

ES / 2157 Ger Br.

19th January 1966

Alfred Knaus, IZD, Stuttgart.

Dear Alfred,

Thanks for your letter about the Franco-German business. You have seen our suggestion in quite a different way to that which we meant ! First, there is a misunderstanding about the direct approach to other German organisations : we had thought that if you agreed we could ask a few of the German organisations with whom we have some cooperation, whether they would like to offer volunteers for France through SCI. If they agreed, they could send offers direct to the Clearing house leaving out Stuttgart.

Believe me, I am quite aware of your past efforts, and of the difficulties (!!!) you have experienced with the French branch. Perhaps, as Ralph has suggested to Etienne, it would be best now to drop the special scheme?

I know you must be sick of the whole matter, and think it would be best to talk about it just before the ESM, so I shall not write any more about it. But I did not want you to go on thinking we were proposing such wicked action as you thought from Rosemarie's report! Rosemarie was rather tired, and I talked rather fast - with Fay translating - and Rosemarie is not yet perfectly familiar with the ESM agreement or with past arrangements between the German branch, other German organisations and the Clearing house. So I am not surprised there was a muddle. Sorry.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Dagmar Veskrnova has agreed to send us 50 vols to France and 25 to England, definitely. I told her we could accept smaller numbers in other Western countries and that you would fix arrangements for Germany. The vols. do not need travel expenses or pocket money. However, as IZD can get a reimbursement of travel costs, you could decide to offer to provide pocket money. An alternative - which is perhaps impossible - is for IZD to keep part or all of the reimbursement for vols. from other Eastern European countries who do need pocket money. It is only the Czechs who can bring their own money with them.

But I think CSM would be attracted by an offer to provide financial assistance. I have found that the Poles and Hungarians are not enthusiastic about sending volunteers to Western Germany, mostly for political reasons I suspect, but they say their vols. want to speak English / French, or go somewhere very close, like Austria, because that is cheap. Enclosed is a circular summarising the exchange agreements so far. Tomorrow I shall prepare a very short circular to branches asking them to refer all enquiries from Eastern Europe to the ES, including those from people who only want to serve in the country to which they have written. This is contrary to the agreement at the last ESM, but the number of agreements made with organisations is growing, and, because of pocket-money limitations and placing procedure (and the high proportion of individual applicants who do not arrive after acceptance, for some good and some bad reasons), I think it best for the ES to deal with all enquiries, and I think we shall be able to do it efficiently this year.

Now to a different point, about Czechoslovakia. I have had a letter from an old SCI friend in Prague, who will send us some volunteers this year. In my letter to him, I said some nice things about CSM, in case the letter was opened by the authorities. In his reply he also mentions CSM. I should like you to make clear to him that I am much more interested in his volunteers than in CSM's, and explain why I write nice things about CSM. Can you find out from him whether or not CSM has given formal approval to his activities in sending us volunteers ? His letter is ambiguous. Also, I am not clear about the closing date for Czechs to apply to their authorities for permission to go abroad in summer 1966. I had heard that the closing date was in January. Is this correct? If so, by what means is it possible to get permission for these volunteers to come to the West? Please try to visit this person, Eugen Schart, ul.1, Listopadu 17, Prague 4. I shall tell him you may come. He speaks German, but not perfectly. At the Conference in Poland in November there were two representatives of CSM : 1 was Dagmar Veskrnova, and the other a young man who is connected with the Town Council of the CSM in Prague. His name is Josef Motycka, and he is enthusiastic about work camping. His address is (office) International Dep., CSM, Senovazna 2, Prague 1, Telephone 23 97 41 - 4. I should like Eugen to meet him, even though he works for CSM. Even if this is not acceptable to Eugen, could you see Josef, and ask him on my behalf if he wants to come to England this summer, to work with SCI Another person, less important, whom you might contact, is Dr. Jiri Nemecek, whom I met in Wien : he is an anti-party Marxist, interested - moderately - in work camping, partly as a social phenomenon perhaps, and partly because he admires the voluntary spirit and likes travelling. I suggested he contact Josef Motycka, but not Eugen. If you visit him you could tell Eugen and see if Eugen would like to accompany you.

I hope you have a good trip, with plenty of time to relax. If the weather in Czechoslovakia is anything like the weather here, I suggested you take a toboggan with you, and a large bottle of cognac.

All the best from Fay and me,

Amitiés

cc ICE, IS.

Janet Goodricke,
ES / SCI