



The beginning of SCI Sri Lanka 1960-1963

Archives Documentation



Background

Few years the beginning of activities of SCI in Asia in 1950 contacts were made with Sri Lanka, which was called then Ceylon. The first contact was in October 1959. The Asian secretary Devinder das Chopra visited "Ceylon" and met several NGOs. Among them was a woman, Padmini Jayawardene, who did probably a workcamp in India the year before. With her and her organisation the first "Orient Occident" workcamp was set up in 1960.

Thedy von Fellenberg, the later International Secretary, was sent as long term volunteer to Ceylon in order to help to organise the first workcamp in Sri Lanka. The 2nd workcamp was in 1962, while in May 1962 an official SCI group was initiated during a meeting of Asian Secretariat. The first constitution was set up around 1965.



Resources in SCI Archives

32401 SCI Sri Lanka (1959 - 1971)

32401.1 Origin, Constitution, Minutes of Annual General Assemblies and Committee Meetings, Reports, Financial statements. (1959 - 1971)

32401.2 Correspondence. (1959 - 1971)

Documents

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REPORT OF THE EXPLORATORY TRIP TO CEYLON FOR HAVING SCI
SERVICES THERE AND EXCHANGE OF VOLUNTEERS

DATES: 26th September to 9th October 1959

Talks were given to the following Groups and Organisations interested in international work-camps:

1. Ananda Vidyalaya School, (Buddhist management) To the Staff and the Principal.
2. Seminar on the SCI and int. w.c. in Ananda Vidyalaya where other organisations were represented as well as the Instt. for Social Work, the Director of Social Services, and the Rural Development Deptt. under the Ministry of Home Affairs. FRIEDRICH HECKMANN and UWE KNORR from Hamburg also took part explaining the work and role of the German Branch of SCI.
3. The Western Division Youth Council — their Board of Directors was addressed. They have earmarked Rs 1,000 for '60 for a work camp, as a part of their activities.
4. The Apex Club which is modelled on the Rotarian pattern and affiliated to the large number of Apex Clubs in Australia. They do work camps on the week-ends.
5. Young Mens' Muslim Association — are interested in any future activities,
6. Council for Economic and Social Welfare which came into being during communal riots in Ceylon last year; they are also interested in doing some w.c. activity.
7. The Social Service Group in the University of Ceylon, Peredinya, Kandy.
8. Recorded a talk on SCI which Radio Ceylon will broadcast sometime in November.
9. Addressed the Representatives of some of the organizations contacted in my stay in Ceylon, who formed themselves into a Convening Cttee., to be enlarged later into an Organising Cttee. for W.Cs. in Ceylon.

Individuals met were as follows:

1. Miss Padmini Jayawardena: has been to the Ind. Org. Cttee camp in Mahial, India, last year as well as our Madras project: is very keen to start an SCI Group in Colombo with w.cs. on the SCI pattern: she has been elected the Convenor of the Cttee, formed by the various organisations for having a more co-ordinated activity.
2. Mr. Abeysekera, the Rural Development Assistant for the Backward Communities, who has initiated a couple of national work camps. Believes in the ideal and effectiveness of the w.c. method. A very devoted person.
3. Mr. Aryaratna, Teacher in the Ananda Vidyalaya active in the w.c. field in Ceylon.
4. Mr. Mandavelli, the Deputy Director of the Rural Development Ministry.
5. Mr. Undrell, the Director of Social Services.
6. Mr. Paiwa, Director of the Instt. of Social Work, Colombo.
7. Mr. Wenigetunga, President of the Western Div. Youth Council.
8. James Greene, Asia Foundation
(And a number of other people whose names cannot be enumerated here in a report of this kind.)

Projects visited:

1. Kanatalowa village of the Backward community called Rodiyas,
 2. Manawa village " " " " " "
- Two national work camps were held recently in these two villages under the patronage of the Rural Dev. Deptt. in co-operation with the Ananda Vidyalaya volunteers.

I stayed a night with the so-called Backward people; it appears very good work was done and the villagers have full confidence in those who organized the projects. We could have an SCI service in any one of these villages.

3. Boys' Town, Hangwalla, 28 miles from Colombo. Delinquent children and vagrant lads are housed here, numbering 50. The Govt. and the Ford Foundation have been helping here. They want to increase their work so that they can handle 150 boys. A good place for a pioneering SCI service.

Document 1: SCI Asian Secretariat: Exploratory Trip to Ceylon (October 19th, 1959) page 1

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General Impressions

I did not expect to have such a busy programme in Ceylon mainly because I had contacts with Padmini Jayawardena, only; Nalini Samrawcera was not available. The only other persons I knew whom I met in Ceylon were Friedrich Heckmann and Uwe Knorr from Hamburg! They helped me in one of the talks.

The first two days in Colombo were lost, completely, due to the confusion following the assassination of the Ceylonese Premier.

There has been some haphazard activity in Ceylon in the field of national work-camps, by some Groups. The most live Group I found was from Ananda Vidyalaya which has had the backing of Aryaratne, Mr. Karunamanda, the Principal, and Abeysekera, from the Rural Dev. Deptt. I could co-operate with them alone and organise one or two SCI services in Ceylon, and invite their vols. to the Indian and Pakistan services.

At present there are only three to four people in Ceylon who know SCI from a rather close contact. Of these only two could help if we wanted an SCI Group in Ceylon, right away. Since that would have been a too artificial approach, I did not emphasise at this stage the formation of such a Group in which interested individuals would be represented. This I am leaving to create enough interest and individuals, by having at least two SCI services in Ceylon and bringing a few volunteers to India.

All the youth groups in Ceylon are interested in exchanging volunteers with us, and in co-operating with us.

On the debit side I could notice the divisions and jealousies among the individuals and organisations active in the same field. I could not decide on choosing any of these for future direct co-operation with us, as that would have involved us in the group rivalries of the national organisations.

Results

Therefore my trip has resulted in bringing together about 10 organisations active and interested in work-camps in Ceylon; for the first time individuals interested in the same work have come together to chart a plan for a more co-ordinated activity ... They have formed a Convening Cttee. with Padmini Jayawardena as the Convener. They hope to form an Organising Cttee. for Work-Camps in Ceylon by the time the year is out. This Cttee. and its members will be open to full co-operation with us. At least that was the feeling and the thought of the members present in this meeting.

I was hoping to have an int. service in Ceylon in coming December. People there felt it would be too early. Therefore, this is left till the coming vacations in April. In the meantime I am inviting Ceylonese volunteers to take part in the services in India to exchange experiences and enrich the method and technique of the w.c. And I will be sending a few volunteers from here to take part in one or two national camps in Ceylon.

I am hoping that by the end of 1960 the ground will be prepared for individuals like Padmini, Abeysekera, Aryaratne and Anthony Rajendran (on his return) to form a healthy Group of SCI in Ceylon.

I regard my trip to Ceylon a moderate success. The Orient moves slowly and we must all be patient in realising our common ideals.

P.S. I had a couple of interesting talks with Greens of the Asia Foundation. They are rather touchy as far as India is concerned since they were thrown out by the Indian Government.

I would like the I.C.'s opinions and recommendations for our future work in Ceylon.

19th October, 1959

Devinder Das Chopra

Ceylon Observer
A NEW VENTURE 1959

THE S.C.I. — Service Civil International, is an organization founded by a Swiss Pacifist, *Pierre Ceresole*, for the purpose of furthering international understanding through the method of international work camps.

The S.C.I. has organized in several countries voluntary work-camps. The volunteers of different nationalities, races, backgrounds and creeds have built bridges, schools, houses, hospitals, reservoirs, and roads in more than twenty countries. They have improved living conditions in the slums and shanty areas in London, Paris, Algiers, Karachi, Delhi, Tokyo and Philadelphia.

During the years of the Spanish Civil War, they evacuated civilians from the danger areas and distributed food and clothing. Similar work was done in Greece during 1944-46.

At present this relief continues among the Tibetan refugees, in Assam, India and the Algerian refugee children in Tunis.

Volunteers have donated their time and effort to help victims of war and natural disasters like floods, earthquakes and avalanches. Work-camps at present are under way in the flood afflicted regions of South France and South Japan.

Start in India

IN 1934 work was started in India and thus an attempt was made to come to grips with the terrible poverty of economically underdeveloped areas.

Under an invitation from the President of the Republic, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, who worked with the international teams in Bihar, S.C.I. again started its work in India in 1950.

Soon afterwards it started similar work in Pakistan. Work is not limited to mere material aid, equality and self-help among the people with whom they work.

In some places they have been able to undertake fundamental education and medical aid. Care is taken that manual work does not compete with paid labour.

To develop mutual understanding Orient-Occident camps have been held with volunteers from Asia, Africa and Europe.

Conditions of service require that all volunteers should be above 18 years of age. All volunteers must observe the self-discipline necessary for efficient work and harmonious community living.

No special qualifications are required, but volunteers must be capable of doing reasonably hard manual work in a spirit of good-will and service.

Volunteers will have to pay their travel expenses but food and shelter will be provided free. No payments is made for the work done. Women volunteers will look after the kitchen arrangements and where suitable work is possible for them they will do the same work as men. If possible they will do social work in areas where it is needed.

International camps

THE international camps vary in size from ten to hundred participants. There are camp leaders, as well as a head-sister in the camp. Responsibilities are divided as much as possible. A 'house-meeting' is held each week giving every volunteer an opportunity to contribute to the democratic running of the camp.

