

International Tracing Service in Arolsen

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French Section. — This section undertook the same tasks in 1960 as in previous years. It corresponded regularly with the “ Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic ” with a view to obtaining the nominal roll of French nationals who had been captured by the ALN, but these representations led unfortunately to no result.

Polish Section. — The number of cases dealt with did not decrease in comparison with previous years. The Section dealt chiefly with questions concerning compensation for Poles who had been interned in German concentration camps. Since August 1960 this correspondence has noticeably increased. Requests for attestations continued to be received especially from the United States. A fairly large number of cases of persons of whom there had been no news since the war were able to be settled in a satisfactory manner.

Stateless Persons Section. — New possibilities for emigration to the United States because of new legislation passed by Congress, resulted in an increase in activity for this Section in 1960. Furthermore the Agency carried out various enquiries and transmitted 97 family messages. 470 new cases were dealt with and the departure of 238 stateless persons was registered during the year.

Hungarian Section. — This Section continued to deal with the reuniting of families which had been separated following on the events of 1956-1957. This work included the facilitation of the departure of children or adults from Hungary, or else the organization of the return to Hungary of persons who had emigrated.

Other Sections of the Agency which have not been expressly mentioned here have continued to carry out their activities as previously. Generally speaking these include tasks similar to those which have been mentioned above.

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE IN AROlsen

The agreements which were concluded in 1955 by which the ICRC has undertaken the administration of the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen (German Federal Republic) were

extended on May 12, 1960, for a further period of five years¹. In 1960 this Service continued to carry out a considerable amount of work, although the number of cases dealt with decreased slightly.

The number of applications and certificates received by the ITS in 1960 reached the figure of 114,900 (125,871 in 1959), which included :

- 49,029 requests for certificates to obtain compensation ;
- 48,025 individual enquiries and requests for photostat copies of medical records ;
- 17,646 applications for death certificates ;
- 200 requests for information of a historical or statistical nature.

The ITS issued 271,887 documents (320,072 in 1959) including :
93,987 positive or negative replies to individual enquiries and requests for photostat copies of medical records and death certificates ;

117,900 certificates or reports concerning requests for documents to obtain compensation, including 20,840 certificates of imprisonment, 19,776 certificates of residence, 58,709 temporary reports, 78,385 negative replies and 200 reports of a historical or statistical nature.

It should be noted that, if less applications have been made to the ITS since 1958, there has on the other hand been a continual increase in searches for persons of whom no news is available (1957 : 15% = 27/700 of applications received ; 1958 : 19 % ; 1959 : 26 % and in 1960 : 36 % = 41,260 cases).

In the central card-index, 782,214 new cards were established (719,275 in 1959) and 840,471 classified (725,605 in 1959).

Finally, in 1960, numerous documents were placed at the disposal of the ITS, either in the original or by photostat copies, by the National Red Cross Societies, as well as by the authorities and organizations of various countries.

¹ See Annual Report 1959, p. 39-40 and previous reports.