



# Service Civil International

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| <b>International Secretariat:</b>             | <b>Asian Secretariat:</b>                           | <b>European Secretariat:</b>                        |
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ES / EO / DDR

2nd May, 1967

Dr. Hans-Ulrich Smoltczyk,  
2 Hamburg - Nienstedten  
Mindermannweg 13

Dear Hans-Ulrich,

I am writing to you about some immediate action required concerning SCI East-West activities.

The interest of the German branch in closer contacts with the cooperating organisation in the DDR, FDJ, is most encouraging, and could possibly lead to the German branch secretariat taking some direct responsibility for practical details of the projects. The International Committee, and FDJ itself, would have to be consulted about changes to present practice, which is that the E.S. is responsible for all contacts with FDJ, and that the German branch sends a representative together with the ES to discuss matters with FDJ, and has some responsibility for the preparation seminar for SCI volunteers going to the DDR. Lutz Caspers has been most valuable as a companion during visits to Berlin, but I do not think he give more time than he does at present to DDR matters : It would, therefore, be helpful if Alfred could come to Berlin instead. He would then be able to contribute fully to internal SCI discussions about how to develop activities with FDJ, especially administrative questions which would affect the German branch secretariat.

A related matter is work in Czechoslovakia. Alfred has been very active and achieved much in relations with our Czech friends and the cooperating organisation, CSM. Coordination, however, has not been adequate, because of the large number of offices, organisations, informal groups and individuals involved. Recently some excellent initiatives have been taken but problems with friends in Prague. I have had some correspondence with Alfred recently on these matters, as the German branch is involved. It seems to me that by far the easiest way to sort out everything satisfactorily would be for Alfred to visit Prague soon, if possible. It would also be valuable if Alfred could discuss the various questions raised very fully with me before he goes to Prague.

Taking the DDR and CSSR matters together, I wonder if you and the Committee would agree that Alfred should accompany me to Berlin on 5th / 6th June and go direct to Prague afterwards ? In the particular circumstances that exist at present, this would help the ES work considerably, and I think it would be of advantage to the German branch also.

As relations with FDJ are a matter for policy discussion as well as practical administration, I think it would be helpful if you or Lutz could visit the camp this year at Tuchheim, and if you agree I shall try to obtain an assurance from FDJ that this can be arranged, during the June discussions.

It is rather too early to consider how to deal with FDJ in future, in detail. Much depends on what FDJ has to say about accepting the German branch as the main discussion partner on the SCI side, and on SCI's International Committee. However, it will be necessary to make proposals to the International Committee (or I.C. Executive) during the next few months, and I expect the German Committee will want to discuss exactly what it would like. While it is important that Alfred should have a good knowledge of FDJ, because of administration, it would be important to involve the President or a Committee member in discussions, particularly connected with the annual visit to Berlin, with FDJ. This is true even when the business to be discussed is nothing more than routine, as personal discussions allow one to get the 'feel' of whether or not cooperation could be developed. I personally hope that cooperation can slowly be expanded (much depends on the political situation) to a point where there is good regular exchange of volunteers, joint workcamps and study camps, in the DDR, CSSR and Austria in which East and West Germans would be involved. To develop to such a point would need the full commitment of senior members of IZD, making policy and supporting and guiding the Secretary of the branch on administration. While close coordination with the ES would be essential, the German branch could deal with many activities better than the ES could.

I shall be glad to have your comments both on the question of Alfred going to Berlin and Prague, and also on the more general question of future development of German branch East-West responsibilities.

With best wishes,

Janet Goodricke