At present there is no branch of the S.C.I. in Ceylon. Mr. Devinder Das Chopra who is the Secretary for South East Asia is in Ceylon now for two weeks to explore the possibility of organizing such a work-camp in Ceylon. It is hoped to organize it in December this year or early next year. If a project and a sponsor could be found. If you are interested please write to Miss. Padmini Jayawardena, 11 Charles Way, Colpetty.

Abbildung 1: Document 2: Ceylon Observer: A new venture (1959)

Internat. Sekr. *Manava / Ceylon* Thedi von Fellenberg *IND*

REPORT OF MY STAY IN CEYLON FROM 18/3 - 7/4 1960

REGARDS: de Chopra, Absalon, Internat. Sekretariat, Madrasproject

1. Dates
2. Workcamps in Ceylon
3. The backward Communities
4. SCI in Ceylon.

1. Dates

a) Backlook

18.3. Arrival in Colombo
21.-22. - Visit of a Tea Estate in Uva Province
24. - Conference for preparing first-aid Camp for Pilgrims on the sacred Peak of Sri Pada (Adams Peak)
- Meeting with Miss Padmini Jayawardene, Secretary of the National Council for Coordinated Workcamps in Ceylon
25. - Visit of a Colomboslum with Miss Kusal Mututantri, Patron of Social Service society in Colombo-South.
25.-27 - Girl-guides Weekencamp in Manavas' Backward Community together with Mr. D. Abeysekera, Rural Development Assistant in the Department of Cotton Industry and Rural Development (Ministry of Home Affairs), Mr. Ariyaratne, of Nalanda Yidyalaya School and Mr. Seneviratne, R.D.O.
28.3.-1.4. - I work in Kanatolowa Backward Community helping by Brickburning, playing with the children, manufacturing baskets in co-operation with Mr. A.D.M. Gunasekera.
3.-4.4. - I stay in the Buddhist Hermitage of Dodandulla (Island) together with Rev. Nyanaponika Mahathera.

b) Forelook

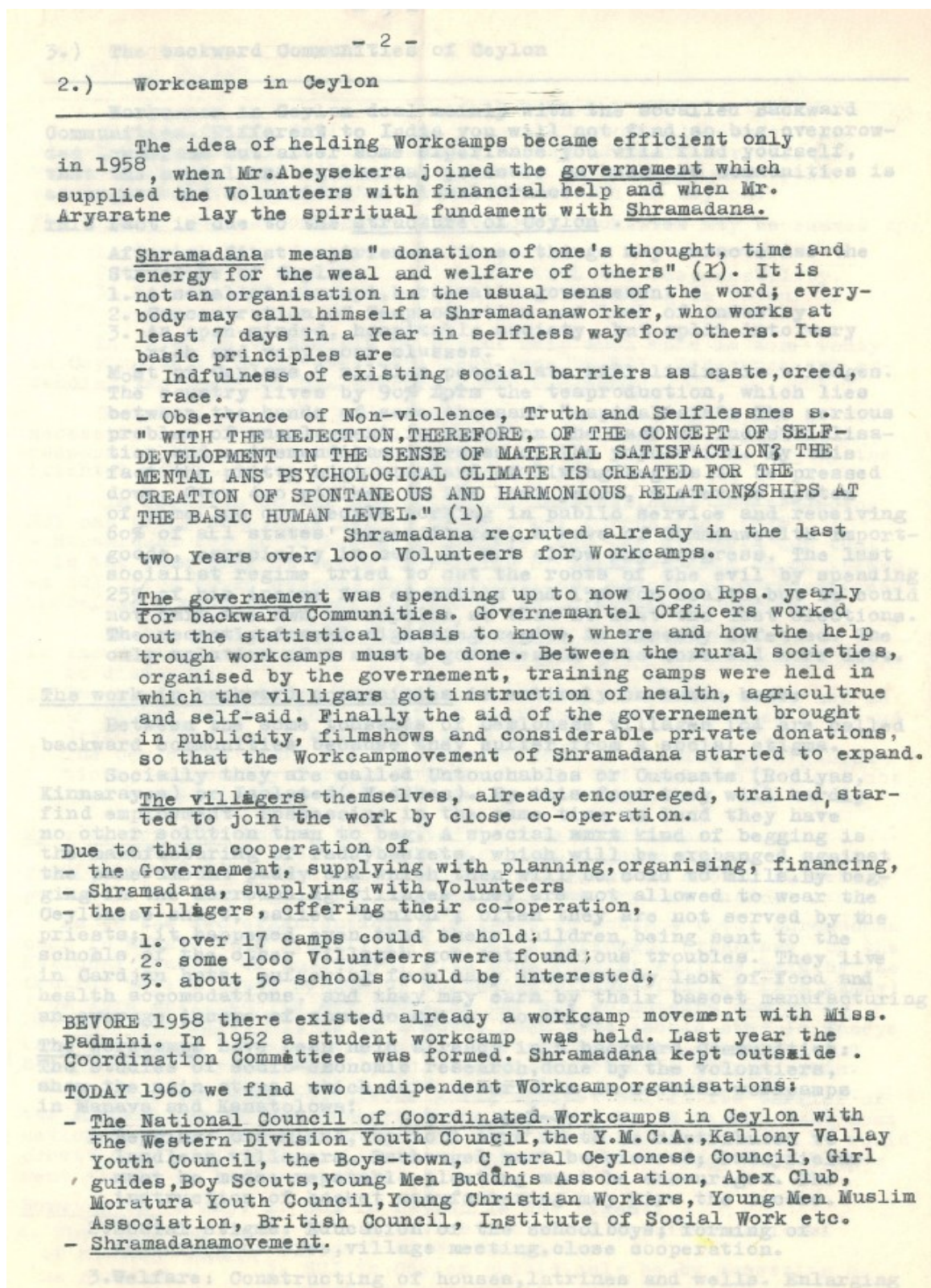
6. - Filmshow of Workcamps in Kanatolowa and Manava.
7. - Conference for preparing International W/C in Manava with talk about SCI.
9.-12. - Camp of Sri Pada with Mr. L. de Silva, Secretary of the Saukyadana movement for first aid to Pilgrims.
13.-17. - Preparation of the W/C in Manava with Mr. Seneviratne
17.4.-17.5. International Workcamp in Manava.

I. In these 20 days, only 8 days of physical SCI-work.
II. Study of SCI-relations to W/C movements in Ceylon.
III. Challenge of Buddhist philosophy, Krishnamurti, etc.

Due to the lack of work these first three weeks served more to personal acclimatisation than to SCI-work. The result lays in my challenge of oriental mentality, not so much in useful co-operation.

It is to be studied, if my stay in Ceylon after the International Work Camp could not be used in a better way by helping communities with less resources.

Document 3: T.v.Fellenberg: Report of my stay in Ceylon (April 1960) page 1



Document 3: T.v.Fellenberg: Report of my stay in Ceylon (April 1960) page 2

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3.) The backward Communities of Ceylon

Workcamps in Ceylon deal mainly with the so-called Backward Communities. Different to India you will not find so big overcrowded Townslums but after some experience you will find yourself, that the social and economical pressure on backward Communities is as urgent and as serious as slumclearance. *SCI in Ceylon?*

This fact is due to the structure of Ceylon. *tries may be summed up:*

After my first experiences three things may characterise the Structure of Ceylon: *local staffs with own responsibility.*

1. A so-called corrupt, bureaucratic government *in favour of*
2. Concentration of Teaproduction and lack of industry.
3. An open-minded, hospitable society, but split into very rich and very poor classes.

Most of Ceylons 9 million people are ~~with~~ living in villages. The country lives by 90% from the teaproduction, which lies between the hands of some thousand "capitalists". The serious problem of unemployment is based on the lack of industrialisation and a tremendous increase of the population. By this fact the pritty high standard of living begins to be pressed down. Over 400 strikes in the last years, a sterile system of some 100 000 people working in public service and receiving 60% of all states' expenditures, a wave of Commonwealth import-goods, especially in cars, do not allow any progress. The last socialist regime tried to cut the roots of the evil by spending 25% of his income for education and 15% for health, but it could not omit the own corruption, so that it lost the last elections. The recently formed rightwing regime is already defeated. The only solution of a strong government gets more and more lost.

The work in backward communities is entirely on human base: *ask us*

Between the some thousands of Ceglonese villages 104 are called backward communities because they suffer from a social stigma.

Socially they are called Untouchables or Outcasts (Rodiya, Kinnarayes) or Isolated (Veddhas). By this fact they will hardly find employment. Possessing in the same time no land they have no other solution than to beg. A special ~~sort~~ kind of begging is the manufacturing of Paddybaskets, which will be exchanged against the same amount paddy and which then will be sold to ^{the} mills. By begging in the surrounding villages they are not allowed to wear the Ceylonese shirt, called "banion"; often they are not served by the priests; it happened even that their children, being sent to the schools, of the other villages got into serious troubles. They live in Cardjan huts, suffering from many deseases by lack of food and health accomodations, and they may earn by their bascet manufacturing an average income of some 60 Rpies. monthly.

The workcamps have been held already in 5 backward Communities:

The studies of socio-economic research, done by the volontiers, show the main steps, which were undertaken in several workcamps in Manava and Kanatolowa:

1. Begging: Crownland, up to 1 acre is to be distributed to landless villagers. Dschungel must be cleared; Paddyfields must be made; vegetable planting must be encouraged. The instruction of basket manufacturing may ^{per family} rise the income.
2. Social stigma: Education of the schoolboys; forming of childrens societies, village meeting, close cooperation.
3. Welfare: Constructing of houses, latrines and wells. Enlarging roads, fencing fields.

