

ES / 2054 EO / DDR

Verena Ritter

31st August, 1965

Dear Verena,

your letter and excellent report arrived this morning. If your leadership was as thorough as your report, it could not have been better ! I wish we had such reports on all important camps, as it would make planning much easier, and assessment more accurate. I realise, too, that you must have had some very difficult discussions to make, some rather tense moments, and a delicate balance to maintain. Not much of a holiday. I'm afraid. I'm sorry that two of the volunteers were so prejudiced about their national politics that they disturbed the atmosphere rather more than they need have done to make their position clear. But you seem to have had valuable support from two or three very good volunteers to compensate, and you obviously succeeded in keeping the situation under control. It is difficult to know exactly how to select volunteers, especially West Germans, for camps in the DDR. But we must obviously stick to the rule about experience now, even if we do not send enough vols. as a result.

Thank you for the extra note about your discussion with Streller. I shall send him a polite letter - not a copy of your report ! I think the best way to deal with the problems is to speak to Rümpel, not write anything. He can understand a hint very easily. On the other hand, I wonder what the FDJ will think about our unsuitable volunteers this year ? It is probably a good thing we do not want to increase the number of joint camps with them at the moment. As for the Security Check people, I am sure we must ignore this unless it becomes really overt, and disrupts camp life. We certainly can't stop it by complaints which would be refuted anyway.

One report from a volunteer has arrived already - short and sweet. When some more have come, I'll send them to you if you like.

Thanks again !

Amitiés,

Janet Goodricke