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I.V.S.P. HQ 5 British Red Cross,
(Civilian Relief),
B. A. O. R. - Germany

Willy Begert
Int. Sec. S.C.I.
Rennweg 30, Zürich

BE/WB/9

Dear Willy,

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Winter Camps

I still feel it is better to organise two camps, and during my absence on leave I have asked a member in each of the teams to clinch final arrangements. Unfortunately I have only received replies about foreign volunteers coming from Denmark (willing to send two - to Duisburg) and Sweden (willing to send two people at present on shoe-repairing in Berlin - tho' I don't know, personally, how suitable they would be). At least one of the AFSC people in FRS teams will be able to come, perhaps two. You can imagine how anxious I am to know exactly what others are coming; and also how urgent it is for prospective volunteers to apply now for their papers. I am sending off yet another reminder about this to the secretaries of the Western branches today.

German Branch

Heinrich Carstens and Anneliese (the appointed secretary) and I got together last Saturday, to smooth the way for our Ausschluß meeting on Saturday - (once again in the Birkenhof). I was very encouraged by the way in which they went to take the initiative and the enthusiasm which is going into their Easter and Summer plans. Their desire to get these plans worked out by themselves is a most healthy sign, I think, and it gives us all a proud feeling to give their work a paternal pat on the head, and a helping hand at the difficult bits.

Minutes

of the Hannover conference (German version) have been taken rather a long time to get out (45 copies were needed), but all the members of the committee will have had a copy by Saturday's meeting; and I am sending off to you ten copies in each language as you requested. I shall also get minutes of the committee meeting sent to you.

I have read through the minutes of the Brussels meeting. I agree with them and have not got any outstanding urgent comments to make. I have passed them over for Heinrich Carstens to read through, as it will provide him with a lot of useful background knowledge.

Other Zones of Germany

Russian.

Heinrich is quite rightly keen that this zone should not be neglected, and, since I so fully agree with him, I do feel that the correspondence you have had with Paul Wagner (our only contact in the Russian Zone at the moment) is of the greatest importance - besides its intrinsic importance as a criticism of the Hamburg scheme. I do feel - and this is the only comment I am going to make - that poor Paul has so far missed the point (for he did not even discover that the leader can understand as good German as, for instance, I can; and the head-sister could understand and speak with the greatest fluency) that he must have kept very far apart from the scheme, and aloof from its spirit. I am sorry, but I feel that he should certainly be invited to attend the winter schemes.

French.

I shall certainly keep in touch with Fridolin and forward matter of interest to him; besides putting up to the Arbeitsausschuß any plans for a scheme which comes out of the cooperation between Fridolin and the Saarbrücken group, back to Zürich and Paris on the one side, and Gertrud Luckner on the other.

American

Did I send you a copy of the letter I sent to Paul Krahe, describing the Berlin interview, and the report that was suggested he should make? In case I did not I am enclosing another copy now. You will observe that I have also now sent Heinrich a copy.

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Yesterday I met Mr. Sundberg (Clerk to the Quakers in Sweden) and his son. They are going to build a "cultural centre" in Hamburg. The wooden hut for this purpose is on its way to Hamburg now, and they hope to have it constructed by Christmas.

I felt that they had a great deal of good will, but lacked precision and exact detail. Mr. Sundberg junior is going to remain in Germany getting the hut put up, and then forming a team to live and work at this centre. I do think that perhaps the Hamburg IFF group might like to offer to help them. At the moment, the arrangements are in the hands of the Relief Section (Salvation Army) of the Red Cross in Hamburg. I explained that full-time IFF workers could only take part (as IFF workers) with the consent of the Arbeitsausschuß; but that part-time workers could be laid on by local Hamburg group.

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Meanwhile, all the best, and many thanks for your help.

Yours aye,

Basil

PS.

My visit to the C.C.G. elicited the following information :
that either long-term volunteers coming out under the BRCC or short-term volunteers coming out under our sponsorship have to produce the "letter of invitation" which I have already sent to each of the national branches, to the Military Entry Permit offices in Berne, Copenhagen, Paris, The Hague, Brussels, Oslo &c. These offices communicate with Exits and Entrances in Lübbecke (near Vlotho, who in turn say to us "are these the people you want?", we say, yes, and their permit is despatched forthwith. That is the theory; and so you can see the necessity of choosing the volunteers immediately, and getting them to produce their letters of invitation to come to Germany to their Military Permit Office, as the first step in their obtaining their Entry Permit. Naturally, they will all need passports.