

Ext. 2447.

Religious Affairs Branch,
I.A. & C. Division,
Zonal Executive Offices,
C.C.G., Bünde,
62 H.Q., C.C.G.,
B.A.O.R.

Ref: INTR/73014/2/RA.

23rd September, 1946.

Dear Präses Koch,

Subject: Visit of Delegation of British Churchmen.

1. I am writing, as arranged during our conversation on 21 Sep. 46, to give fuller details of the visit of the above Delegation to this area.

2. The programme, as at present planned, is as follows:-

Sunday, Oct. 20: the Delegation arrives at Herford during the afternoon.

There will be an Oecumenical Service in the Münsterkirche at 1730 hours. (It is much regretted that owing to the nature of the programme, it is not found possible, on examination, to suggest an earlier hour for this Service).

It is hoped that you yourself, and other German clergy who are officiating at this Service, will join the delegates for tea beforehand. Time and place will be notified to you later.

At the conclusion of the Service, the Delegation will proceed to their quarters in Lübbecke.

Monday, Oct. 21: At 1000 hours in the Rathaus at Herford, the full Delegation will meet all German clergy, both Protestant and Roman Catholic. It is suggested that after formal introductions, the meeting should discuss an agenda, which the Delegation will introduce. It is hoped that lunch may be available for both German and British members.

After lunch, the Delegation will proceed to Bethel, and tour the Anstalt. It is hoped that after an interval for tea, there will be an opportunity for informal and personal discussions until 1830 hours, when the Delegation will return to Lübbecke.

Tuesday, Oct. 22: At 1000 hours in the Rathaus at Herford, the Delegation will split into its component Protestant and Roman Catholic sections, and each will confer with the appropriate German representatives, once more on the basis of an agenda prepared by the Delegation.

After lunch, the Delegation will proceed to the Civilian Internment Camp at Staumühle.

The formal Conference will, so far as the German members are concerned, come to an end after lunch on this day. It is hoped, however, that opportunity may be found for further informal and personal contacts in the course of the day.

Herrn Präses D. Dr. Koch,
Bielefeld,
Stapenhorststr. 24.

/Wednesday

IW/JEB.

Wednesday, Oct. 23: the Delegation leaves Lübbecke by road, en route for Hamburg.

3. The above programme is provisional, although it is hoped that in its main lines it will be adhered to. There may be alterations in detail, however, and should such alterations be necessary - or should fresh suggestions be forthcoming - you will be notified as soon as possible.

4. In view of the foregoing, we should be grateful if you would kindly assume the following responsibilities for arrangements affecting the visit:-

(i) the issuing of information and invitations to representatives of the following Churches:-

Church of Westfalen
 Church of Lippe-Detmold
 Church of Schaumburg-Lippe
 Church of Oldenburg
 Church of Braunschweig
 Reformed Church of Hannover

(ii) the issuing of information and invitations to representatives of the following special interests:-

The Evangelisches Hilfswerk
 The Innere Mission
 The Theological Faculties of Münster and Göttingen
 The Church's Youth Work

(iii) the organisation of the Oecumenical Service in Herford.

(iv) in consultation with Pastor Hardt, the planning of the Delegation's tour of Bethel. It is requested that accommodation be made available at Bethel for tea. If the Anstalt can supply this, and the necessary crockery, it is hoped that we can provide the tea and eatables. Further details on this matter will also be given to you as soon as possible.

5. We attach great importance to the value of informal and personal discussions, as distinct from the prepared conferences, and we hope that good opportunities for such contacts will be forthcoming. On the other hand, a certain formal framework is necessary for the morning sessions, and although we cannot give you details of this until we know more clearly the wishes of the Delegation, we shall do our best to give you as early information as possible.

6. We are very grateful to you for your readiness to co-operate in planning this visit, which we sincerely hope will be of real value for us all. Please let us know of your own views and suggestions - we hope to keep in close touch with you during the weeks intervening between the present time and the arrival of the Delegation.

Yours sincerely,

Lein Wilson
 C.O.I.,
Evangelical Section.