

100 ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

SCI

VIRTUAL MUSEUM



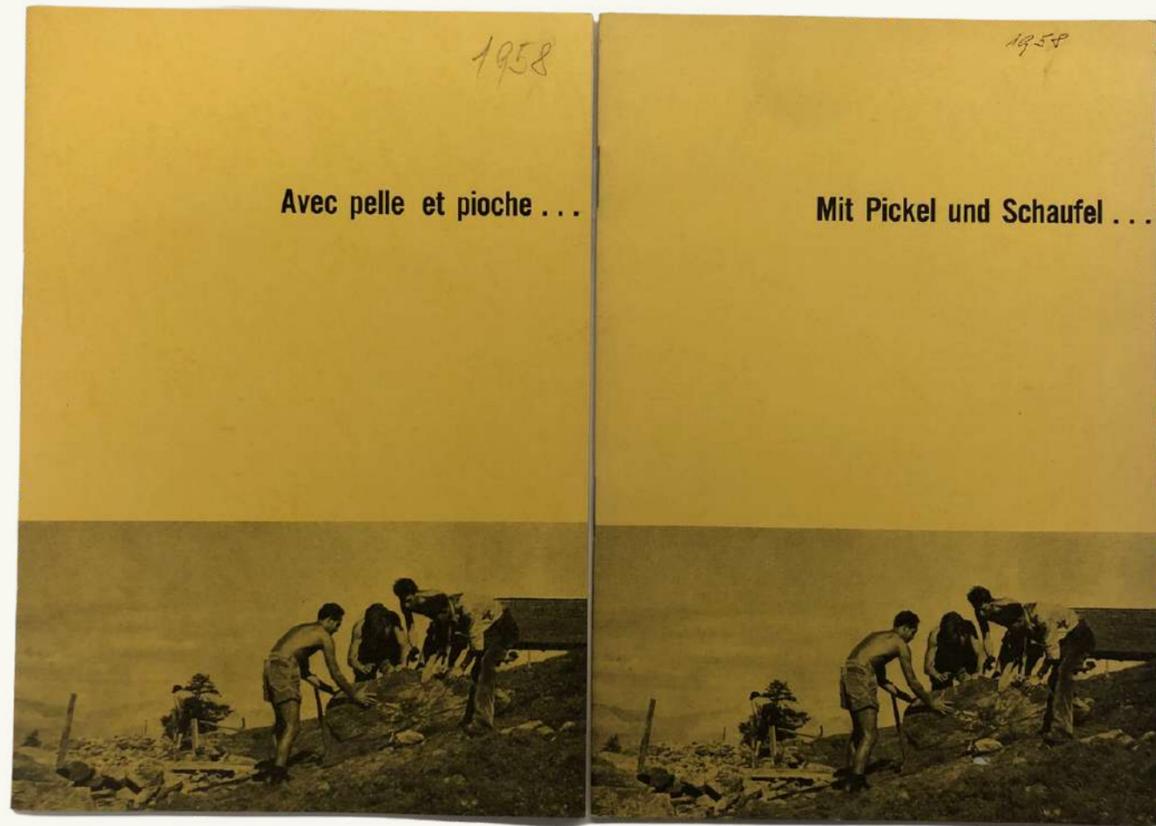
SCI within society

SECTION 3

Even though SCI has remained faithful to the pacifist and pragmatic ideas of its founders, the movement has developed and changed throughout its one hundred years of existence, along with society. The relationship between “words” and “deeds”, the gender roles, and the topics of workcamps have changed profoundly during the decades. This section shows a few examples of how SCI’s attitude towards societal trends it has been exposed to.



