

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES COMMUNAUTÉS D'ENFANTS (FICE)  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHILDREN'S COMMUNITIES  
INTERNATIONALE FOEDERATION DER KINDERDÖRFER UND JUGENDSIEDLUNGEN

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I hope that no ill feeling will be caused among the children's communities who will not be able to send children to Luxembourg. I feel strongly, that it is better to invite each of 2 communities rather than 2 cities. 5 children will have each their own room and their own bed. It will be a real and vital experience of international living to the children. People from 5 different countries can have a real and vital experience of international living for a month out of which international living can all should mean.

20th April 1950

Dear Professor Codignola,

I have had a letter from Padre Rivolta, asking for recognition by FICE of a second Italian group of workers in children's villages. This request places me in a quandary, and I feel that the constitution as well as the spirit of FICE obliges me to say "No". The Italian branch of FICE has already been recognised under your chairmanship and I have no right to recognise two national sections of FICE within any one country. I will of course bring the matter before the Executive when next it meets in July.

Meantime I hope you will forgive me for suggesting that there is much that you and Padre Rivolta could do to clarify and simplify your problem, and even to arrive at a correct solution before the next meeting of the FICE Executive.

I should like to urge you both to call a really representative meeting of Italian workers in Children's Communities at Florence during the Unesco General Assembly, where I believe there is to be an Exhibition of work done by the children in Italian communities. I feel sure that Dr. Drzewieski would meet you both privately first and then address the meeting for you if you wish - so helping you to broaden and deepen the membership of FICE, so that it may be really representative of the Italian communities and may really help meet the needs of all the children living in them.

FICE, as you know, are holding a children's camp at the Castle of Sanen at Esch, Luxembourg, from August 1 - 31. We are inviting 5 children from each of 9 children's communities. They should be from 14 - 18 years old and each group of 5 should be willing to consider themselves as representatives of their own community and should bring from it material illustrating the style of life and activities of that community, which I hope that all its members will begin to discuss and prepare straight away.

We have decided to invite 5 Italian adolescents from each of 2 communities - making 10 in all. I hope that you and Padre Rivolta will select the two communities in concert.

The State of Luxembourg is offering us the Castle, and the children of Luxembourg are making a special collection for the provisioning of the camp. No funds have been allocated by Unesco, and, as you know, FICE has no funds of its own, either for fares for the children or for salaries or fares for the monitors and for the purchase of a certain amount of educational material which the camp will need. I am trying to raise such funds, but will you

let me know in principle, whether the Italian section of FICE can pay at least the fares of 10 Italian children. Their inability to do so would not prejudice this invitation because we particularly look forward to having 10 young Italians with us.

I hope that no ill feeling will be caused among the many Italian children's communities who will not be able to send children to Luxembourg. M. Jouhy's committee and I feel strongly, that it is better to invite 5 children from each of 2 communities rather than 1 child from each of 10, because the groups of 5 children will have each other's support and the feeling of their community behind them in their behaviour in the camp. I hope that as FICE grows stronger from year to year we may be able to give much more extensive experience of international living to the children, but something will have been gained if at this Luxembourg camp 50 young people from 8 different countries can have a real and vital experience of working and playing together for a month and so of what international living can and should mean.

With many kind wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Peggy Vothor

Do try to get Don Rivolta & his quite numerous communities into your ANCE, won't you? Some of them are doing good work, & FICE is pledged to be above political & all other divisions.

P.V.

Chère Madame Volkov,

la demande de Don Rivolta doit être adressé à la Présidence de la Fice italienne, qui fera les investigations nécessaires et donnera une réponse. Il y a des villages qui méritent d'être accueillis et d'autres non. Il faut discuter la chose cas pour cas.

Il n'y a pas de querelle entre nous. Il y a seulement une étrange manière de se comporte de Don Rivolta, qui a été élu dans le Comité de direction de notre Commission n'a jamais donné ses démissions et il s'est permis de créer une autre association en concurrence sans pas même m'inviter à la réunion, en déclarant plusieurs fois à M.me Dreher et à d'autres personnes que son association avait un but uniquement scientifique et n'était pas faite en concurrence avec la Fice.

Les villages de la Association de Don Rivolta ont de commun seulement de fait d'être dirigés directement ou indirectement par des ecclésiastiques.

La Fice a fixé les conditions auxquelles doit se conformer tout village qui veut entrer dans la Association internationale. Jusqu'au moment où la Fice ne change pas sa constitution, tous ceux qui demandent d'y entrer doivent démontrer de se conformer à ces conditions.

Je ne crois pas que le problème doit être porté devant l'Assemblée Générale, mais devant la

première réunion de l'exécutif de la Fice. C'est le procédé normal. Nous étudierons ensemble la manière la meilleure pour résoudre le problème.

De ma part je ferai tout le possible pour éviter des crises, mais la Fice ne doit pas renoncer à sa tradition et aux principes qu'elle-même a établis. Elle acquerrait certaines communautés ecclésiastiques qui n'ont rien à voir avec notre institution, mais elle perdrait toutes <sup>les</sup> autres qui travaillent dans notre esprit.

La Fice doit se refuser de faire de la politique. Elle est née comme organisme d'éducation et elle doit rester telle.

Agréez, Madame, mes plus cordiales salutations.

P.S - Je vous écrirai prochainement sur la possible participation de communautés italiennes au stage du Luxembourg. J'attends quelques informations plus précises.