

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL
International Secretariat

36th ICM working paper nr. 7

Report of the European Secretariat April - October 1965

1. Introduction :

This report covers the period April - October 1965. It should be read in conjunction with the Development Plan (Working Paper No. 3) and the report of the European Clearing House (Working Paper No. 8); essential cross-references are given at certain points. Detailed recommendations for future administrative procedure, etc., are presented in distinct paragraphs or separate annexes.

2. General report on summer programme :

The summer programme in Europe has increased this year as compared with 1964. The increase has been fairly-evenly distributed, exceptional cases being Austria and Italy, where programmes were approximately doubled, and Netherlands where the number of workcamps was reduced, two of the camps being cancelled (but the number of volunteers sent abroad increased). The total number of volunteers serving abroad in Europe was about 500 more than less year, which is a 25 % increase. Statistics are not yet available concerning the number of volunteers serving in their own countries : it is estimated that the percentage increase is similar. Detailed statistics can be seen in the Clearing House report, working paper no. 8, and section 2.1 of the Development Plan (working paper no. 3) also contains relevant statistics.

3. Branch / group administration :

The administration of the branches and groups has not deteriorated, but continues in most cases to reflect the lack of personnel for the work : where there has been an increase in the staff this has been accompanied by an increase in the size of the programme, so that, on the whole, there is no net gain in administrative strength. Recurrent problems are evident in the planning of the workcamp programmes efficiently and in good time, administering them, recruiting and placing of volunteers, ensuring leadership and the quality of the services, and maintaining other activities which effect the quality of the branches / groups overall work, such as local group programmes, information to members, publicity and fundraising. (See also Development Plan, working paper no. 3)

4. Report on special developments and activities :

4.1 Eire. It is with great pleasure that the ES records in this report that SCI activities have started in Eire, where an SCI group is now being formed by about 10 active members. Besides one international workcamp in Eire and week-end activities, the group has cooperated with the Northern Irish. The British branch has given its support and encouragement to the group in many ways this year. The Assistant to the ES visited the group in August and submitted a full report to the IC Executive.

4.2 Exchange of short-term, middle-term and long-term volunteers in Europe. Short-term volunteer exchange between branches and groups and regular cooperating organisations is dealt with under (2) above and in working paper no. 8 on the Clearing House. In addition the ES has answered enquiries from about 100 potential volunteers applying directly and eventually placed about 20 of them : it is not known how many of these actually arrived on workcamps (most were liable to be affected by length and cost of travel, and some by visa formalities). Volunteers placed were from Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland. It is recorded with concern that it was not possible, due to pressure work, to deal with about 100 similar enquirers who wrote after the peak period for placing began.

The ES acted on behalf of the Algerian Delegate in selecting short-term volunteers for Algeria (Beni Hamou and a Jeunesse FLN workcamp) : there were not enough applications from suitable, qualified volunteers for this project, and due to this and to events in Algeria there was an unexpectedly large amount of correspondence between the Algerian Delegate and the ES about procedure for placing volunteers on both camps concerned. The ES feels that the exchange of volunteers between Algeria (and possibly other countries in North Africa) could be slightly increased, but only on conditions that sufficient administrative resources are available.

The ES also selected short-term volunteers for workcamps in Eastern Europe, and found that there were not enough suitable volunteers available at the right time, especially to replace cancellations (The Swiss branch was responsible for selecting volunteers and for organising the workcamp in Yugoslavia).

MTVs and LTVs in Europe from Japan (2), Togo (2), and the USA ("), and 1 European, had programmes arranged by the ES. Six Indian volunteers requesting short or middle-term programmes at short notice in the late autumn are now receiving attention. Dorothy Guiborat will assist in arranging programmes for Asian LTVs and MTVs in future. A circular has been issued to branches regarding an increase in the number LTVs / MTVs to be placed in Europe and the type of programme required. The administration of programmes should be improved (see also Development Plan working paper no. 3).

- 4.3 Emergency Team. An international training course for Emergency Team volunteers was held in France in September, in cooperation with the Civil Defence. More courses of this type will improve the efficiency of SCI emergency action and encourage special training (first aid, etc.) on a national basis. The operation on the E.T. vehicle, equipped for rescue work, medical work, and catering, and carrying a large metal-framed tent, was demonstrated at the training course.

Following the Danube floods in Austria, a special service was organised to do repair work. Normal SCI activities in Austria also stimulated special local action after the second flooding in September (See also working paper no. 7.3 E.T. procedure, and the Development Plan working paper no. 3).

