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IDM 1949 Bieres
France

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL.

International Constitution.

1. Name .

The name of the international organisation shall be SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL. National branches which choose another name must add " ... (Swiss, French, Dutch, etc.) Branch of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL' to their own name.

2. Membership .

Membership is open to all who share the aims of the movement, without regard to race, religion, nationality or political views.

3. Aims .

The aims of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL are: -

- (a) To give practical assistance without regard to national frontiers and through voluntary helpers from all countries on the occasion of natural catastrophes, in work of public usefulness and in other cases of need. Work intended to compete with ordinary labour or to serve the purpose of strikebreaking is excluded.
- (b) Through mutual and combined assistance to spread across the frontiers and across barriers which divide men a new spirit which will make it a moral impossibility for one country to make war on another.
- (c) To work for the establishment of an international constructive service which will foster greater confidence between the nations of the world and eventually replace military service.
- (d) In the meantime, in countries in which compulsory military service exists without the possibility of an alternative service, to work for the introduction of such a service for conscientious objectors.
- (e) To provide men and women of good will, without regard to their nationality, race, religion, politics or class, with a sound system of training in mutual help and international understanding and in voluntary discipline and comradeship.

4. Function .

- (a) The function of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL international organisation is to unite in one body the branches and groups which exist in various countries, and to co-ordinate the work done in these countries. So, in its internal organisation, by the application of the same basic aims and by the exchange of volunteers, and in its outward relations by publications and propaganda, the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL will appear as one international movement comprising many nations.
- (b) The international organisation shall encourage the formation of new national branches where there are none and keep in contact with organisations and individuals whose aims are similar to its own.

5. Organisation .

The international organisation of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL shall function through:

- (a) The Delegates' Meeting;
- (b) The International Committee;
- (c) The Secretaries' Meeting;
- (d) The Officers of the International Secretariat.

(a) The Delegates' Meeting.

- i) The Delegates' Meeting consists of the Secretary and two delegates from each recognised national SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL branch; one delegate from each group; and the President and the Vice-Presidents and the members of the International Committee as ex-officio members. The International Secretary has the right to invite observers to the Delegates' Meeting.
- ii) Normally there shall be one Annual Delegates' Meeting; extraordinary meetings shall be summoned if and when required.
- iii) The Delegates' Meeting decides on general principles for the carrying out of the aims of the movement. These decisions shall be binding for the Secretaries' Meeting and the national branches and groups.
- iv) The Delegates' Meeting shall have the right to refer important questions to their national branches (National Committee, A.G.M.) before ratifying such decisions.
- v) The Delegates' Meeting decides whether or not new national groups shall be accepted as national branches of the international organisation.
- vi) The Delegates' Meeting receives a report of the work of the International Secretary, as well as a financial report. The latter cannot be accepted before it has been audited by an auditor approved by the Delegates' Meeting.
- vii) The Delegates' Meeting shall draw up a budget for the coming year and decide the annual contributions of the national branches.
- viii) Whenever possible, decisions at the Delegates' Meeting shall be reached by unanimous agreement rather than by a majority vote. On technical matters of procedure decisions shall also be taken by the same method of voting. Where no unanimous agreement can be reached however decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. On technical matters of procedure decisions shall also be taken by the same method of voting.
- ix) The Delegates' Meeting receives for discussion and consideration reports on work and future plans of the national branches and groups.
- x) The Delegates' Meeting shall elect the President and Vice-Presidents of the SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL annually. It will also annually elect the International Secretary.
- xi) The Delegates' Meeting has the power to appoint an International Committee.
- xii) The Delegates' Meeting shall decide where the next Delegates' Meeting shall be held.

(b) The International Committee.

- i) The International Committee is appointed by each Delegates' Meeting to function until the next meeting of that body.
- ii) The International Committee shall consist of not more than eight members and the International Secretary as an ex-officio member.
- iii) Secretaries of SCI shall not be eligible for election to the International Cttee.
- iv) The Int. Cttee. shall meet twice yearly and at other times if circumstances demand it.
- v) The Int. Cttee. shall have the power to postpone meetings of the delegates in exceptional circumstances, but not for more than one year. Any two recognised SCI branches have, however, the right to override such a decision.
- vi) The Int. Cttee. shall act for the Delegates' Meeting in the intervals between such meetings by (a) interpreting the latter's decisions in relation to practical events and (b) by taking decisions on urgent matters on behalf of the Delegates' Meeting.

- vii) The Int. Cttee. would not take any major decision affecting national branches without inviting representatives of that branch.
- viii) The Int. Cttee. may invite ad hoc members to any of its meetings.

(c) The Secretaries' Meeting.

- i) The Secretaries' Meeting shall be responsible, through correspondence or in urgent cases through special meetings, for the execution of the decisions taken by the Delegates' Meeting and the International Committee.
- ii) The Secretaries' Meeting shall exercise a general supervision over the activities of the national branches. It shall be responsible for seeing that in all undertakings organised in the name of SCI the spirit of the movement is adhered to. It will in particular give advice to newly formed branches.
- iii) The Secretaries' Meeting shall ensure close co-operation between existing branches and examine how best the ideals of the SCI can be spread to countries where there is no national branch.

(d) The International Secretariat.

- i) The International Secretariat shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the International Secretary, and such other officers as may be appointed by the Delegates' Meeting to serve on the secretariat.
- ii) The International Secretary shall be the executive office of the international organisation. He shall have the legal right to sign on behalf of the international organisation.
- iii) The President and Vice-Presidents shall assist the Int. Secr. with advice and on important occasions shall represent the organisation together with the secretary. The President, Vice-Presidents and Int. Secr. shall be appointed for one year by the Delegates' Meeting but they shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- iv) The main functions of the Int. Secr. shall be:
 - a) To maintain constant contact with the different national branches;
 - b) To submit to the Secretaries' Meeting proposals of his own and to bring forward proposals from national branches;
 - c) To assist in the organisation of services in countries where there is no national branch or group, and also in the formation of new national branches;
 - d) To maintain contact with other organisations with similar aims and to further co-operation with them;
 - e) To publish an international bulletin and such other printed matter as is required.

6. Dissolution.

The international organisation can only be dissolved by unanimous decision of the Delegates' Meeting or when all national branches are dissolved. In the first case the Delegates' Meeting decides which national branch or branches shall take over equipment and funds from the International Secretariat.

7. Amendment Of Constitution.

This constitution comes into force as soon as it has been accepted by the Delegates' Meeting and by the National Committees or Annual General Meetings of all recognised branches. Any changes in this constitution must also have the approval of these bodies.

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Accepted by the 1949 Delegates' Meeting at Bièvres.

July 1950.

