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**Service Civil
International**

International Secretariat:
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Zürich 4 / Switzerland

Asian Secretariat:
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European Secretariat:
~~272 A West End Lane~~
~~London N.W. 6/Gt. Britain~~

Paris as from Zuerich, 21 July 1967

272 A West End Lane
London N.W. 6/Gt. Britain

Lutz Caspers, Hannoversche Straße 2, 3057 Neustadt a. Rbge (ab 7.8.67)
jetzt noch : Munzelerstrasse 31, 3 Hannover (bedeutet der Umzug, daß Du Dich beruflich
verbessert hast ???)

Copies : Hans-Ulrich Smolczyk
Alfred Knaus
Int.Ex.Cttee. / ES / IS

Dear Lutz,

Thank you very much for your letter of 19. 7. 67.

After having had a lengthy talk and thorough exchange of view with Janet and Vivien on the matter of present relationship with the Freie Deutsche Jugend in the DDR and after having come to some common agreement concerning your own "middle of way" proposal, we decided to write to you straight away, so as to let you know our opinion before your committee meeting scheduled for 29.7.67.

Janet and myself agree and accept your point 1 and 2 (on which you have asked my opinion) as a good and suitable compromise solution in view of the slightly different points of view concerning an "official excuse"; the unhappy incident of having handed to people outside SCI a document for internal use with some not very "diplomatic" terms and formulations regarding a delicate subject; the moral commitment of you and Janet to give FDJ some explanations by writing; and - foremost - because the whole matter is certainly not worth to make a "big affair" out of it and that we should finish with it as quickly as possible. Therefore : I f the German Committee accepts your proposal we would agree as follows :

- your committee sets on paper (for the minutes of your meeting) a short text;
- Janet will inform FDJ accordingly by quoting this text in a letter of hers to FDJ, expressing the wish that the matter can be closed by that and that cooperation continues as planned.

In so far as future procedure is concerned, Janet now continues this letter by commenting on your points 3, 4, 5 and the matter of sending a cttee-member to the camp in the DDR.

(In between : thank you very much for your useful comments on the Middle East - with which I tend to agree. But now back to the DDR) :

Ralph

All points concerning future relations between the German branch and FDJ must be considered as part of an overall policy, rather than as single isolated steps. I think we all agree now that the German branch should take greater responsibility and gradually become the chief spokesman on the SCI side in our negotiations. But we must bear in mind the interests of the other branches, and that FDJ might, in certain circumstances, be more difficult to handle through the German branch than through the ES. To pass too quickly to a stage were the German branch provides the only or the main SCI representatives in talks with FDJ might put a strain on both sides. I should like to see an initial stage of build-up of good personal relations through different kinds of activities, during which the ES would still hold official responsibility for the SCI side of any agreements, followed, after agreement by FDJ, by the International Committee officially requesting the German branch to take special responsibility for continuing the work with FDJ. Timing would depend on how fast good relations develop. Now regarding the specific points you mention. :

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3. The exchange of reports could be requested by the German branch, perhaps mentioning that the new development last year - 1966 - when the 5 leaders prepared a joint report which was based on a consensus of opinion amongst the volunteers was welcome. This could also be linked with discussion of next year's programme, especially the study camp (I think perhaps the subject "Voluntary Service" which we are using this year in a joint camp in Poland might meet with FDJ's approval).
4. Talks and exchange of letters need to be coordinated, and if they are they will surely be valuable. It would be a great help if you could let me know now who the German committee would propose to visit the camp this year, in the hope that FDJ would agree in time (I think they would hesitate to agree unless they have some indication at the same time as we propose a visitor that we are dealing with the matter concerned by 1 & 2 above, but we can try). Such a visit could be followed in a natural way by a visit to the FDJ office, where further meetings and exchange of letters, reports etc. could be discussed. If this falls through, then another opportunity to arrange a meeting would arise in the autumn in connection with the study camp proposals. I would much prefer such a meeting - which has a clear connection with our present cooperation - to a specially arranged delegation of German Committee members to discuss more theoretical future cooperation.
5. If things went very well, then the ES in spring would insist to FDJ that 2 representatives (full representatives) go to Berlin for the usual talks and signing of the Agreement. Probably the person from the ES would be Franco, and also probably the person from the German branch would be one who has had previous personal contact with FDJ, which Franco has not had. So the German SCI representative would do most of the talking.

Would this amount to an outline of an acceptable formula for our approach to FDJ in the next 12 months ? I want to put something about it in the ES report to the IC in November, but prior agreement with the German branch is necessary if the proposals in my report are to be of any value.

Now Ralph is coming back to write some more, so goodbye from me

Janet Goodricke