

**INTERNATIONAL  
CHRISTIAN  
YOUTH  
EXCHANGE**



Box 7034  
Stockholm 7, Sweden  
September 6, 1966

Dr. Hans Ruh  
Sekretär des Schweizerischen Kirchenbundes  
Lentulustrasse 72  
B e r n  
SCHWEIZ

Béantwortet.....
Erledigt.....
Eing. 9. SEP. 1966

Dear Dr. Ruh:

As chairman of the International Committee of International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE), I am writing you on behalf of our Interim Committee. We should like to ask the assistance of the Swiss Federation of Churches in seeking to solve a problem, which has arisen within the Swiss national committee of ICYE.

As the Swiss involvement in our program has increased during the past few years, there has developed a very natural need for three regional sub-committees to begin functioning, one for each of the three major language areas in your country. Their prime responsibility has been to introduce our program to the churches of their respective areas as well as to select students and host families on this regional basis. We have been very happy with the consequent increased Swiss participation.

However, there has arisen a rather serious difference of opinion within the national committee, composed of members from all these language areas. The main tension seems to be between a policy of partial or complete regional autonomy, which in turn has led to difficulties in connection with the orientation and evaluation programs of our students. This and other tensions have finally resulted in a declaration on the part of the German-speaking subcommittee stating that they in the future will be completely autonomous and suggesting that the national committee become merely a formal institution meeting annually for a very limited and insignificant amount of business.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept this decision, since ICYE's principle of operations has always been to work with only one national committee, which would then assume full responsibility for ICYE in that particular country. The Interim Committee is convinced that this principle is both sound and necessary. Any exception with regard to Switzerland could, furthermore, conceivably set a precedent for devisive actions even within other national committees.

Since earlier attempts by our international staff at mediating this problem have failed, we are now turning hopefully to the Federation of Churches requesting arbitration in this matter. The names and addresses of Swiss subcommittee members, who might be contacted are:

Mrs. Cécile Stickelberger Rorschocherstrasse 272 9016 St. Gallen	The Rev. Alfred Gugolz 6605 Locarno-Monti	The Rev. Jean N. de Jonge 79, Ancienne-Route 1218 Grand Saconnex/Genève
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Our international staff member in Europe, the Rev. Henk van Andel, is also located in Geneva, 150 rte de Ferney, room 226.

We earnestly hope that you will consider our request. I look forward to hearing from you. On behalf of the Interim Committee of ICYE,

Respectfully Yours,

*David Holm*  
/David Holm/  
V.D.M. - chairman

**Dodis**