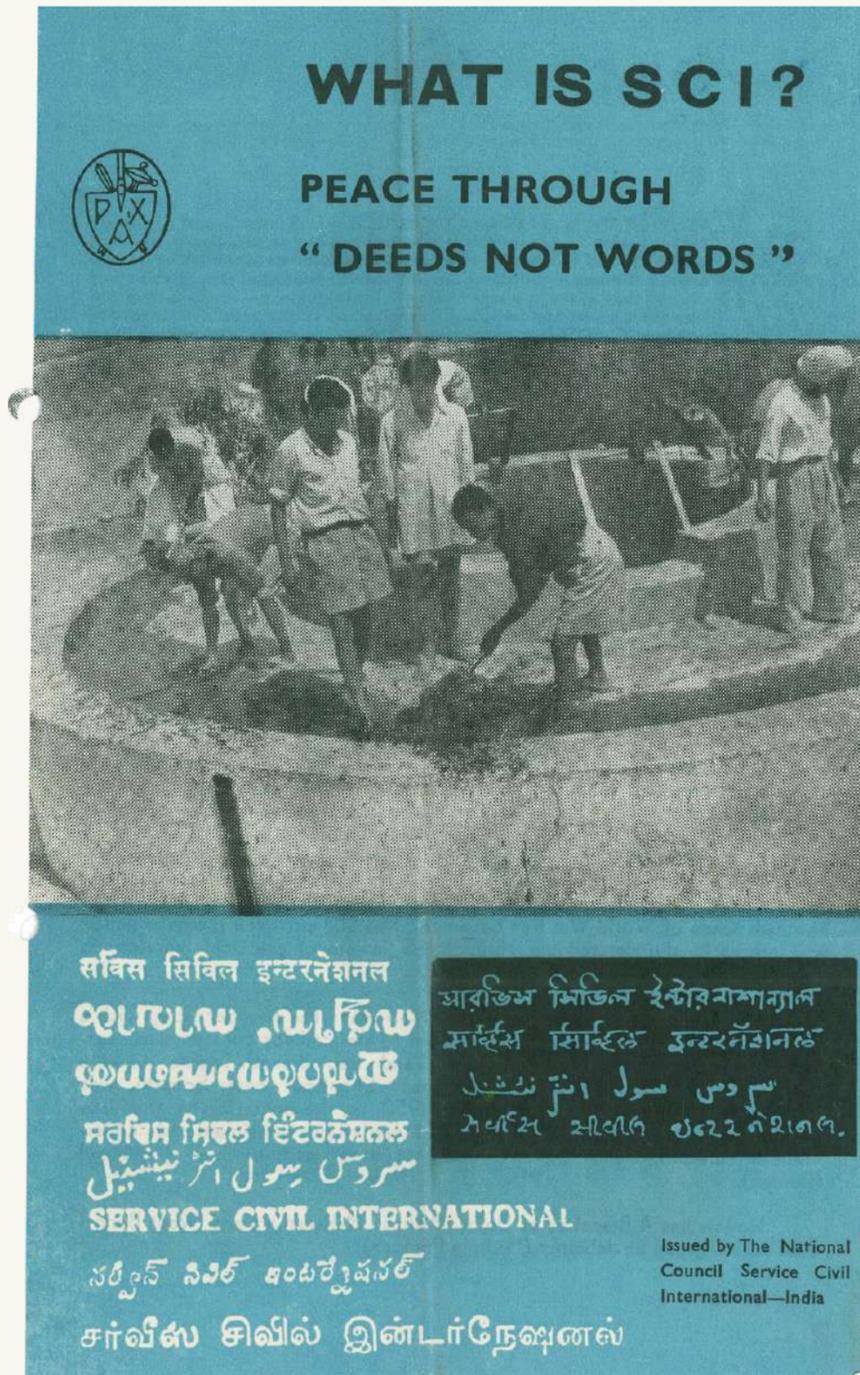
Brochure



SWITZERLAND, 1958

Pick and shovel are the symbols of simple and at the same time hard physical work SCI volunteers did when clearing up after natural disasters, building roads or helping out at farms. The shovel also appears in the traditional SCI logo, as the symbol for work, together with the broken sword, as the symbol of peace. This brochure was edited by the Swiss branch towards the end of the 1950s. There is a German and a French version of the title page and the imprint, whereas the content of the two brochures is identical – with French and German texts alike. The focus is on SCI Switzerland's current activities, including the development work in Greece, and its political efforts for the introduction of an alternative service for conscientious objectors.



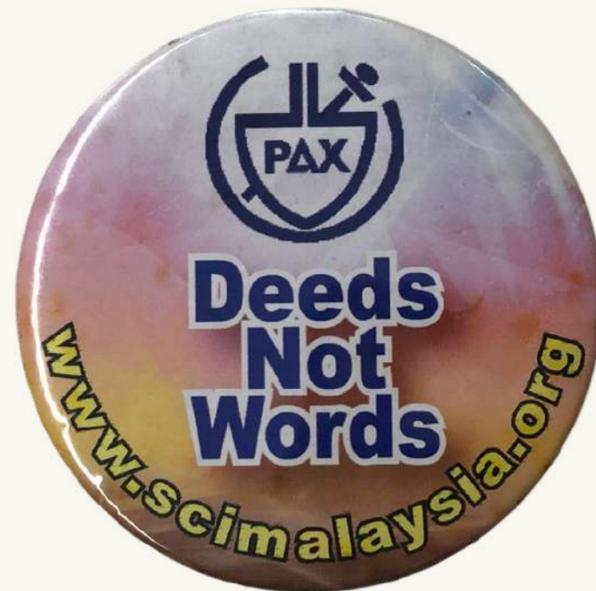


Poster

INDIA, YEAR UNKNOWN

The message of “Deeds not words” was also spread out by the Asian SCI branches which emerged after the Second World War. In these countries, domestic volunteers often were a majority in SCI workcamps and other services. Therefore the work and service aspect of SCI involvement remained dominant for a longer period than the international exchange aspect which played more and more an important role in the identity of European SCI branches. And after the student revolts of 1968 had shaken Western societies, the mindset in European SCI branches also shifted from “Deeds not words” to “Words and Deeds”. Political involvement became as important, sometimes even more important, than practical work.

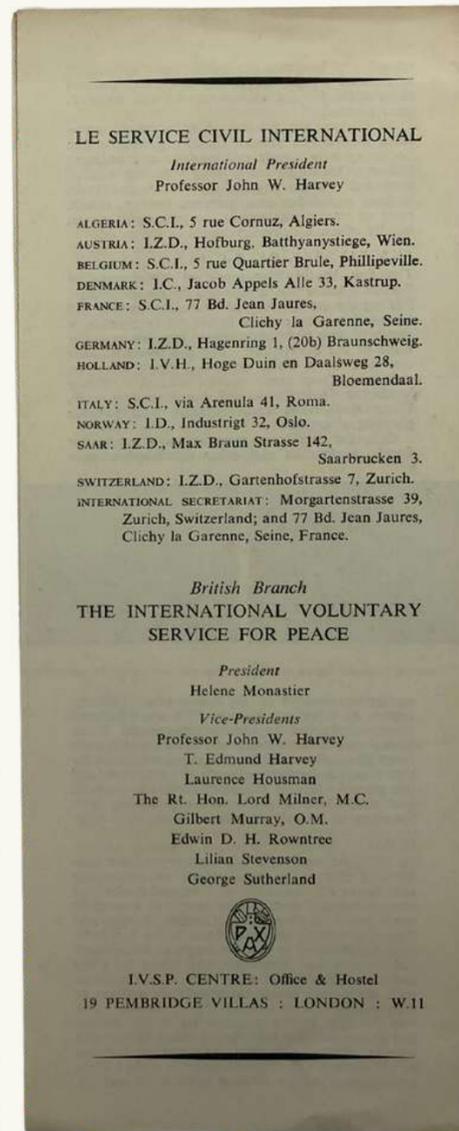
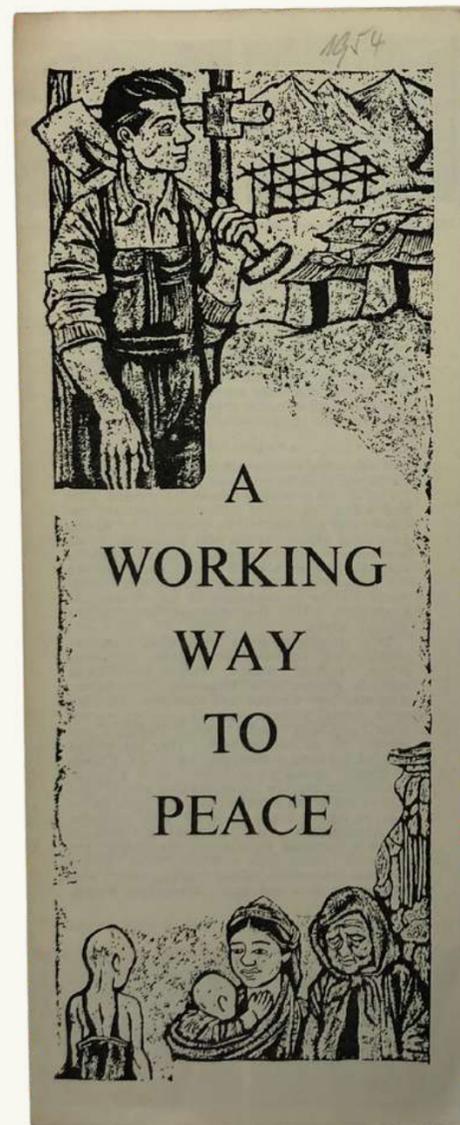




Badge

MALAYSIA, AROUND 2019

Right before SCI's 100th anniversary, the Malaysian branch printed badges combining modern design and the traditional slogan "Deeds not Words". It shows that Asian SCI branches still uphold the general SCI values which were dominant in the decades before 1968.