Document 3: T.v.Fellenberg: Report of my stay in Ceylon (April 1960) page 3

INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATED TRAINING & WORK CAMP PROJECT

IN THE BACKWARD COMMUNITY VILLAGE
OF

MANAWA

ORGANISED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
COTTAGE INDUSTRIES, COLOMBO

**SHRAMADĀNA
SAUKYADĀNA &
GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENTS OF
CEYLON**

AND
SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL
FROM 17th april to 15th may 1960

Document 4: Workcamp in Manawa. Report (1960) page 1

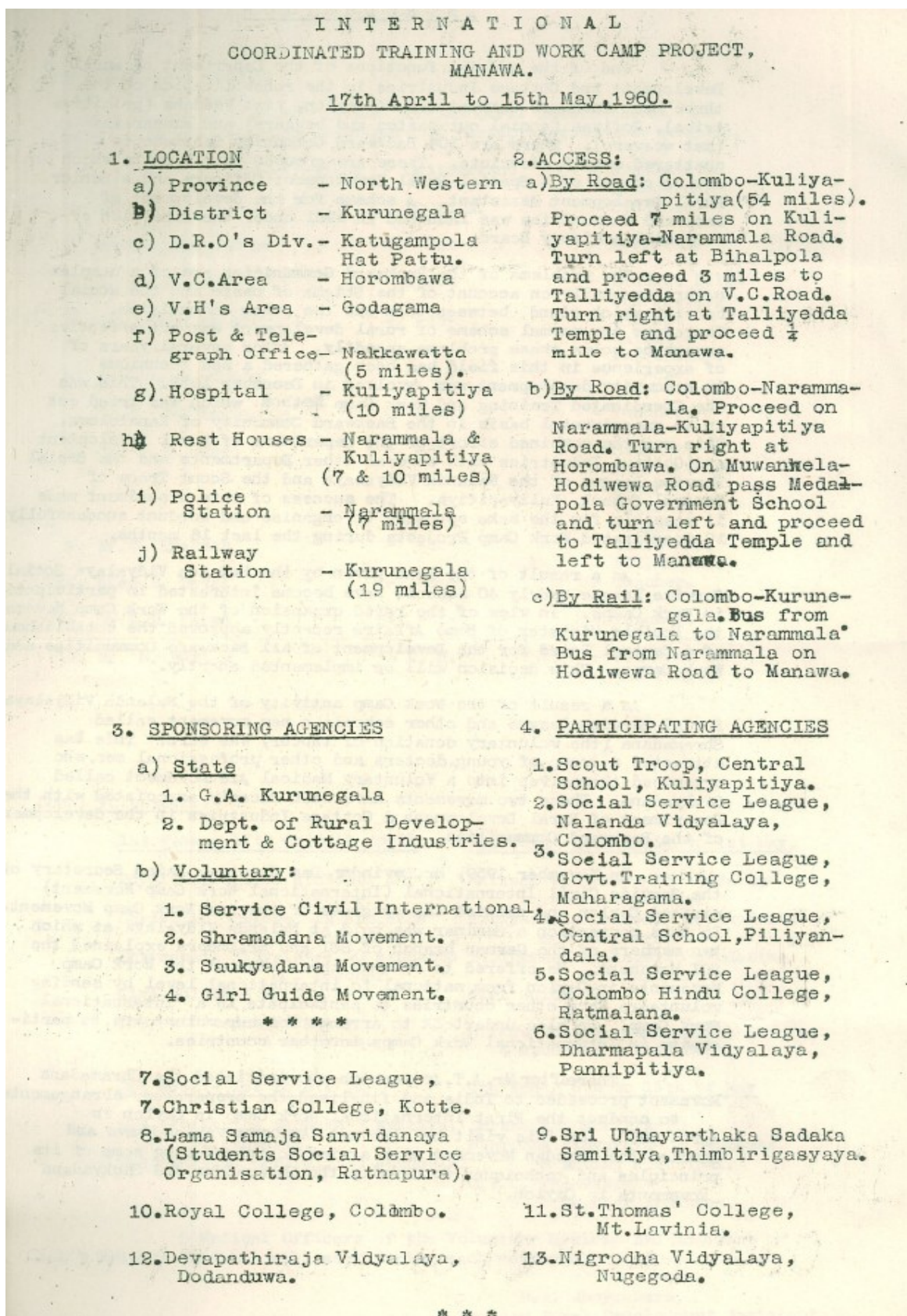


Abbildung 2: Document 4: Workcamp in Manawa, Report (1960) page 2

TIME TABLE.

5.00 a.m.	- Rising up.
6.00 - 7.50 a.m.	- Washing and Morning Tea.
8.30 - 11.30 a.m.	- Work on Projects.
12.30- 2.00 p.m.	- Lunch, Rest and Study.
2.00 - 2.50 p.m.	- Talk by Visitor or Camper.
2.30 - 5.00 p.m.	- Work on Projects.
5.30 - 6.30 p.m.	- Games.
6.45 - 7.45 p.m. *	- Film Show.
7.45 p.m.	- Dinner.
8.30 - 9.30 p.m.	- Group Discussion.

* There will be a Camp Fire on every Wednesday and Saturday from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. On these days the Group discussion will be from 6.45 - 7.45 p.m. The day's problems and progress and the following day's programme of work will be discussed at Group Meetings.

* * *

WORK TEAMS

The Rural Development Society of Manawa held a Special General Meeting on the 27th of March, requesting the organisers to select Manawa as the venue of the International Work Camp.

During the Work Camp several development projects will be initiated. These projects will be undertaken by several Work Teams. The volunteers and villagers will be grouped into separate work teams. Each team of volunteers will be combined with a team of villagers and the combined team will elect a student leader, a staff leader and a village leader. The Rural Development Officer, Backward Communities and specialised officers of the Departments concerned will advise and assist the work teams in the implementation of their programmes.

* * *

WORK DONE.

The first intensive programme of development was initiated at Manawa by the Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries in March 1957. Thereafter a Rural Development Society was organised. 16 landless families were provided one acre allotments of L.D.O. lands. 19 Type Plan Houses were built on a self-help basis, with a subsidy of Rs.700/- per house. An irrigation tank was restored at the cost of Rs.2,150/- and 3½ acres of land asweddunized. A textile centre and a school for 54 children were established. A Children's Literary Society was formed.

Between 1958 and 1960 successful programmes of work were implemented at Work Camps organised by the Scout Troop of Central School, Kuliyaipitiya, Girl Guide Company of Musaeus College, Nalanda Vidyalaya and Government Training College, Maharagama.

* * *

Volunteers from Abroad:

The Asian Secretary of the Service Civil International has arranged for the following volunteers to participate in this project:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. Mr.Theodore Von Fellenburg | - Switzerland | - Graduate in Economics. |
| 2. Mr.Barry Davis | - U. S. A. | - Student. |
| 3. Mrs.Arlene Davis | - -do- | - Secretary |
| 4. Mr.S. Chopra | - India | - Student Delhi University. |
| 5. Mr.B.Chakara Borti | - -do- | - Student Calcutta University. |
| 6. Mr.A.K.Sen Gupta | - -do- | -do- |
| 7. Mr.J. Bhattacharyya | - -do- | - Teacher. |
| 8. Mr. J.A. Dass | - -do- | - Student, Madras Veterinary College, Madras. |
| 9. Mr.C. Prakash | - -do- | - Secretary, SCI, Delhi. |
| 10. Miss.B. Patel | - -do- | - Teacher. |
| 11. Mr.M.R. Verma | - -do- | - Teacher. |
| 12. Mr. N. Watt | - U. K. | - Graduate of Cambridge. |

* * *

Local Volunteers:1st Week - 17th to 24th April

Royal College, 10 students & 1 teacher.
 Christian College, 12 students & 1 teacher.
 Dharmapala Vidyalaya- 10 students & 1 teacher.
 Girl Guides - 8.
 Devapathirajah Vidyalaya- 4 teachers.

2nd Week - 24th April to 1st May.

Malanda Vidyalaya-15 students and 4 teachers.
 Piliyandala Central- 10 students & 2 teachers.
 St.Thomas' College, 10 students & 1 teacher.
 Girl Guides 9.

3rd Week - 1st to 8th May

Sri Ubhayartha Sadhaka Samitiya, 20 students.
 Kuliypitiya Central, 15 students.

4th Week- 8th to 15th of May

Shramadana Workers-20
 Nigrodha Vidyalaya- 5 students & Acting Principal.
 G.T.C. Maharagama- 8 Teacher trainees.

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Thed von Fellenberg
Service Civil Internationalisé
Colombe, 13./6./60

3rd. Report of my Activity in Ceylon 22.May - 9.June 1960

During the time from 22.5.-9.6. we dealt with three Camps:
 - the SCI Camp in Deniyaya 22.5.-1.6. (building a cottage)
 - a Camp in Kundurundurumma in Veddahland (jungle cutting)
 - the Saukyadanacamp in Anaradapura 7.-9.6. (first aid).
 Two Camps were successful, the "Veddahcamp" a failure.

1) SCI-Camp Deniyaya (22.Mai - 1.June)

Project: Building of a temporary cottage in Waturawa. Waturawa is a singalese village 7 miles from Deniyaya. People are mostly farmers cultivating in average 2-5 acres of own land with paddy, tea, vegetables. Following the suggestion of a rich and goodhearted teaplantier a training school for agriculture and handicraft should be built up. Beside the local farmers some 250 offenders living young offenders should be settled down in Waturawa in a colony and would be trained in a job in the training school in order to reintegrate them into the society. This settlement of young offenders will be selfsupportant by cultivating tea, rubber, vegetables and darry. Being a long-term project of about 5 years the first step includes the building of two cottages, where the first 10 young offenders, carefully selected, should live and start cultivating an land and after building the permanent training school. During the 10-days Camp SCI in close cooperation with the villagers - interested in the school for their own children - finished the following

1. 100-yard of street through boggy ground.
2. A appr. 25 x 20 feet Cottage with 2 rooms and a Veranda. We laid the foundations, erected the wooden frame and put doors and windows. Keef and mudding the walls could not be done yet, but will be done by the villagers.

