Liberation, for Peace who met in Moscow from September 16th to September 19th, noted the great importance of voluntary service in the action of young people towards the progress of humanity and improved international understanding and co-operation. They emphasised particularly the important part that voluntary service may play in the development of newly independent countries, freed from colonialism, as well as in economically underdeveloped countries who are still in a state of economic and political dependence.

In the course of a free discussion which took place in the atmosphere of mutual understanding, the participants in the seminar were able to note the great number of achievements and good results already obtained through voluntary service by young people in all fields.

### II.

The seminar participants recognised the necessity of paying ever increasing attention to voluntary work as an instrument of international youth cooperation in the service of national development and the improvement of basic social and economic structures. With regard to this, the participants at the Seminar decided to support the declaration of the Coordination Committee for International Voluntary Workcamps associated with UNESCO, and to encourage the use of volunteers in the framework of the UN development Decade.

### III.

Based on the above, the participants of the Seminar agreed that only joint efforts made by the different national and international organisations concerned with voluntary service can assure the best accomplishment of concrete projects.

After a full and detailed examination of the projects proposed to the Seminar by the International Bureau for Tourism and Youth (BITEJ) and by Seminar participants, the following recommendation were formulated :

1. Unanimous support be given for the project presented by BITEJ concerning urgent assistance to the refugees from Angola who are now in the Congo, and the Coordination Committee and BITEJ be charged to send a delegation immediately to the Congo in order to study what measures should be taken. Following this investigation the Coordination Committee and the BITEJ are to present to those organisations interested a detailed programme of action to be taken. A special appeal to be transmitted to the Bureau of the Forum for material aid to the Angolan refugees.
2. After having approved unanimously the BITEJ proposition to put volunteers and material assistance at the disposal of the Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria, the participants at the Seminar proposed that the Coordination Committee, the Service Civil International, the Jeunesse FLN of Algeria and the Czechoslovakian Union of Youth should form a preparatory commission with the purpose of presenting a concrete project of assistance, especially in the fields of literacy campaigns, professional training and medical assistance. It is recommended that this programme, instigated by the Seminar, should be presented to interested organisations at the beginning of 1965.

3. The Seminar participants recognised the necessity to develop voluntary service by young people in the different countries to Latin America, and charged the Coordination Committee and BITEJ to study the possibilities of sending volunteers to these countries.
4. The Seminar participants adopted the proposition of the representative of Kenya to organise an International Friendship and Joint Action Workcamp in his country, and suggested that the Coordination Committee and BITEJ in collaboration with the youth and student organisation of Kenya should study the possibility of carrying out this project in 1965.
5. The Seminar participants approved the proposition to organise an International Friendship and Joint Action Workcamp in Cyprus, and charged the Coordination Committee, BITEJ and the youth and student organisation of Cyprus to study the possibility of carrying out this project in 1965.
6. The Seminar participants considered the appeal of the representative of Mali to specialised organisations to increase the aid brought to this country through voluntary service, and charged BITEJ and the Democratic African Sudanese Union youth to work out concrete proposition on this subject.

#### IV.

Finally, the Seminar participants address themselves to UNESCO in requesting it to grant moral and financial support for the execution of these projects, to study the possibility of partly or completely subsidising the travel costs of volunteers, and to assist them to obtain the necessary visa by interceding with its member States.

The Seminar participants further request UNESCO, the "world transport organisation" and other specialised bodies to study, if they would, the possibility of establishing a reduced tariff for volunteers' travel in the territory of member States of these institutions, as well as territories where these bodies operate.

The Seminar participants expressed warm thanks to the Secretariat of the International Preparatory Committee of the Forum and to the Committee of Youth Organisations of the USSR which made possible the organisation of the Seminar, and request that this Communiqué be considered an official document of the Forum.

#### Note regarding Communiqué from Moscow Seminar

The Eastern European countries, though their government representatives and the member organisations of BITEJ, are expressing increased interest in exchange of short-term volunteers, and sending MTVs to developing countries. In some cases, fairly large numbers of short-term volunteers are being sent, or will be sent, to developing countries (as well as long-term volunteers). Very few LTVs are being sent to developing countries as the moment (not counting junior technicians, who are paid). Many BITEJ members are in a financial position to send large numbers of LTVs to developing countries by bilateral agreement with the governments of the receiving countries, on the Peace Corps pattern. They have shown some support for cooperation with UN agencies through providing LTV assistance for their programmes, and they are well represented in CoCo.

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