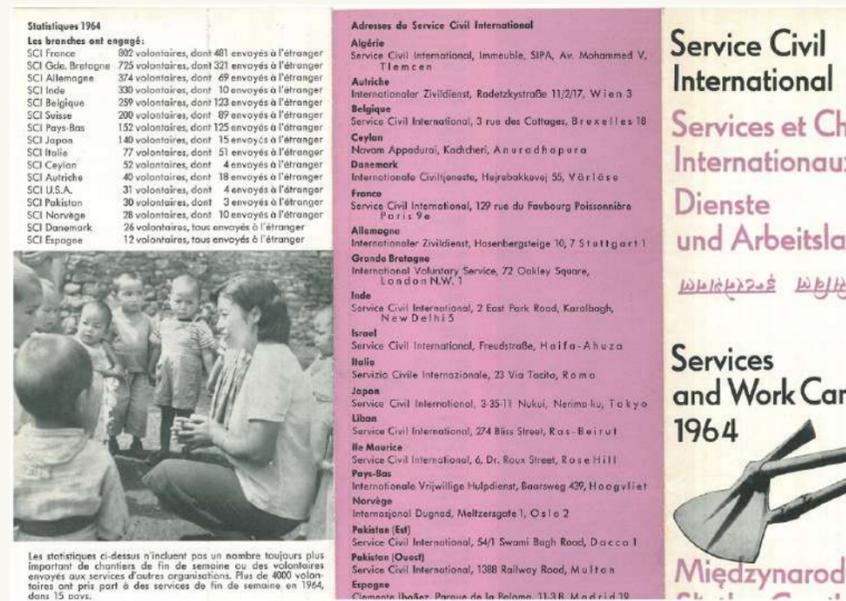
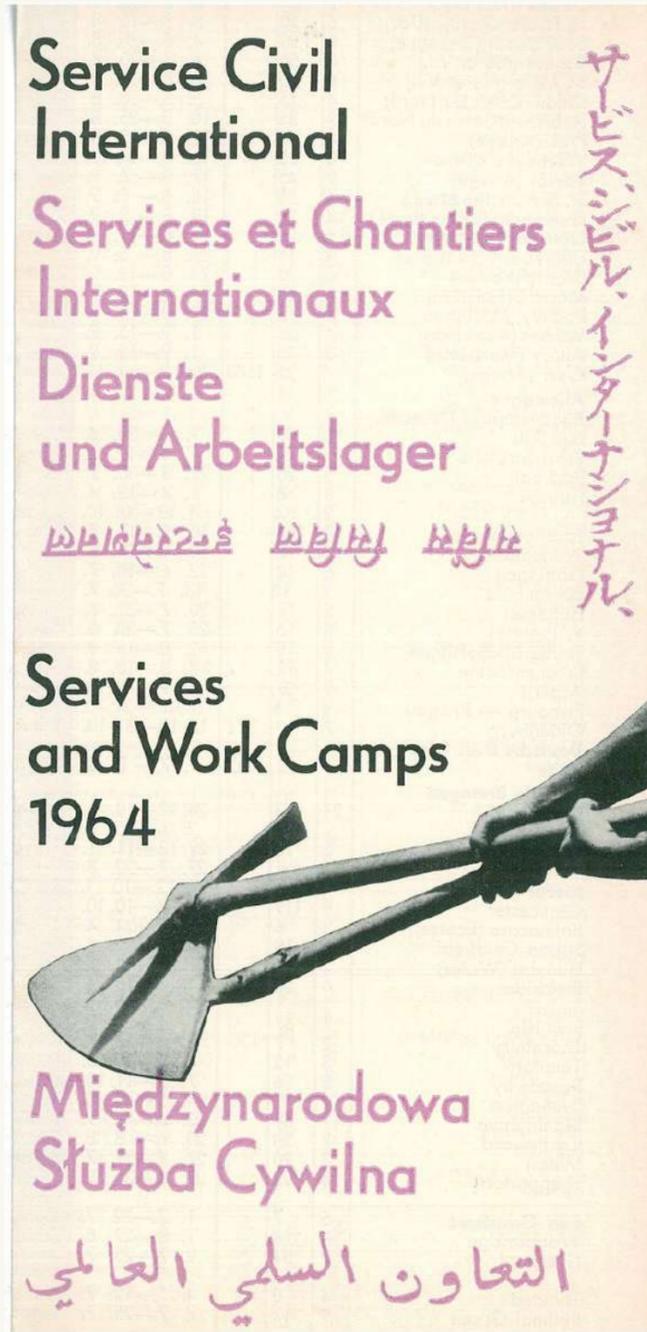


Leaflet

GREAT BRITAIN, 1954

The design of this propaganda leaflet by the British branch IVSP (then one of the most important branches of SCI) is held in a contemporary style embracing physical labour and ordinary people. We also learn that IVSP had not only an office but also a hostel. The President and two out of eight Vice-Presidents of the branch were female. And one of the Vice-Presidents was a Lord.



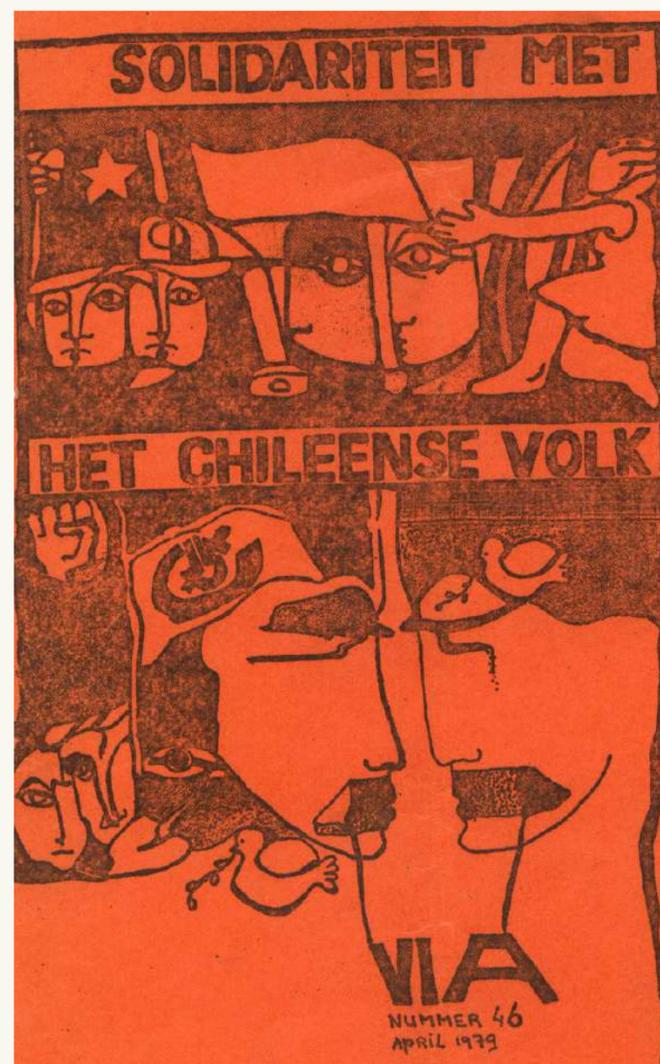


Leaflet

INTERNATIONAL, 1964

In the mid-1960s, pick and shovel are still important symbols for SCI's self-representation in printed matters. This leaflet, issued by the International Secretariat is designed in contemporary typography and contains statistics on SCI workcamps which took place in the year 1964 all over the world. The title page follows a multilingual approach: it is translated into Hindi, Arabic, and Polish. The interior of this particular leaflet is in French, though an English version is also available.