Our work does less consist in the result of an unfinished cottage but in initiating a pritty old project which never was started before. We were assured by the villagers and the teaplantiers that the work will go on, the first cottage to be finished in voluntary work by the villagers, the second cottage to be given on a 1000 Rupees contract to them. The land, rented out by a temple, is sure, the young offenders are promised by the probation officer, and a Capital of 20 000 Rupees for starting the plantation is already approved by the Planters Association.

Volenteers: Arleen and Barry Davis from USA, Bana Pathel from India, Ted von Fellenberg from Switzerland and H.A.Karunatatne from Central College Kulijapithiya. The lack of Ceylense Volenteers - due to the schooltime and unchanged even after our speech to the students of the Central College in Deniyaya and after sending a letter to the headmaster - was considered as the weakest point of the Camp. The number of five was reduced to three, four workers by my accident and some illness of Arleens. This number does not allow a normal SCI-Camp life and creates the problems of too close relations.

Finances, Food, Impliments, housing was provided by Mr. Ratnayke. We lived without any comfort and overcrowded by mesquites in the school of Waturawa. The lack of time forced us to a cold breakfast. Lunch was given by different villagers in their houses. Rice for dinner was cooked by ourselves, yet supplied by curry from the schoolmaster of Waturawa. - Some old Mammeties (meas) were available, still we felt the lack of more complete equipment being so entirely

Abbildung 3: Document 5: T.v.Fellenberg: 3rd Report of my Activity in Ceylon (June 1960) page 1

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dependent from the villagers. A pity that we all were unskilled workers, ignorant with the handling of the native tools, the local way of housebuilding and the language, for many good working hours were wasted by waiting to the carpenter or to the mason.

Camp life: Raising up: 6 - 6.30. Breakfast 7, 7.30 leaving for the project being 1 1/2 miles away. 8-12, 2-5 Worktime. Early to bed. We regularly came home at six or, having done some village visits, only in the darkness. After cooking, washing a.s.o. we felt too tired for any group discussions. The accommodation was too primitive for a real Camp feeling and maybe the number of the volunteers too small too. Happily the Cooperation with the villagers was excellent. We got the impression that they really were conscious of the sense of the project. On the last evening a meeting between the Campers and the Villagers was arranged. Beside the usual programme of folksongs, devildances etc. Barry tried to explain the aims of SCI. But we still doubt if the villagers understood it.

Problems: I stress the three weakest points of the Camp:

1. The lack of Ceylonese Volunteers.
2. The lack of planning before beginning the project.
3. The lack of Camp life.

All three points are due to the fact that we had not a day to plan a Camp before starting it. We arrived a Saturday, we started work Sunday.

Lack of Volunteers are due to the scheeltime

- to our modest accommodations
- to our total renunciation of "propaganda".

Lack of Planning:

- We think that the teaplanters association and Mr. Ratnaik, the founder of the project, did not know too much how to proceed before the project was started by us.
- When we arrived our mind was depressed by the loneliness of our Camp, the difficulty of the project, the jungle and the falling rain. But by the short length of the Camp and to strengthen our own mind we had to act quickly and jumped in.

Lack of Camp life is due to

- the small number of the Volunteers
- our exhaustion by the hard work
- the primitive accommodation.

Suggestions: I try to sum up what we could learn from this Camp:

1. A short preparation time before the Camp is necessary.
2. The question of tools, skilled workers and maybe own basic equipment of SCI (measure, level, knives) should be studied.
3. In order to reach our SCI-aim of international friendship the factors beside the work as accommodation, local volunteers, cultural activity must be taken more into consideration.

Our last impression about the Camp is positiv. We reached a result in starting a very useful project. We did not cheat ourselves, but tried to tackle the problems seriously. We raised goodwill and Cooperation between the Villagers. We learnt a lot for ourselves. This may balance the failure of planning, Camp life and Volunteers.

* * *

2) The experiment of Kundurundurumma (5--6.6.)

Prehistory: We all had heard about the Veddhas in Ceylon guiding an originally primitive life of hunting and honey collecting and cultivating their chenas-. We came across the official development plans to settle them down, to subsidy cementhouses for them and to give social allowances for old and ill people between them. More by own interest than by SCI-spirit we wanted to try a small workcamp.

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The motivation for myself was: Maybe that the Veddhas still guide a peaceful life, but the change is already in by more and more people dealing with them. The development will either extinct them or assimilate them in the way to make peasants and slumdweller of these extremely proud people. Against the will of Abey we wanted to try our luck and left. But the first Veddhas, we met in Pellebedda, declared very frank and resolute; that they did not want our help and that they want to tackle their problems along.

The failure: This was the first failure and, decided not to act against the will of the population, we shifted the same evening to a jungle surrounded Singalese Village in the neighbourhood, Aunduranduruma. An excited discussion in the night arouse three questions: 1. Do we want to work in this area? 2. Should we work for Veddhas or Singalese? 3. Which work should we do?

Result: The cooperation in this Our team consisted only Banu Patel, the Rural Development Officer Weerakone, Suresh Das Chopra from Delhi, Max Sommerhaider, a hitchhiker from Switzerland, and myself. The first question made clear: either we betrayed our big words of help and surrendered to tourism, or we started at least a small pioneer work which may make the people think here, when they will see the result. We decided to work if a useful work could be found. The choice between Veddhas and Singalese was influenced by the refusal of the Veddhas. Yet we thought at either starting to dig a well, which I could complete by coming back later, or to prepare some vegetable fields in the schoolgarden of Pellebedda. The shortage of the time (one day) and the complete lack of tools (the Veddhas possess normally only an axe) were a serious impediment. Finally, we came across the idea that the whole population of Veddhaland, Singalese and Veddhas used to buy beetle and to be caecot by buying it seriously. Weerakone wanted to start an own beetle-cultivation for the people and suggested us to prepare a first pioneer beetlefield in the jungle. We approved and started work early next morning. We did not get any cooperation of the Villagers except by supplying us with axes. At noon Weerakone declared that the villagers laughed about our idea of jungle clearing because it was not the season and refused to cooperate more by risking his own prestige. We had out already the whole jungle plot but had not started yet the field itself, but we were told to leave the rubbish at the ground in order to be burnt and were assured that the started project will be finished in the season. By the strength of the argument of the outseason, the refusal of cooperation and having completed the first stage we decided to break down the "Camp". This was the second failure.

Result for SCI: By this very useful experiment in the dryzone jungle of East-Ceylon we learnt the following.

1. In the stages of the economical and social progress of a society we distinguish between people still enjoying an autark self-sufficient and reduced "house-economy", people being already conscious of the change, being unsatisfied, and people with a fair standard of living. SCI will mainly deal with the second group. The Veddhas are in change but still not conscious of it. Let them the peace as long as possible!
2. Is it useful to negate the refusal of the people, the outseason and the unnessety of a work? People should not be forced by SCI. I decided not to go back to Veddhaland.

Document 5: T.v.Fellenberg: 3rd Report of my Activity in Ceylon (June 1960) page 3

- 4 -

3. Saukyadana-Camp in Anaradapura at Poesem (7.-9.6.)

Background: Poesem is celebrated for remembering Mahinda, King Asokas Son, bringing in the 3rd. century b.C. the Buddhism to Ceylon. Anaradapura was the Capital of old Ceylon the centuries just after Christ, and is declared today the Sacred Town. Saukyadana, the voluntary first-aid movement with about 40 Volunteers wanted to control the pilgrims, awaited especially in Mihintale.

Our Work: Suresch, Banu, Max and me came in the night of the 7th. We started work the 8th. up to the 9th. in the morning. I was stationed in Isurumuniya, where I did police-service in dividing the crowd into batches climbing the temple-roof. About 200-300 see pilgrims had come and Saukiyadana dealt with about 200 cases, mainly fainting but up to a case of epilepsy.

Result: The Camp was not well organised, but quite effective.

SCI claims to fulfill its task by work and a Cooperation. In this way our presence was entirely positiv. On the other side I consider SCI being an organisation of social work not social service, so that this Camp could not be more than a useful pass-time for me having other workcamp projects. Personally I was glad to contribute something to the idea of tolerance serving as a white Christian coloured Buddhists.

4. Suming up of my work done in Ceylon from 17.march - 16.june

Workcamps:

- Guirl-guide Weekencamp in Manawa 25.3.-27.3.
- Physical work of my own in Kanatelewa 28.3.-1.4.
- Saukyadana Workcamp on Shri Pada (Adamspeak) 9.4.-11.4.
- International Workcamp in Manawa (15.)17.4.- 15.5.
- National Trainingcamp in Moladanda (27.4.- 2.5.)
- SCI-Workcamp in Waturawa-Deniyaya 22.5.- 1.6.
- "Veddhaworkcamp" in Kundurundurussa 5.-6.6.
- Saukyadanacamp on Poesem in Anaradapura 7.-9.6.

