

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL
European Secretariat

MINUTES of the 32nd European Secretaries Meeting, held at Marly-le-Ro
29th and 31st October, 1966

PRESENT : Micheline Six, Annie Ledent (Belgium)
 Etienne Reclus, Jean-Pierre Petit, Marthe Baechler, Chantal Samyn (France)
 Alfred Knaus, Rosemarie Bock (Germany)
 Ray Manley, Jef Smith (Great Britain)
 Tino Cirelli (Italy)
 Theo Ruyter (Netherlands)
 Arne Praesthus (Norway)
 Lotti Baumann (Switzerland)
 Janet Goodricke, Fay Nowcki-Ringham (European Secretariat)

ALSO PRESENT : Devinder Das Chopra, Harish Pant (India)
 Eleanor Lane (Great Britain)
 Peter Heymens-Visser (Netherlands)
 Toyohiso Monden (Japan)
 Sangwoo Lee (Korea)
 Tudor Fernando (Ceylon)
 A. Somesan, M. Ali Reza (Pakistan)
 Franco Perna, Michael Lakin, Sally Abbott (CoCo)
 Herschel Shorr, Susy Rivinus (AFSC)
 Josef Motycka (Prague CSM)
 Hiroatsu Sato (Asian Secretary)

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7. East-West Exchange

The ES report on East-West Exchange in 1966 was discussed. It was agreed that it had improved compared with past years, although administrative weakness is still evident. The proposal of the ES that branches and groups should increase their direct involvement was accepted. Each branch will establish direct contact with a limited number of countries, for special activities. Each branch will consult the ES before taking initial steps and keep the ES fully informed by copy-letters, etc., of progress. The ES / CLH will continue to place all volunteers on all camps, East and West, with the exception of exchanges between France and Eastern Europe which the French branch will do.

The exchanges for 1967 will be with the same organisations as in 1966. Besides increasing the number of volunteers exchanged, more joint camps will be arranged if the cooperating organisation agree. Middle-level contact will be increased (i. e. leaders, junior personnel) to ensure the fullest possible exchange of ideas, complementing policy-making meetings by senior staff on the one hand and exchange of volunteers for service on the other.

It is unlikely that detailed information will be available before May about the 1967 Eastern European programme. However, provisional outline information will be circulated as early as possible. The ES will attempt to obtain more complete exchange forms from Eastern Europe, and arrange a more satisfactory acceptance / information sheet procedure.

The ES stressed that the exchange forms of SCI volunteers offered for services in East Europe must be completed properly : in 1966, frequent omission of passport details led to considerable delay in placement and obtaining of visas.

It was strongly recommended that volunteers offering to go to Eastern Europe should all be briefed in June (or earlier if recruiting permits) about conditions on Eastern European workcamps. A weekend meeting is desirable : returned volunteers can be asked to speak at such meetings, reports and information distributed, and common problems discussed. It was agreed that plans made by each branch should be circulated to all other branches and to the ES, AS and IS.

Regarding Eastern European volunteers for SCI camps, it was pointed out that Eastern European cooperating organisations request detailed information on the SCI programme early. They also need invitations and information sheets promptly after acceptance, for visas and travel arrangements. A delay of six weeks between visa application and issue is not uncommon. All branches except the French agreed to supply the ES with invitations for use for Eastern European volunteers, as this system worked well for branches using it in 1966. Information material about branch activities in English, French or German should also be supplied by branches to the ES for transmission to Eastern Europeans.

The ESM was informed in detail about arrangements made regarding pocket money in 1966. It was noted that as long as arrangements vary from organisation to organisation — and in some organisations procedure is not consistent — great attention must be paid to stressing the SCI principle of no pocket-money when appropriate currency can be obtained, and volunteers and branches must be told clearly who receives pocket money and why. Arrangements next year will depend on the ability of Eastern European organisations to arrange for currency exchange permission for their volunteers. It will be pointed out that SCI can pay pocket money to a limited number of volunteers only. Branches will be informed of arrangements agreed.

It was noted that various experiments have been made regarding the provision of hospitality for Eastern European volunteers after workcamps, and that the volunteers concerned had benefited. In view of the practical limitation preventing Eastern European volunteers from sightseeing on their own, all branches and groups were encouraged to investigate forms of hospitality which could be offered by SCI members or suitable cooperating bodies.

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ES, 15.12.1966
JG / FN / RB