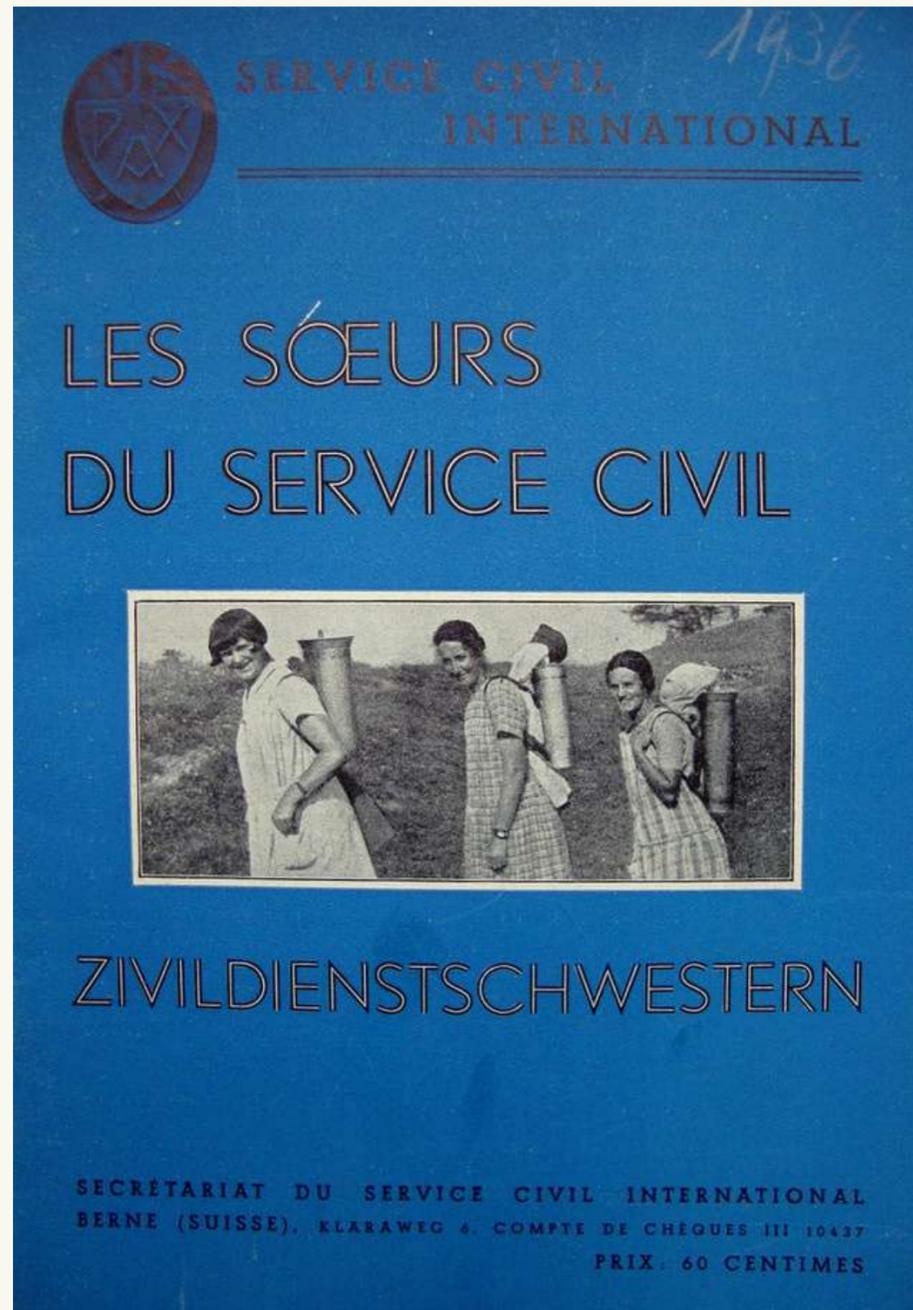


Newsletter

NETHERLANDS, 1979

In the course of the 1970, not only the ideological approach but also the design had changed radically - towards handcrafted radical chic. Issue number 46 of the magazine of the Dutch branch VIA demonstrates solidarity with the people of Chile, oppressed by the fascist regime of General Pinochet.