Activities:

- 1 interview of SCI-Volunteers by Radio Ceylon
- 1 talk of SCI-Volunteers by Radio Ceylon
- 1 Newspaperarticle written by me about SCI.
- 1 One film turned by the government about Manawa, where SCI-Volunteers are shown too.
- Talk of Barry, Banu, Arlene and me to the Central-College of Deniyaya.
- Talk of Banu and Arlene to a girl-school in Deniyaya.

Kontakts:

- Shramadanaworkers including about 15 Colleges
- Saukiyadanaworkers, mainly medical students.
- Girl-guides
- Villagers of Waturawa, Moladanda, Manawa, Kanatelewa etc.
- Pilgrims
- Governmental officers (R.D.O. Director of the Rural Development Department, Cooperation Dept. etc.)
- Youth Council of Coordination Committee (Padaini-Group)

Result:

1. We considered it being better not to form an own SCI-group in Ceylon but to stay in close Cooperation to all the upgrowing Ceylonese Workcamporganisations.
2. We covered by our activity a large part of the island. Yet again we feel the necessity of SCI staying at one place with the same Volunteers during a long time!
3. SCI-task was fulfilled partly: more in workprojects than in the spiritual aim of peace-understanding.

S.C.I. Comes to Ceylon
by Arlene & Barry Davis

June 11, 1960

In Nov., 1959, Devinder Das Chopra visited a few groups in Ceylon interested in work camps, trying to establish contact for future cooperation with SCI. In April, 1960, the actuality of this aim was realized when a few campers of various nationalities came from India to join a camp sponsored by the Shramadana movement, and the Rural Development Dept. of the Ceylon Govt. It was the first international workcamp in Ceylon.

Manawa--(April 17-May 15). A "backward community" 50 miles from Colombo, village of social outcasts who, being barred from occupations, have a long tradition of begging, and somehow managed to keep alive their traditional craft, rattan weaving (reed products). The Rural Development Dept. has already pledged itself to rehabilitation of these people, and had given paddy land, erected new homes, started a school, dug wells, and built a community hall and cloth-weaving centre. This workcamp was composed of mostly schoolboys, 14 to 18 years, a few teachers, businessmen, girl guides, and a scattering of others. The teams changed each week, and the average number of volunteers was 50.

The campers prepared paddy fields, cleared jungle, dug two wells, erected a rattan centre, planted pineapple and flowers and visited homes. The medical aid movement called Saukyadana came to treat illnesses and conducted a health survey in the village.

SCI's role was chiefly one of cooperation. Some talks were given on SCI and on international topics, and groundwork laid for future exchange of volunteers between Shramadana et al and SCI. A few people were interested in joining SCI but the leadership did not seem available for trying to establish a Ceylon group.

Moladanda. This was a Training Project in Workcamps sponsored by the Coordinating Council for Workcamps in Ceylon and the South Ceylon Youth Council, and was held at the same time as the Manawa camp. Mornings were spent building a road to link the village (an ordinary one 6 miles from Kanay) to where they could market their produce--village cooperation was thus excellent; afternoons were devoted to lectures on organizing workcamps. The SCI Team visited and two stayed four days to talk about SCI aims and to see what cooperation would be possible.

Deniyaya--(May 22-June 1) At the close of the Manawa camp, a call came from the tea planters association of Deniyaya to help begin a project under their sponsorship. They had in mind to use some rented temple land and a fund they had collected to start a trade school for young delinquents and village children. By cultivating the land (they can get up to 1000 acres) the school could become self-sufficient and train in agriculture too. We, the SCI Team (4 at this time) and the young leader of the Shramadana movement agreed to go have a look, to see if it was a project we could do. Upon arriving, we found only vague plans and uncertain ideas. Nevertheless, it seemed that in the process of starting the work, the plans would materialize and the group would center down to the real task. It was without doubt a good and promising project, and the few people we felt could be counted on to carry it through. Therefore, we four SCI'ers, the local villagers, and at times Mr. Ratnayaka, who had contacted us, began to build a cottage where the first students would live. Because the roofing material did not arrive on schedule, we were unable to complete the building in the allotted 10 day camp, but the frame was erected, and finishing it will not be difficult. Plans are set to complete it. In addition, a road was cut to the cottage, some land cleared for planting, and a few bananas set out.

The most positive result of this camp is that it provides a continuing contact, and possibility for long or short term work for future teams. Mr. Ratnayaka is very positive toward SCI, wants to be a member, and so is a vital contact in Ceylon. We were joined in the middle of the camp by a Ceylonese student, so we were able to have a more SCI-like camp, simple living and cooking, than we had in the other camps. At Waturawa, where the school will be, there could be a long-term year round project where volunteers could be sent. The rural Development Dept. is prepared to help also, since a rural village will benefit. Therefore there is every possibility for good work there.

Other-- Ted von Fellenberg, our Swiss volunteer, arrived in Ceylon before the rest of the team and spoke to various groups, attended a camp of Saukyadana, a Girl Guide camp, and worked on his own in a backward community. After the camp, we spoke to other groups, a school at Deniyaya, a girls school in Colombo, and gave talks on Radio Ceylon. We also met various influential people in Ceylon who are in a position to give financial and other backing to workcamps.

Document 6: B.&A.Davies SCI comes to Ceylon (June 11th 1960) page 1

In Nov. 1960, Davidson and George visited a few groups in Ceylon interested in work... trying to establish contact for future cooperation with SCI. In fact, in 1960, the actuality of this was realized when a few members of various nationalities came from India to join a camp organized by the Government movement, and the rural development...

The Future - In addition to the things already mentioned, voluntary exchange and the Deniyaya project, the other SCI volunteers are at this time exploring another possibility, that of working with the Veddas, the aboriginal people of Ceylon whose jungle existence is now threatened by encroaching civilization. This may provide work in the future, if the initial contact is fruitful.

A national volunteer corps is in the process of being formed, which would make workcamping a large organized movement. This is under the Rural Development Department and we were able to talk with the director, sharing ideas of how to make the movement international in scope and keep alive the basic aims of dedicated service and understanding. The leader of Shramadana, Mr. Ariyaratne, has been asked to contribute to the planning committee. This is quite an undertaking, and we watch with some fear and misgivings the form such a national service will take. Whether it will be something with which SCI can cooperate remains in the future, but we certainly hope that such a far-reaching program will have scope for SCI's approach.

One other observation is that it is doubtful that SCI in Ceylon would ever have financial worries. We all seem to be guests of the government!

Lastly, Mr. Abeysakera of the Rural Development Department has an idea that Ceylon would be an ideal place to establish an international study center for peace problems. He envisions a permanent centre with the cooperation of all peace groups and status with United Nations, primarily to prepare a worthwhile text that could be used in schools throughout the world. Thus it's a really a scholarly undertaking, but he thinks it must be done by actual peace workers. The present proposal is to make such an international colony part of a rural resettlement scheme now planned at Walareessa, so that workcamping would be included in the scheme.

Gary & Arlene Davis

Abbildung 4: Document 6: B.&A.Davies SCI comes to Ceylon (June 11th 1960) page 2

CONFIDENTIAL

Report on my trip to Ceylon : Period of stay 26.7.61 - 27.8.61

"I was in Ceylon for 3 1/2 months, participating in about 15 camps each from 2-5 days in length. Most of these camps were organised by two main Groups: by far the two groups in the "official sector" of whom the leading light is Abeyasekara of the Rural Development Deptt. This group also includes some Rural Dev. Officers; health educators; doctors; Government Agents(Dist. Heads). The second is the "private sector" with Ariyaratne of the Nalanda College and convener of the Shramdana Movement as leading protagonist, and with several area Youth Councils and a few social service leagues beginning to enter the field, also the Co-ordination Council for Voluntary Work Camps in Ceylon.

Both Groups use the same raw material, the older(15/19) school boys, but claim different aims, and are mutually hostile. The "official sector" is concerned primarily with national development work and is intent on mobilising the maximum resources to this end :volunteers(adult and school boys),villagers and Govt.officers. This is approaching its logical form in the commencement of National Service Pilot Proj. on Sep. 1.

The Nalanda Group though doing similar work, mainly building roads, has the avowed aim of Sarvodaya.(the Co-ordination Committee is a pretentious nonentity).

Both Groups have very good organisers and are well worth cooperating with, but there also seems to be scope for, and a desire for the holding of SCI camps. The work would be in the field of help for vol.orgns. running orphanages, Homes for Blind,etc which greatly need assistance. Useful contacts have been made, and we would be sure of cooperation from all sides, though some of the older friends turned out to be damp squibs. Our (SCI) relationship with various organisations are cordial but have to be handled delicately, so the choice of "SCI Organiser" in Ceylon must be a careful one ".....

Thus in the words of Hugh O' Mahoney who was with me during my one month's stay in Ceylon we have an introduction to the work camp field in Ceylon today. The movement is wide-spread, popular resulting in number of camps conducted all over the island by various agencies, including the Govt.Deptts, forming the nucleus of the proposed National Service Scheme. However, it is still a sad state of affairs as there exists not just a spirit of competition among these organisations but a sense of rivalry and hatred without realising or wanting to realise the fact that there is scope for all of them to do work independently if they do not want to cooperate with each other.

Hence, the attitude of SCI to cooperate with all of them is beyond comprehension for some of them. Though all these orgns. welcome the participation of SCI vols. in their camps, a few, especially of the "private sector" seem to regard an independent SCI group in Ceylon with suspicion (including the Co-ordination Council for Work Camps !!) because of "having to compete" with a powerful international organisation !The "official sector" welcomes the participation of SCI wholeheartedly because 1)people like Abeyasekara, the Director of Land Development and others have seen the work of SCI volunteers and understand and appreciate the what we stand for 2)also of the publicity they would get for their National Service Scheme thru' SCI !

