

Delegation Servicing

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number of requests for incarceration and residence certificates relating to the Compensation Act, which came into effect in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1953, was not the largest (48,800). There was a concomitant drop in the number of applications for death certificates (4,747) and documents relating to illness (4,958). On the other hand, requests for information for the preparation of books dedicated to the memory of those deported, requests submitted by record offices and attorneys-general, as well as requests for information with a view to obtaining an income or pension, more than doubled (57,914). There were 8,681 requests to trace persons, 1,315 requests for historical and statistical information and 749 requests for photocopies. The remainder (708) accounted for requests for miscellaneous information.

After scrutinizing all the requests received, the ITS sent out 187,007 replies in 1971. They took the form of incarceration and residence certificates, death certificates issued by the special registry office also situated in Arolsen, documents relating to sickness, reports, affirmative and negative replies, explanatory letters and photocopies. In 1970, the number of replies was 169,106. The increase is accounted for by the additional documents compiled by the ITS which have yielded further information relating to earlier requests.

As regards the establishment of index cards for reference to old documents and those newly acquired, 1,158,591 cards were filed in the central card index in 1971. By the end of the year it contained 36 million index cards.

Lastly, reference should be made to the fact that, as in previous years, a large number of documents from concentration camps, the Gestapo, prisons and other places of detention, as well as documents of a general nature, were acquired.

Delegation Servicing

In 1971, the Delegation Servicing Section dealt with some 260 offers of services. Ninety candidates were selected, and 43 of them attended the two training courses held at Cartigny (Geneva) from 2 to 6 May and from 17 to 21 October. Two further courses for 48 members of the "International Missions Group" (IMG), conducted by Mr. René de Watteville in Berne, were held from 9 to 11 April and from 9 to 11 November. In addition to the candidates selected by the

ICRC, eight members of the IMG had already taken part in the May course.

These courses were organized in co-operation with the Henry Dunant Institute to give future delegates a sound introduction into the mission of the ICRC and the Geneva Conventions. To this end, the candidates, who had already been supplied with documents, took part both in the courses on theory and in practical group exercises (interviews with prison authorities and detainees, steps that should be taken in cases of conflict, assistance, etc.). Besides the courses on the history and organization of the Red Cross, and on the delegate and the delegation, other more specialized courses were held on protocol, the Central Tracing Agency, and tropical health. Before leaving on mission, candidates spent a few days at ICRC headquarters.

War Disablement Section

In addition to two missions in Jordan,¹ Miss Anny Pfirter, Head of the War Disablement Section, went to Iran and the Yemen Arab Republic in April 1971. The purpose was to visit the ICRC rehabilitation centre in Sana'a and to organize courses for the further training of Yemeni technicians working in the centre, until such time as it is handed over to the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic.

Miss Pfirter made a stop-over in Iran, where she considered with the directors of the International Training Centre for Technical Orthopaedics (ITC), Teheran, the possibilities and conditions under which two Yemeni orthopaedic technicians, who had had basic training at the ICRC Orthopaedic Centre in Sana'a, might attend a six-month training course.

Miss Pfirter also visited the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society during her stay in Teheran.

All the talks held were most fruitful : the ITC agreed to admit the two Yemeni technicians to a training course, while the Red Lion and Sun Society offered to cover the cost of subsistence and schooling for one. The grant for the second technician was covered by an OXFAM donation, and the two Yemeni students were able to start their training course in Teheran in July. Three further grants for Yemeni technicians were subsequently provided by the World Health Organization.

¹ See p. 52.