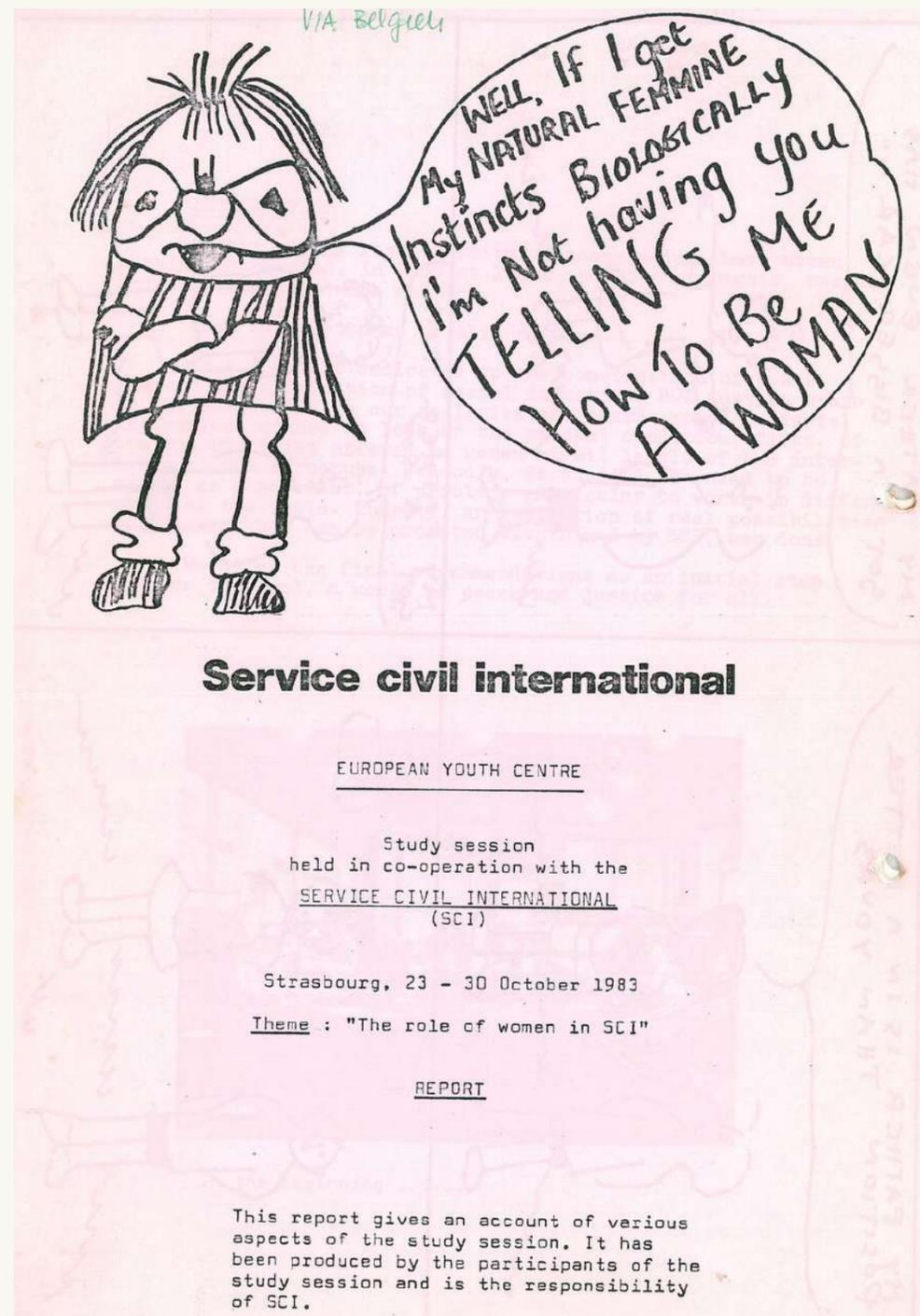


Brochure

SWITZERLAND, 1935

This is an early brochure edited by the then only SCI secretariat in Berne, Switzerland. Its title in English means “The sisters of voluntary service”. As there were no government grants available to SCI in these days, the brochure was not handed out for free but had its price: 60 Swiss cents. The document reveals the gender patterns of the time, when the usual pick-and-shovelling work was executed by men, whereas the role of girls and women in these services was limited to kitchen work, and they were called “sisters” rather than “friends”. The brochure contains a few lengthy testimonials of “sisters” who took part in one or the other of the 18 services that had taken place in the first 15 years of SCI's existence, spiced up by photographs of smiling faces.

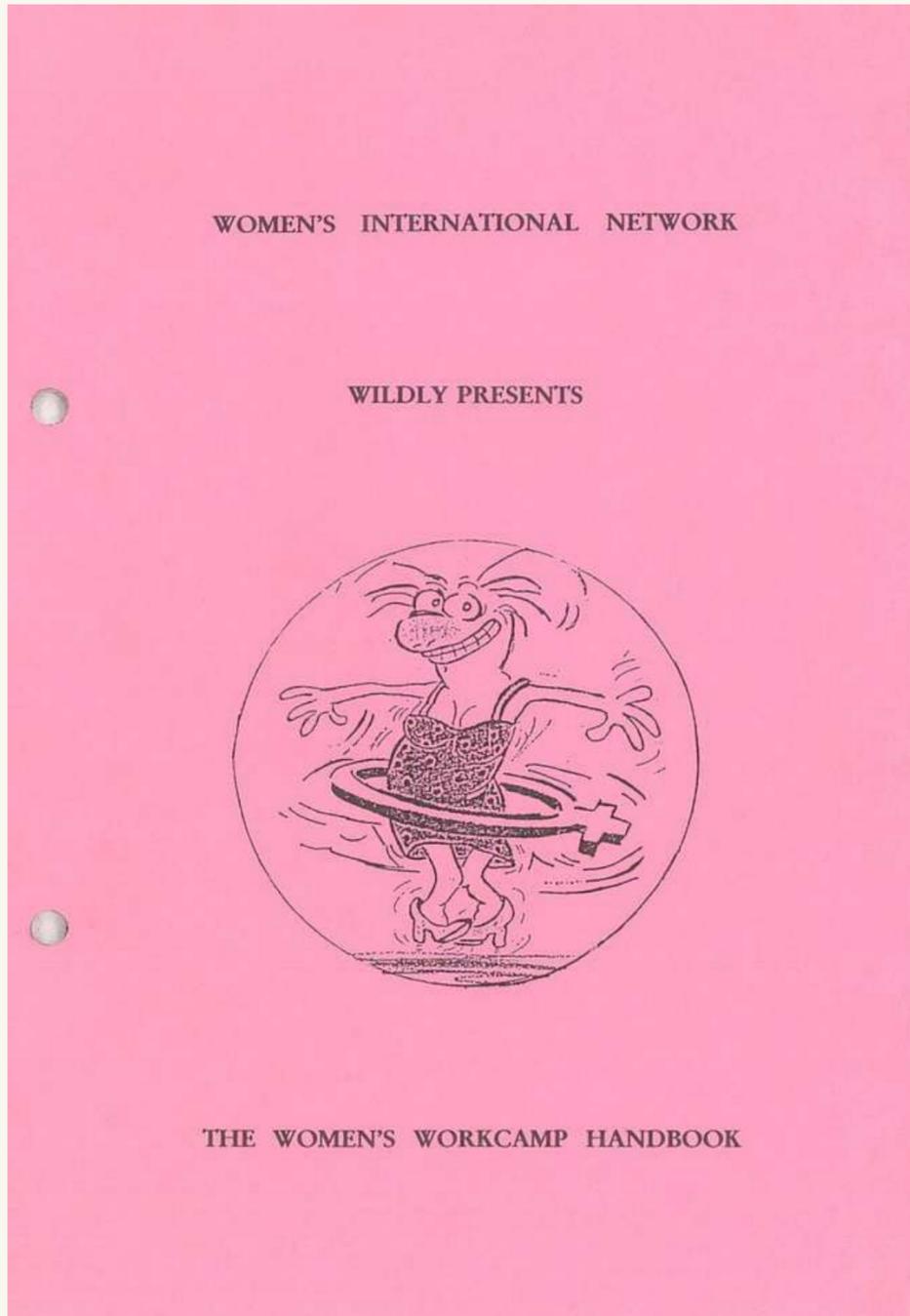




Typewritten report

INTERNATIONAL, 1983

In the 1970s and 1980s, the new feminist movement had a big influence on SCI. This report is about a seminar which took place at the European Youth Centre, an institution with links to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. The harmonic representation of the 1930s' "SCI sisters" had changed into a critical self-reflection on gender roles in society – and within SCI as well.



Brochure

INTERNATIONAL, 1993

The Women's International Network was an autonomous structure within SCI. It did not last for very long, but was a typical product of the continuous influence of the new feminist movement on SCI.