The other organisations and individuals that are anxious to cooperate with SCI are : The various divisions of Youth Council (South Ceylon Y.Coun., Western Division of Y.Coun.) 2. Fr.Kuriakose of the AAquinas (a Catholic College)undertaking work similar to that of SCI 3. Many orphanages 4.Fr.Schmidt of the Boys Town 5. Miss. Nimal Jayasekara- Welfare Officer, in charge of the Section for Handicapped doing fine work 6. Many unassuming individuals with whom we came in contact while in camps and outside.

"Choice of SCI Organiser"Anthony was with me during the second half of my stay and I could take him around to

Document 7: Valli Chari: Report on my trip to Ceylon (April 2, 1961) page 1

Our various contacts and introduce him as our representative, as agreed upon by all of us. Anthony has not taken up any job as yet and I understand that he intends leaving Ceylon after one year. With his previous experience with SCI Anthony will be able to express SCI's aims and objectives properly and do a good job as our representative. But, still I was a little bit concerned to perceive his strong feelings as a Tamil, quick likes and dislikes for people and natural inclination to distrust to mistrust the anti-Tamil Govt. and its officials as a whole which might make it more difficult for him to handle the delicate situation entirely by himself. So I would suggest that the A.S. should continue to deal with the in Ceylon with maximum cooperation and consultation with Anthony

Recommendations, Observations We should not hasten to form an official SCI Group in until after having ~~one~~ ^{three more} or ~~two~~ "SCI camps" (including the Orient - Occident camp to be held in Ceylon in Dec. sometime), though there are quite a few (25) individuals genuinely interested in the formation of SCI Group. As a compensation, would you think it would be advisable to authorize Anthony already to start building up a paying membership of the interested individuals and keep them informed of the development of SCI activities elsewhere? This will enable Anthony to have a small sum at his disposal for the expenditure that he will incur on doing SCI's work.

2. We should emphasize initially more on the exchange of volunteers - to get as many Ceylonese as possible to take part in the on going programmes in India. This will help in the building up of SCI from the bottom and with proper foundation in Ceylon. Care should also be taken in the selection of vols coming to India, as there are lots of young Ceylonese wanting to come to India, even otherwise, and are not able to come because of the restrictions laid by their Govt. As for vols. going from India it will be very uneconomical if they are going to take part in one SCI camp only. The vols would do well to go for a period of two - three months and apart from taking part in an SCI camp, to participate in the activities of other work camp organisation, ~~which~~ ^{which} within the scope of SCI. This would help further the cause of SCI in Ceylon.

3. ~~Explain~~ After having to explain several times "why SCI in Ceylon", when there are so many ^{national} organisations that fear competition from an independent SCI Group ^{I thought} it might be useful to send out an SCI-Asian News letter which besides giving news of the activities of the present and future in brief should explain i) that the aims of SCI are quite different from those of the national organs and hence the need for SCI ii) there is no fear of competition from SCI but there will be cooperation which would only enrich the movement as a whole. This will be very essential especially if we are going to adopt the policy of starting SCI activities by cooperating with the existing organisations. Our experience in E.Pak. also proves the same.

4. I happened to have good contact with one of the officials of Asia Foundation thru' the secretary of the Coordination Council in Ceylon. Do we agree in principle that this contact be kept up and we ask for some grant for the administration of SCI in Ceylon?

5. There may be a possibility for one Tibetan lama to work with a very liberal Buddhist monk in charge of a voluntary Social welfare Institution which runs an Home for aged (25), an Orphanage (30 children) and a Home for difficult children.

6. The Coordination Council and the National Service ~~Branch~~ have offered independently to sponsor the Project for the Orient-Occident Camp in December.

Two Ceylonese vols are working in the ^{Myanmar} project, at present. The situation in Ceylon demands a very cautious approach but the future can be bright and rewarding.

Asian Sectt., New Delhi 24.9.61

Valli Chari

Abbildung 5: Document 7: Valli Chari: Report on my trip to Ceylon (April 2, 1961) page 2

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL ASIAN SECRETARIATE

R E P O R T o n C E Y L O N C A M P 1962

Name: The Seventh Orient-Occident Work and Study Camp.

Organised by: The Service Civil International, Asian Secretariat and National Service Branch, Deptt. of Land Development, Colombo.

Venue: National Service Highway Project at Neluwa, Hiniduma, S.Ceylon.

Dates: January 24 to 31, followed by 2 days of programme in Colombo.

Project: Working on the highway project at Neluwa, which will open out new areas for tea and rubber plantations on completion and afford employment to the Ceylonese in the years to come.

Participants: 11 Volunteers of SCI from India, Pakistan and Britain
2 Volunteers from Canadian Overseas Service came for 3 days
15 Volunteers came from the different Departments of the Ceylonese Govt :- the Rural Deptt., Social Services, Health Services, National Service Branch etc...
A variety of visitors came to the camp for a day or two,-- some to give talks. They enriched very much the study Programme and the discussions.

The Work: With the Volunteers waking up at 6 a.m. and after the few preliminaries including the hoisting of the flag, the work really got under way not before 7 a.m., and everybody worked till 11.45.

All agreed on the evaluation day at the end of the camp, that the work project had a significance in the national development of the Ceylonese nation. The work done by the volunteers was up to the mark and on the whole they gave their best, even though the girls found it a little difficult working on the big boulders, they exerted their best on removing the earth.

The food and accommodation were indeed excellent considering the standards in this part of the world. Since Neluwa is part of the Pilot Project of the National Service Scheme, all arrangements seem to be on a more or less permanent basis and that explains the accommodation and sanitation standards.

The cultural programme apart from the study programme had both high and low spots, marked by two very fine discussions on Ceylon and her Neighbours, a few sing songs, a cultural evening with the villagers who thronged the camp site after dinner, and in which the Army boys also participated. One evening was held amidst the 150 school lads who came to work on the project for the week-end.

The Study programme developed around the themes of: workcamps and their spread in the last 41 years, the National Service Scheme and the American Peace Corps.

Topics as follows were taken up: history of the workcamp movement; general account of the workcamp organisations conducting workcamps in the world; the co-ordinated workcamp movement in the backward communities and the National Service Scheme in Ceylon; the National Service Scheme in Schools as instrument of education; voluntary workcamp organisations and their cooperation with governmental and non-governmental agencies particularly in relation ~~to~~ to SCI's work in various parts of the world; SCI in Pakistan; the Voluntary Medical Aid Movement in Ceylon; the Peace Corps and the Canadian Overseas Service; the value of short term camps and the techniques of workcamps; what makes workcamps inefficient and the steps towards efficiency in SCI-India; lastly the Evaluation.

Document 8: Asian Secretariat: Report on Ceylon Camp [Neluwa] (1962) page 1

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In the Evaluation all agreed that being an Orient-Occident camp it lacked proper Occidental participation and therefore did not merit such a title; the project was excellent and the participation from the Ceylonese most mature and receptive to the whole philosophy and action of workcamps, considering that nearly all of them were Govt. servants. All were unanimous in feeling that such international workcamps are a great boon in pioneer areas where the workcamps are a new thing and a work-and-study camp helps to bring out interesting discussions with relations to voluntary organisations and Govt. schemes, as well as demonstrating that this method need not become bureaucratic...

There was some feeling that there was no free time for the Volunteers to make the personal contacts a little more and have time for letters, but this was explained by the fact that the camp was hastily arranged in place of the cancelled one, and that a large number of visitors came, as well as by the fact that a few participants were very much interested in having organised discussions.

The standards laid in the work and study programme led the friends in the National Service Scheme say that they felt SCI could render quality to the Scheme by organising camps similar to the Orient-Occident one, and an immediate proposal was accepted that the SCI organise a Leaders' Training project for 50 Teachers from Ceylon, who would later on be the Camp leaders in the projects to be organised under the National Scheme; also an offer was accepted to write on the subject of "Voluntary International Workcamps, SCI and its methods and techniques towards better constructive work", for the Pamphlet of 50 pages being brought out by the Education Ministry of Ceylon, in English and Sinhalese, running into 1 million copies. There would be other articles on the National Service Scheme and the Dramadana movement in Ceylon.

It must be pointed out that, as for the international understanding aspect, the camp had organised and informal discussions on Indo-Pakistan and Tamil-Sinhalese problems.

The camp ended with two days in Colombo, where talks with the Municipal Councillors, the Land Development officers, an interview on the radio etc were held.

Ernakulam,

10th February 1962

Devinder Das Chopra

Abbildung 6: Document 8: Asian Secretariat: Report on Ceylon Camp [Neluwa] (1962) page 2

Report of the SCI-Ceylon,
May 1962 - June 1963.

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The SCI-Ceylon was formally established at a meeting convened by the Asian Secretariat on 4.5.62. The meeting which was held at 810, Maradana was attended by a large ~~gathering~~ number who were interested in ~~xxx~~ supporting the aims and objectives of the SCI. At this meeting the following were appointed to carry on the work until ~~elections~~ elections were held :-

Chairman	-	Navam Appadurai
Secretary	-	Anthony Rajendram
Asst. Secy.	-	Q.F.Sirimanne
Treasurer	-	R. Wickremage
Committee	-	S.G.Vithanage
		Sarath Munasinghe
		Namal Wickremage

We have had quite a successful year with our Camps inspite of many difficulties and changes we had to face during this short period. We hope the experience and knowledge we gained at the camps were useful to all those who worked with us, and for whom ~~we~~ worked, as it was to us in the SCI.

