

Service Civil International



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14 November 1967

Lutz Caspers

Dear Lutz,

Enclosed are copies of what's been sent so FDJ, plus 2 reports on Tuchheim, one from a British and one from a French volunteer. I have still not got back all reports I lent to the British branch, so will summarise some points I remember :

1. The FDJ leader seems to have had a difficult task, which he carried out well. You will remember our discussion with him on 'norms' : he supported the team's decision not to compete against another FDJ camp on the basis of the norm, and there was no question of prizes or other recognition of hard work for members of the joint camp. Over the concentration camp, there was much discussion about a visit and pressure was put on SCI volunteers to go, but the FDJ leader was not insistent. On one question, whether the church Minister should be invited to the celebrations at the end of the camp, he seems to have omitted the SCI leader from consultations and held a meeting only with the Bitej rep. to make a decision not to invite the Minister. I think that on this question, which related to Church and State at a local level, we should recognise the poor chap's difficulties.
2. Organisation of accommodation and work and excursions good, but not perfect. Machinery and transport sometimes lacking on time. The volunteers did not know what financial basis for excursions existed. Actually they were supposed to earn money by exceeding the 'norm', but we had asked FDJ not to talk about norms, and this was probably the basis for confusion. Anyway, the volunteers started by thinking they could plan outings and then discovered money and transport problems and felt disappointed. The final excursion to Cäcilienhof seems to have been paid for by the potato-picking extra work session.
3. Attitudes of vols. and East-West contact. The usual division into Russian-speaking delegates and German-speaking volunteers seems to have existed. We should ask FDJ to recruit Bitej vols. who speak Western languages, and try hard ourselves to get Russian speakers. The Easterners tended to go to the pub as early as possible each evening. The FDJ group were all people with a special function, translators, cooks, the leader. Contact with local people was frequent, and encouraged.

Please send the reports to Alfred after you have used them, asking him to return them to ES when he has read them. Thanks.

Will let you know immediately after Marianska about FDJ's reaction to enclosed copy-letter, and if they favour a visit from IZD reps. will suggest they write to IZD direct. OK ?

Amitiés,

Janet Goodricke