Handi- camps



Leaflet

SWITZERLAND, 1980

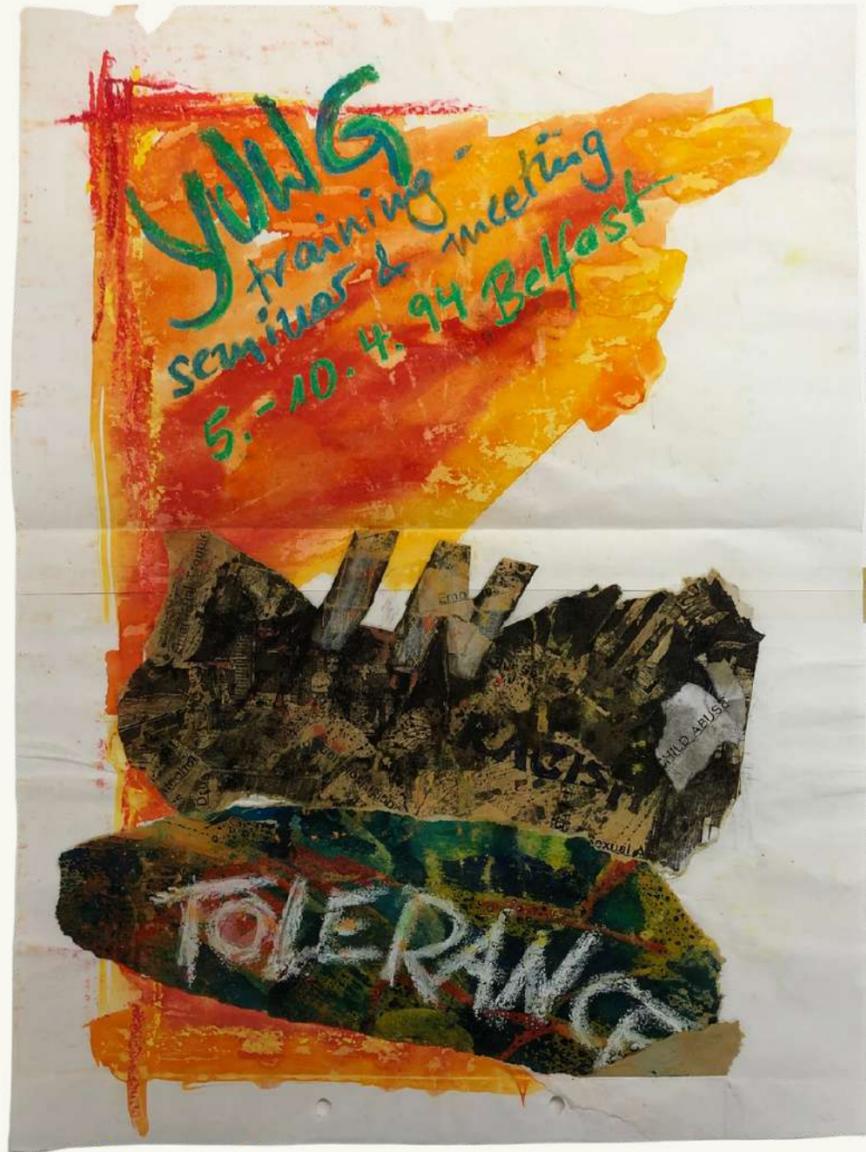
“Handicamps” – workcamps for and with “handicapped” adults / and children were organised from the 1970s to the 1990s, mainly in Switzerland. An international Working Group existed for some time in the 1980s. The range of issues discussed went from specific workcamps for and with “handicapped” people until the general question, how people with some handicaps could be included in all kinds of workcamps. The person in the wheelchair – a young handsome looking man – makes it rather appealing to work with “handicapped” people, and at the same time can be seen as a rejection of the image of “handicapped” persons as poor, needy, and ugly.



T-Shirt

INTERNATIONAL, 1990s

The Namibia campaign has been one of the most important international campaigns SCI has led – and it had a clear political aim. When the liberation organisation SWAPO still fought for independence from racist South Africa, SCI bought military trucks, converted them into ambulances and sent them to Namibia. And after independence had been achieved, “Breaking free” aimed to show solidarity with the new state. The T-Shirt has been printed in the context of this second campaign. Instead of sending volunteers to faraway lands, SCI focussed on information campaigns in Western Europe. Furthermore, the co-operation with an armed liberation organisation was quite a new and also unique phenomenon in SCI’s history.



Poster

INTERNATIONAL / NORTHERN IRELAND, 1994

“YUWG” is the acronym of the Youth and Unemployment Working Group within European SCI. This international group was particularly busy with conflict resolution efforts in Northern Ireland, shaken by the “troubles” between protestant / unionist and catholic / Irish-nationalist parts of the population. Teenagers from both communities were given the opportunity to get to know each other better in workcamps abroad. This poster was designed to advertise for a working group meeting, combined with a training seminar to take place in Northern Ireland itself.



T-Shirt

INTERNATIONAL / INDIA, 1993

The International Secretariat, based in Bangalore, India in the late 1980s and early 1990s, dedicated this T-Shirt to the UN International Year of the Indigenous Peoples. It shows the thematic diversity in SCI's social commitment in these years.

LIBERVOLA CIVILA HELPSERVO INTERNACIA



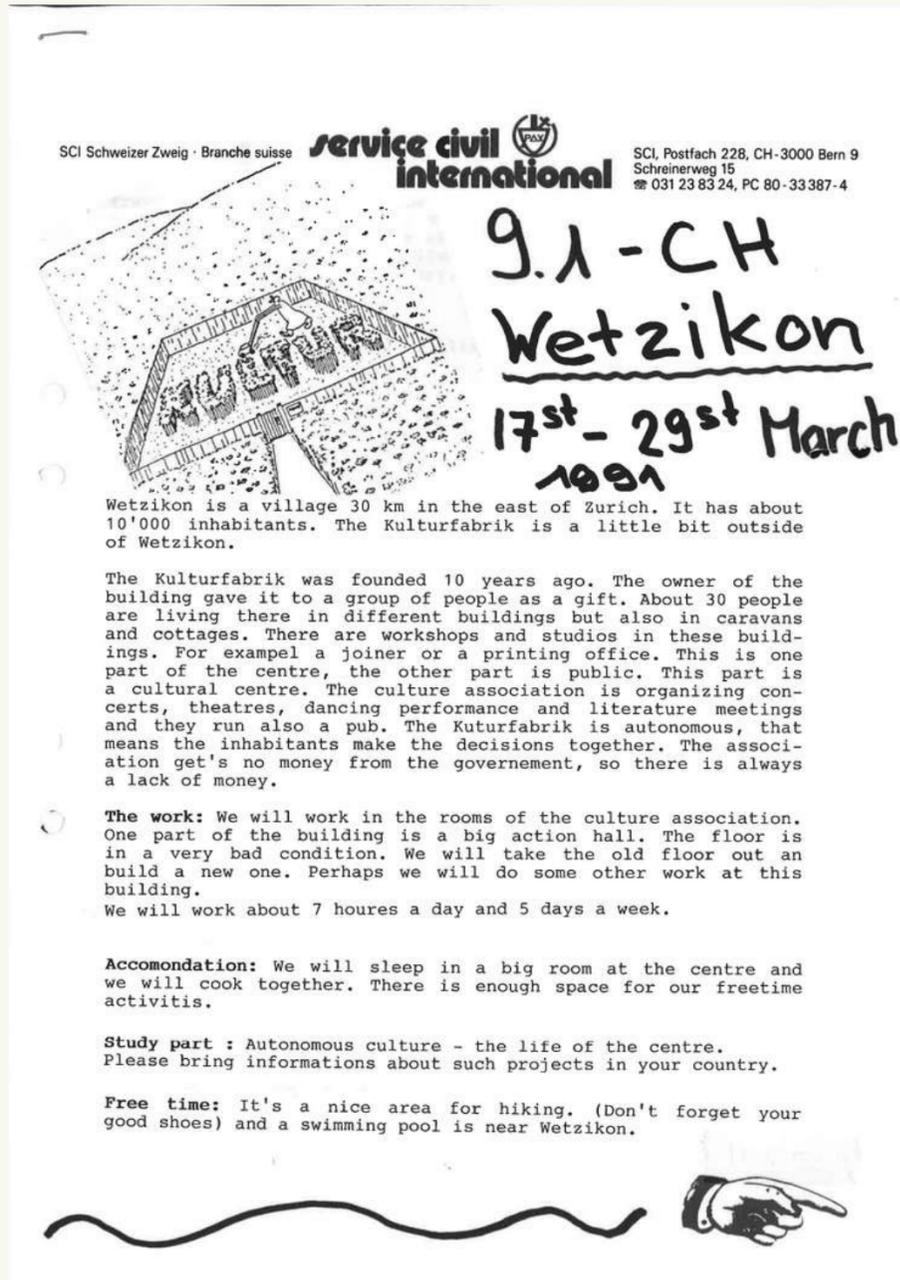
Sekretariejo de la Libervola Civila Helpservo Internacia
6. Klaraweg BERN Svislando