Anthony, our Secretary, left us by the middle of October last year, for Norway. The experience he had gained during his long period of work camping was of great value to all of us who worked with him. While thanking him for the services he rendered to the SCI and wishing him well, we hope he will be back with us on his return.

His place as Secretary was taken by Namal Wickremage.

Sirimanne, the Asst. Secretary, also left on Scholarship in November. Our thanks and best wishes are with him for a successful period of study. Robert, the Treasurer too left us early this year. His place as Treasurer was taken by Thyal Sivasubramaniam.

During the course of last year we elected John David, Soosainathan and A.F.Siriwardena as District organisers in Kandy, Jaffna and Matara respectively.

Inspite of all these changes we are happy that Navam has been able to carry on as our Chairman. We are grateful to him for his untiring efforts and we hope that he will continue to be the Chairman of SCI-Ceylon and guide us and safeguard the interests of the SCI in the coming years too.

Brief account of the camps we had during the past year

- (1) Soon after the formation of the group we went ahead with several week end camps which we held in two deaf and blind housing schemes at Kattubedda and Gongitota. We constructed a seakage pit and also cleared the gardens and houses of these people. Another successful week-end was spent at the sheltered workshop for the deaf and blind at Seeduwa where we cut a road about 100 yards in length leading to their new shrine room.
- (2) Another useful weekend was spent at the deaf and blind school at Anuradhapura. About 10 SCI volunteers along with many volunteers from Anuradhapura erected a perimeter fence round the 4-acre block belonging

the part played by Brown & Co., who tractor ploughed the entire 57 acres of paddy land free of cost. (Incidentally, the Managing Director of the Browns Group, Mr. Middlemiss we understand, is a member of the IVS). We are also grateful to ESSO & Co. for the gift of the weedicide Stam. F.34 for use on 5 acres of paddy.

We have also during the Camp prepared the ground and planted about $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres on chillies and onions along the channel. The owners of the plots are now maintaining these plots and the onions and chillies are coming up beautifully. In order to encourage them to water these plots regularly we presented them with two watering cans each. We do hope that many more will take to the production of onions and chillies in the future and that Govt. will not fail to organize adequate marketing facilities for the disposal of the produce.

Apart from these agricultural aspects of work we did some work in desilting irrigation channels. We regret that it had not been possible for the entire 1000 cubes of earth work to be completed. Even with the assistance of rural volunteers and school children who worked with us on 5 occasions each it was possible only to complete a little over 200 cubes by the end of the Camp. We also dug one well within the Dispensary premises and we hope that steps will be taken early to do the masonry work on it.

We are grateful to the foreign volunteers from England, France, Finland, India, Canada and America who participated in this Camp in a very big way. Their cheerfulness and hard work had contributed in no small measure to whatever success we can claim of this Camp. We also had short term volunteers from Japan, Sweden, West Germany whose influence in the camp was greater than the duration of their stay. While foreign volunteers participation in the Camp was very good we are sorry that participation of Ceylonese volunteers was not as good as was expected. There had been times when there had been more foreign volunteers in Camp than Ceylonese volunteers. We are however grateful to those who did participate in Camp and the excellent manner in which they worked. A special word of thanks is due to Nick Bond for leading the Camp with such skill and understanding despite the very difficult and peculiar circumstances with which he had to cope. Our thanks are also due to the Government Agent, Anuradhapura, for his wholehearted co-operation and assistance both for organising the Camp as well as the provision of such excellent facilities as we have enjoyed during the Camp.

We wish to place on record our deep appreciation and gratitude to the British IVS for obtaining a grant of £340 to meet the expenses of this Camp. Likewise, our thanks are also due to the OxFam and St. Neots in Huntingdonshire. We also wish to thank the ADE, ~~the~~ A'pura and the Headmaster of the school for making available the School building and the Irrigation Engineer for placing at our disposal the Overseer's Quarters and the provisions of games materials. We have also to thank the Irrigation Engineer and his Assistants, the DAEO and his assistants, the D.L.O. and the C.O.O. and all other officers who

4.

officers who have helped to carry out the programme outlined for the Camp. Finally we wish to thank most sincerely all the firms and organisations who have participated in the Camp whether by carrying out some aspect of the work or by giving food and other materials. We thank the British Council for the loan of the films especially for the visit of Mr. Brady to Camp.

Our thanks are also due to the Asian secretaries Devinder and Valli for their assistance and co-operation at all times. We look forward to their help in the future too.

Membership :-

We have at present more than 100 members including over 40 subscribing members. Our membership is open to any person over the age of 18 years who voluntarily participates in the SCI work camp for at least 10 days, or pays an annual subscribing of Rs. 5/- .

We need more people with a feeling of service to others, to join in as members.

Railway Concessions and Visa Tax :-

We are happy to announce that Govt. had allowed the issue of duty warrants to volunteers participating in the Mahawillachchiya Work Camp. This concession was made use of only in respect of volunteers who were unable to pay for their travel and foreign volunteers. While this concession has been enjoyed by us with regard to the Mahawillachchiya Camp, the question has to be taken up further with a view to obtaining travel concessions for volunteers working in SCI projects. It is proposed to take up this matter with the Government in the coming year. Another matter that has been causing a great deal of inconvenience to the SCI is the requirement of the Government for the payment of a Visa Tax of Rs. 400/- by foreign volunteers staying in excess of 3 months in the country. It is proposed to take up this question with the Government with a view to obtaining an exemption from the payment of Visa Tax in respect of long term volunteers working for the SCI.

FUNDS :-

The main source of income to the SCI-Ceylon so far has been through the membership fees of Rs. 5/- per person. We are informed that a grant of Rs. 750/- has been sanctioned by the International Secretariat for the work of SCI in Ceylon. This money could be credited to our account as soon as we open an account in Bank. Miss Valli Chari while she was here recently had interviewed the Asia Foundation on behalf of the SCI-Ceylon for a grant. Action will be taken to follow up this request with an application to the Asia Foundation.

5.

Ceylon National Committee for Freedom From Hunger Campaign

We are grateful to the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power for inviting us to serve as a member of the Ceylon National Committee for Freedom From Hunger Campaign. We have nominated John David as our delegate to represent us on this Committee.

Newsletter :-

We published a newsletter on 26.10.62. Although it was our original intention to issue this once in 3 months we regret due to financial difficulties we have not been able to have this out. Further, we hope we shall be able, in the coming year, to send out regularly the newsheet at least once in 3 months. Members of the SCI are kindly requested to see that their names and addresses are furnished correctly to the Secretary.

OUR FUTURE

The time has now come for the SCI-Ceylon to be organised on a constitutional basis. The draft constitution has already been circulated for your information and will be taken up for discussion in the course of this meeting. It is our wish that this Organisation should be registered under the Societies Ordinance after which we propose to apply to the International Secretariat for Branch Status for our Group. It is also necessary to think in terms of maintaining an office with the assistance of a full-time clerk and organise year-round camps.

Very good background paper. For archive.

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL CEYLON

Background and Development

20.10.1966

In seeking the advice of the ARTS on the planning our Training Programme it was felt that a background paper, however brief and sketchy, may be helpful. The paper touched upon the political, social and economic setting; The founding and growth of the SCIC in relation to this setting; The trend of our growth amidst the various national factors that have decided or influenced our growth; And our present development. Any mention of our needs and priorities have been deliberately left out in the belief that the ARTS would be the better to evaluate our needs and priorities much more objectively than if we had mentioned them. Though this paper has been specially prepared for the ARTS, this might also serve as a general evaluation of the SCIC.

Founding

It may be said that the SCI was formally introduced to Ceylon in the year 1962. It was an Orient-Occident Camp organised by the AS on the invitation of the National Service Department. But it is on record, that SCI volunteers had participated in workcamp activities in Ceylon even much earlier than this date. It did augur well for the SCI that it's formal introduction to Ceylon should have been on the invitation of the National Service Department. It may be necessary here to describe in brief, The National Service Department, it's background and objectives in relation to the life and thoughts of the post-independence Ceylon.

Post-independence Ceylon

As is to be expected of a country that had been under foreign rule for well over four thousand centuries, the granting of self rule did upset the equilibrium. The multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-religious population that had by force of circumstances been a unified subject nations, in asserting each it's own in the wake of independence sowed the seeds of national disintegration. Narrow communalism and racialism was mistaken for nationalism. The opportunists and extremists exploited the situation for their ends. The situation further deteriorated bringing still further sub divisions on a linguistic, racial, religious and communal basis. The leadership was either incapable of arresting the decay or understandably, were averse to doing so - for many of the leaders themselves had ridden to power on these very same basis. On the other hand, this pseudo national emotional build up proved a convenient 'red herring' to beguile the masses away from not only the truth of the inefficiency and ego-centeredness of the leaders themselves but also from the facts of a crumbling economy.

The process of disintegration and deterioration gaining momentum day by day reached a climax in the communal riots of 1958.

The emotional frenzy having spent itself on plunder pillage and murder did bring in it's wake a realisation of horror and futility of it all. The Nation was divided; The economy was ruined; The leadership was bankrupt of a solution and stood discredited.

National Service Department

In the process of reconstruction, there were two inter-dependent priorities: One, the need for national unification and the other the urgency to build anew a national economy. This is the background on which the National Service Department was founded. The echo of Vinobahave's Bhoodan movement was to be heard in the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement in Ceylon. The SCI was successfully working in National Development Projects in neighbouring India. The workcamp movement itself was beginning to be widely recognised as a potential force for constructive service and good will.