- 4.4 East-West Exchange. Volunteers exchange with Eastern Europe through the ES were as follows :

DDR : joint SCI / FDJ / BITEJ workcamp at Wulferstedt, July 31 to August 21. A seminar was organised by the French branch in Paris for two days before this camp. 34 volunteers took part (SCI 15, FDJ 8, BITEJ 11). The volunteers dug drainage ditches for agricultural land for a local cooperative. The work was generally considered to be useful and its execution was satisfactory. Accommodation, food, and the pattern of leisure-time activities were nearer SCI standards than on many Eastern European camps. Contact between volunteers and with the local population was good. There was a strong difference of opinion between two West German volunteers on the camp and the majority of the team concerning FDJ ceremonies during the camp; the volunteers concerned

took action without the approval of the SCI leader in two instances. While expressing concern at the difficulties which arose, all volunteer reports received by the ES (except one from a West German volunteer) indicate that the camp was extremely valuable. The ES records its particular thanks to the SCI leader for carrying out her difficult responsibilities on this camp.

Three volunteers from the DDR (through FDJ) were accepted for Austria (East-West camp).

Poland :

KWOM camp at Gdansk, July 1 - 20. About 30 volunteers took part, from 12 countries, including 6 SCI volunteers. The work was digging trenches and concreting foundations for agricultural machinery depots, etc., for a small community. Bad weather, power cuts, etc., affected the organisation of work. Reports received from volunteers indicate that the camp was generally successful.

Polish Students' international camp at Wysoka, August. 4 SCI volunteers were sent through UNA / GB to this workcamp, where the work was agricultural. No reports available.

Several Polish volunteers served in SCI camps in Western Europe, including a group of 10 from the Polish Students' Association in Austria (East-West camp)

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Czechoslovakia : CSM workcamps, various locations, mid-July to mid-August. About ten

volunteers from SCI were sent to the CSM workcamps, in two groups. Due to administrative difficulties on both sides, very little information was available in advance concerning the projects. Full reports are awaited from the volunteers : there have been some indications that the work was not organised completely satisfactorily, by SCI standards, but that other aspects of camp life were good.

Six CSM volunteers were placed on workcamps in Western Europe.

Yugoslavia : Report awaited from the Swiss branch concerning the workcamp held in Yugoslavia this year.

Hungary : SCI was invited to send two volunteers to Hungary, but administrative difficulties (chiefly, timing of recruitment) made it impossible to accept.

Hungarian volunteers were invited to Austria (East-West camp)

The National Youth Council has expressed interest in sending volunteers to Austria, France and/or Great Britain next year, and in receiving more volunteers on its international workcamps (including non-Europeans). Projects might include repair work near the Danube, following the flood damage : it would be appreciated if a similar project were organised by SCI in Austria (see below).

USSR : No invitation was received from the CYO for SCI participation in its workcamp programme, nor were volunteers offered through the ES for services in Western Europe. Contacts will be renewed this autumn.

General : Small numbers of volunteers from Eastern Europe were placed on SCI camps in Western Europe through direct approaches to branches or the ES, or through branch contact with Eastern European organisations. ES administration was inadequate and must be improved by provision of additional resources if the exchange programme is to be maintained properly and increased. The possibilities for increasing exchange are considerable, but procedure is not easy and requires constant attention (See Development Plan working paper no. 3 and working paper no. 7.2).

The East-West camp in Austria was successful, according to preliminary reports, and it is hoped that further camps will be organised annually.

4.5 Long-term volunteers from Europe. The ES has issued summary information on LTV openings to branches once during the summer, and, in cooperation with the IS, taken action to assist in the recruitment and placing of individual volunteers. There has been a valuable exchange of correspondence between the IS, AS and ES on administration and planning. The Commission for the International Training Centre at Ariège has met twice, and a report on its activities (including recommendations) is attached. An international training course for LTVs was held in Oust, Ariège in July / August; the greater majority of volunteers attending were British. The need for advance planning and international administration regarding LTVs is increasingly evident. The work of the IS, AS and ES to meet this need can be expanded as the total international staff increases. In the meantime, the ES has drawn up a brief paper concerned with procedure in Europe (See working paper no. 7.1). The ES is particularly grateful to the AS for recent correspondence and reports concerning LTV exchange.

4.6 Relations with other organisations.

AFSC (Paris))	
BITEJ (Eastern Europe))	Volunteers have been exchanged with these
Friends W.C.C. (GB))	kindred organisations and relations are good
KVT (Finland))	(In case of BITEJ, which is itself a
MS (Denmark))	coordinating body, exchanges have been with its
UNA (GB))	member organisations).
W.C.P.A.I. (Turkey)))	

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IAL (Sweden). Volunteers were exchanged through the Clearing House, on the same basis as for European branches / groups of SCI (but with no charge to IAL). Some difficulties were experienced which may be explained by the fact that IAL had not used CLH procedure fully before and was,

therefore, not familiar with it. Relations with the Italian branch of SCI, with which IAL has cooperated in the past concerning the organisation of workcamps in Italy, were not satisfactory. The EC Executive recommended that the ES should contact IAL to discuss and agree on future cooperation and the ES is now in correspondence with the Secretary.

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ES, 10.10.65 Janet Goodricke