Brochure

INTERNATIONAL / SWITZERLAND, 1937

In its early years, some SCI publications were also published in Esperanto. Some SCI activists were part of the movement which practised and promoted the “universal” language. SCI and the Esperanto movement had in common the vision of a peaceful world through international and intercultural understanding. The slogan “ne nur vortoj sed agoj”, combining words of German and Latin origin, can easily be detected as “Deeds not Words”, or, more precisely, “not only words but deeds”.





Infosheet and questionnaire

SWITZERLAND, 1991

These two documents are related to an average workcamp which took place in the early 1990s in Western Europe. The infosheet is a handmade compilation of text, cartoon and map, typeset with the help of a personal computer but still sent by mail to the participants. Google maps was as far as the use of email and internet for ordinary people was at that time, merely 30 years ago. Evaluation forms were to be filled in by hand at the end of the workcamp. The "Kulturfabrik" in Wetzikon still exists, and it is still a project partner for SCI Switzerland.



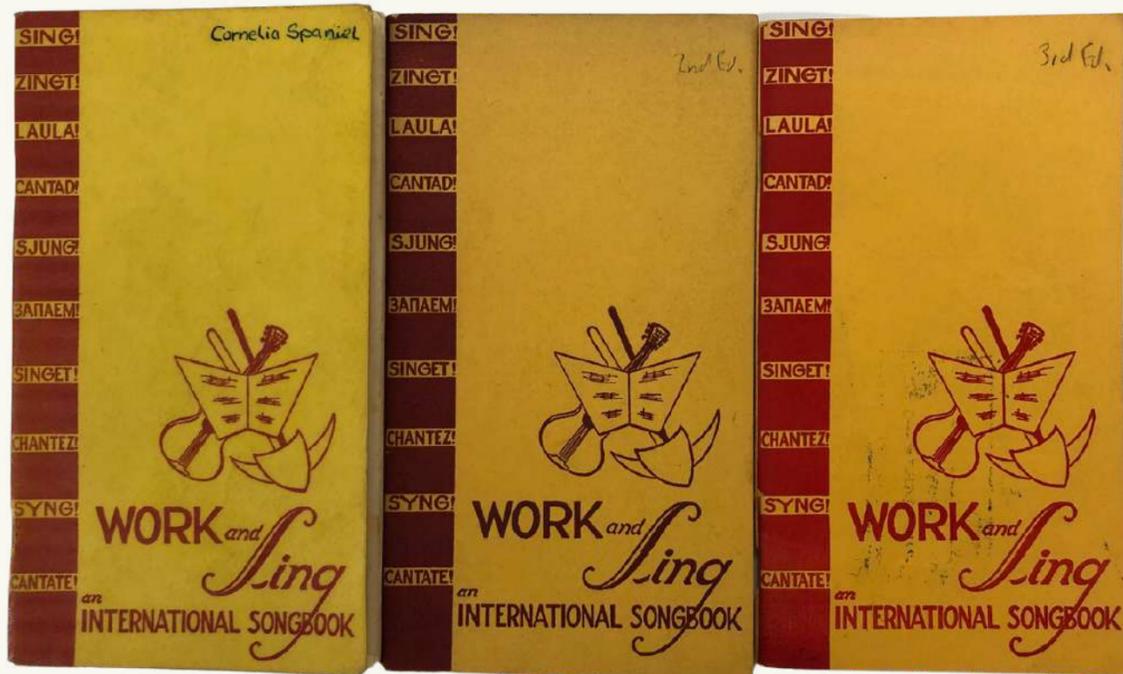


Medal

MALAYSIA, AROUND 2010

This medal, accompanied by a distinguished blue case, has been produced on behalf of the Penang local group of SCI Malaysia. This local group is organising a Peace Run every year – a huge event supported by local government and businesses alike. From time to time, they also organise international workcamps, but the yearly Peace Run remains their main activity. The medal may be interpreted as a symbol for an SCI group which resembles more a Rotary or other service Club than the cell of an activist, alternative movement. It fits the picture that most members of the group are middle-aged professionals rather than young students.

Songbooks



INTERNATIONAL / UNITED STATES, 1948

These are not exactly an SCI objects: The songbook which we see here in three subsequent editions has been published in the United States by the „Cooperative Recreation Service, Inc.“ and distributed in Europe by UNESCO’s Youth Section in Paris. In these days, it must have been quite popular, and widely used in SCI workcamps – besides the hard physical work, there was a need to have fun through common leisure activities such as singing songs. After all, singing together is as much contributing to international peace and understanding as is working, cooking and eating together – or sharing the same mass bedrooms. The book has 94 pages, with folk songs in many different, however mainly European languages from Estonian to Italian.

44 Laurentia



 Lau - ren - tia, be - be lau - ren - tia men, Wam
 Wann wird es dem bald wie - der Sonn - tag sein, und
 werden wir wieder zu - sammen sein? Am Sonn - tag!
 ich bei meiner lau - rentia sein, lau - ren - tia sein?

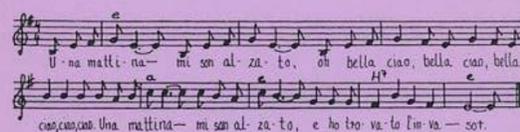
2. Laurentia, liebe Laurentia ...? Am Montag!
 Wann wird es dem bald wieder Sonntag, Montag sein und ich bei ...