The Government was quick to recognise the potentiality of the workcamp movement, primarily to undertake National Development Projects. On the face of the urgency of economic development, the scope the workcamp offered as a basis for reconciliation was not given sufficient thought - or even if it has been, the National Service Department failed to realise this objective in implementing it's programme.

As a sequence to the setting up of the National Service Department, a bill was presented in Parliament called the National Service Bill: The Bill was vehemently opposed since it had certain elements of compulsion. The National Service Department undertook several pilot projects in it's initial stages. These evoked a tremendous enthusiasm in the masses. Being a Government Department, with its attendant bureaucratic red tape it was unable to meet

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Our Camps, if a general evaluation may be made, would show, that, from unable to meet the demands for diversified activities spread across the island. As a solution, Regional Coordinating Councils were formed in each of the Administrative Units- the Kachcherias-. The spirit of the movement itself has caught up and today Shramadana (donation of labour) has become a big force in the country. The difficulty of coordinating our tempo and technique of work with Shramadana as a community organisation. However it is to the credit of the SCI act of giving of oneself in the service of others but also a means of self purification. This would be much closer to our own conception of the objectives of workcamps as a means to self realization, understanding and peace. But unfortunately, today, these objectives are given little or no consideration as Shramadana is understood and practiced in Ceylon. Shramadana itself has been not infrequently used for other ship doubtful purposes than that for which it was originally meant. The factors of clear objectives and trained leadership will decide for this force the future for good or evil. This is mostly confined to teachers, teacher trainees and students, youths between school leaving and employment and few others. In the past there has been Education Reforms proposals. The members being mostly drawn through the In the proposals for education reforms before Parliament now, work experience and workcamping have been given an important place. It is proposed that attendance at a workcamp atleast for a duration of two weeks is a necessary requisite for entering institutions of Higher Education. While this proposal does augur well for workcamping in Ceylon, there is also the fear that in the implementation of the programme itself the spirit and philosophy of workcamping might lapse for want of experienced leadership. In this context it may be relevant here to mention, that the SCI was invited on two earlier occasions to conduct Training Camps for Teacher Trainees of the Department of Education. Further a large bulk of our volunteers themselves are either students, Teacher Trainees or teachers. Motivations in joining the SCI, and also our indifference to the need of proper orientation and training SCI-Ceylon membership in the past. While there is an intake of new members, the older as mentioned, our first Camp was at Neluwa-Miniduma through the invitation of the National Service Department. The second and third camps held in the same year were at the instance of both the National Service Department and the Education Department. In anticipation of the National Service Bill being implemented, the Education Department had drawn up a programme of Leadership Training for its Teacher Trainees. Both camps conducted by the SCI were training camps. With the lapse of the Bill the Education Department lost interest. as a means to keeping oneself occupied between school leaving and employment. While this may be true of a large majority it need not be. The SCIC now being left to fend for itself had to work it's way with difficulty. Our determined, though bungling attempts, to push through atleast a camp for each vacation looked almost futile and ridiculous in comparison with such organisations as the National Service Department and other Shramadana Movements who by the very reason of their huge camps of 1000 to 2000 men set the standards. But nevertheless the few friends dedicated to the philosophy of the SCI, inspite of our failures, inspite of our smallness, inspite of everything pushed through our programs. In the situational context the SCIC was placed then, there no other course left but to fight for our very existence all the way. In the process we had neither, finance personnel nor time to organise our administration. (number of the under graduates who had attended our camps but have failed to stick on.)

This is the fifth year of our existence. We have had regular vacation camps. Many week end services. Our membership is in the region of about 175. Our Volunteer Exchange programme is steady. We are on the eve of launching our first long Term Project. Our hard work has won for us a reputation for dependability. We enjoy the goodwill and confidence of both the Government and private sectors. at unit level.

Our past activities have been solely confined to Short Term Camps of a few weeks duration each during the April, August and December school vacations. Activities were possible only during the school vacations since the bulk of our membership were either teachers or students. Though there were a few non teacher/student members it has not always been possible for them to attend camps etc for want of necessary leave.

Regional Units of the SCIC
The majority of the Camps held have been under the sponsorship of the Government and/or other Government sponsored organisations. The types of work undertaken were:- agricultural extension work, house and road construction, etc. Notably, there were only two work-cum study camps- both sponsored by the Department of Education with the SCI forming the Training Team. Though the SCI had made efforts to organise Training/ study camps for its membership from time to time, it was never possible. An effort too was made to dove-tail a type of a training programme as a part of our normal camps. But this too proved impractical. The reasons being:- In accepting a sponsored project, our commitment in terms of material output of work was considered more important, binding and obligatory. Invariably the hard work that was always involved- working for sometimes 8 to 12 hours of manual work- did not make even light evening programmes very successful. Lastly, the lack of experienced personnel to plan and carry through a programme of training/study was another factor.

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Our Camps, if a general evaluation may be made, would show, that, from the work aspect (which seemed the only yard-stick by which the sponsors and the public measured our worth) has been always carried through in spite of difficulties. Difficulties of mobilising sufficient volunteer resources and specialised skills: The inadequacy of the administrative and organisational machinery to plan and execute efficiently. The difficulty of coordinating our tempo and technique of work with those of the sponsoring organisations. However it is to the credit of the SCI, that from the aspect of work we have always carried through our camps successfully. This has built for us a wide reputation, in both Government and non government sectors, for hard work and dependability.

In the expansion of our activities, in the implementation of the 5 year Membership Plan in the undertaking of the Fisheries CP Project and in the Regional

In the initial stages and for a considerable time afterwards, our membership has been confined to but a closely knit friends numbering just a handful. But with the expansion of our activities there has been a slow but visible growth. Our membership is mostly confined to teachers, teacher trainees and students, youths between school leaving and employment and few others. In the past there has been no planned drive for membership: The members being mostly drawn through the camps they attend. This system has had the advantage of taking in the most suited and through actual work, in the field. This accounts for the slow intake of membership. But, in recent times, the expansion of our activities and the corresponding increase in our administrative/organisational sphere has made it necessary not only decide on a planned membership drive for the purpose of increasing membership but also to with a view to increase our finances. This drive has in the past 6 months alone brought in over 50 members.

There is one disturbing phenomenon that needs mention and which might have a direct bearing on the absence of clear objectives and motivations in joining the SCI, and also our indifference to the need of proper orientation and training of the general membership in the past. While there is an intake of new members, the older members begin to drop out.

If I might venture to voice my opinion based on the long association with the SCI and my personal relationship with the bulk of the membership, the motivation for joining the SCI may be one or more of the following:- The novelty of experience of a workcamp; The opportunity for travel and meeting people the SCI offers; The idea of spending a holiday at a workcamp; As a means to keeping oneself occupied between school leaving and employment. While this may be true of a large majority it need not be necessarily so of everybody.

Some other contributory factors for the drop outs may be:- The unemployed and school leaving members finding employment which prevents their continued activity with the SCI; The transfer of the members from one area to another which breaks their contact with local groups and friends. The inability or the impossibility of an isolated attendance at one SCI camp to convince the volunteer of the objectives and its possible fulfilment: (This is true of serious minded youths who had shown interest in the philosophy and objectives of the SCI but have dropped off to seek something more dynamic- this applies to a large number of the under graduates who had attended our camps but have failed to stick on.)

The remedial measures that suggests to one mind are:- to find ways and means to educate the membership on the SCI, its philosophy and objectives and its possible realisation. This may be done through -intensified circulation of SCI literature, Seminars and training Camps, study and discussion groups on a regional level.

The uniqueness of the SCI and its only justification for being so is its philosophy and objectives. This being so, if the general membership fails to understand, appreciate and be convinced of the said basis, the SCI might as well be any one of a number of organisations who are in the field of Social service.

Regional Units of the SCI

The organisation of the SCI has been confined to a single Central Group directly coordinated with the AS, AAS and IC. In the initial stages when our membership was limited there was not the need for regional units. But with the expansion of our membership the need arose to form a kind of regional units: The only criterion for the formation of these units have been the availability of a few members living in close proximity to each other. This was done to encourage the members to get together with a view to organising week end services in their own regions and also to give a sense of belonging and continuity of SCI activities, which otherwise would have left the members inactive but for a camp or two per year.

A beginning has been made this year to organise the existing units on a more formal basis with a view to encouraging more local activities and in the hope

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*With good background
Pers. For activities*

that a few years hence the units would be sufficiently strong and experienced to warrant the granting of official group status.

With the organisation of these regional units the need for leadership has become urgent. The units can become a source of concern if this aspect of leadership of the groups are neglected. Further the present inadequacy of the Central Group to keep a close contact with the regional units makes the position worse.

Future Programme

In the expansion of our activities, in the implementation of the 5 year Development Plan, in the undertaking of the Pahariva IT Project and in the regional group organisation and leadership, the immediate need seems to be a programme of training.

Conclusion

In the past our need has been to establish the SCI on the basis of hard work alone. In the future the need is to effect a balance between work and study aspect. A beginning has to be made now, to give the aspect of Leadership training and study sufficient stress.

The SCIC in relation to its National background, has a tremendous scope and potentiality as a means not only to help the National Economic Development through its workcamps, but also fulfil its objective as a force for understanding, reconciliation and peace. This seems the only logical role of the SCIC with in the frame work of the National Set up while not forgetting at the same time the International aspect of greater coordination and cooperation with other SCI Groups and Branches the world over.

The need for a programme of training remains established; but the specific scope and need of the programme itself is best advised by the ARTS. The material supplied may not deal with all aspects of our problems and concerns- but it is hoped that it would help to form a basis for further discussion if so desired.

20.10.1966

John David-Hony, National Secretary
SCI Ceylon.

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