Im dritten Vers heißt es dann "Dienstag" usw. Bei jedem weiteren Wochentag
 und bei dem Namen "Laurentia" immer tiefer runter in die Knie gehen!



Bella Ciao

45



 U - na matti - na - mi son al - za - to, oh bella ciao, bella ciao, bella
 ciao, ciao, ciao. Una mattina - mi son al - za - to, e ho tro - va - to l'in - va - sor.

1. Una mattina
 Mi son alzato
 O bella ciao, ...
 Una mattina
 Mi son alzato
 E ho trovato l'invasor.

2. O partigiano
 Porta mi via
 O bella ciao, ...
 O partigiano
 Porta mi via
 Che mi sento di morir.

3. E se io muoio
 Da partigiano
 O bella ciao, ...
 E se io muoio
 Da partigiano
 Tu mi devi seppellir.

4. Seppellire
 Sulla montagna
 O bella ciao, ...
 Seppellire
 Sulla montagna
 Sotto l'ombra d'un bel fior.

5. E le genti
 Che passeranno
 O bella ciao, ...
 E le genti
 Che passeranno
 Diranno o che bel fior.

6. E quest' è il fiore
 Del partigiano
 O bella ciao, ...
 E quest' è il fiore
 Del partigiano
 Morì per la libertà!

1. Eines Morgens
 in aller Frühe,
 o bella ciao, ...
 eines Morgens
 in aller Frühe
 trafen wir auf unser'n Feind.

2. Partisanen,
 kommt, nehmt mich mit euch,
 o bella ciao, ...
 Partisanen
 kommt, nehmt mich mit euch,
 denn ich fühl', der Tod ist nah.

3. Wenn ich sterbe,
 oh ihr Genossen,
 o bella ciao, ...
 wenn ich sterbe,
 oh ihr Genossen,
 bringt mich dann zur letzten Ruh!

4. In den Schatten
 der kleinen Blume,
 o bella ciao, ...
 in den Schatten
 der kleinen Blume,
 in die Berge bringt mich dann!

5. Und die Leute,
 die geh'n vorüber,
 o bella ciao, ...
 und die Leute,
 die geh'n vorüber,
 seh'n die kleine Blume steh'n.

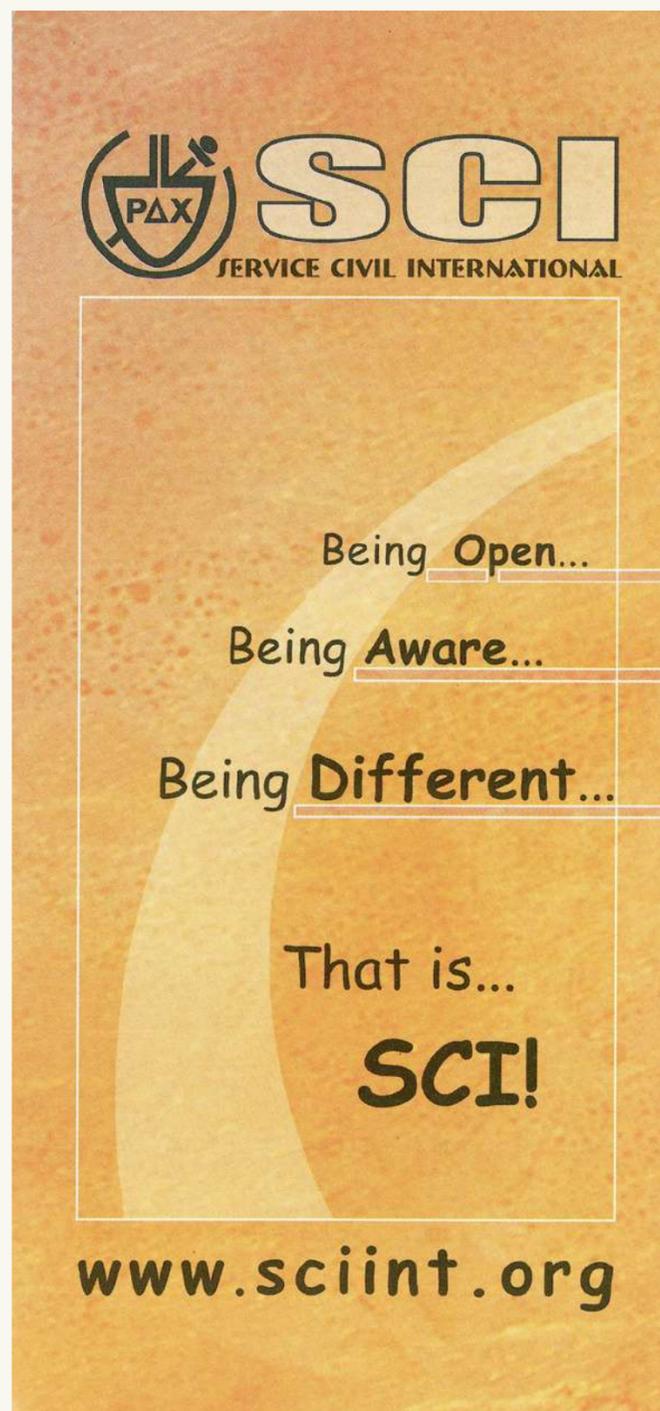
6. Diese Blume,
 so sagen alle,
 o bella ciao, ...
 ist die Blume
 des Partisanen,
 der für die Freiheit starb.

Songbook

SWITZERLAND, 1996

This booklet full of popular songs in different languages has been illustrated by activists of the Zurich local group of SCI. The cartoons were cut out of a catalogue full of more or less funny illustrations and added to the songs with the help of ordinary glue. In these days, graphic design software was only for professionals. The booklet then was photocopied for the use in workcamps in Switzerland.





Leaflet

INTERNATIONAL, 2004

In the early 2000s, less than two decades before the 100th anniversary, SCI tried to find back to its identity. At the international level, a lengthy process of strategic planning was launched. The aim of this process was to strengthen the pacifist profile of the movement which had considerably grown after the end of the Cold war. The front page of this leaflet, however, leaves the reader rather ignorant of all the rich history of SCI as a peace organisation present in most of the progressive movements of the previous decades. Its message can rather be read as one of uncertainty and ambiguity: What does it actually mean to be “open, aware, different”?



The museum was created by



PICTURES

Pictures were taken at the International Archives of SCI. Special thanks to Gentry Behramaj for his contribution.

Selection of pictures was made by Heinz Gabathuler and Philipp Rodriguez.

TEXTS

The background research to compose the texts and the writing of the texts have been done by Heinz Gabathuler (section 2 and 3) and Philipp Rodriguez (section 1).

DESIGN

The present document have been designed by Erida Kola and Claudia Strambini.

COORDINATION

The overall coordination of the project has been done by Heinz Gabathuler.

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