

“An institution renowned throughout the world”

Greeting by Bernd Neumann, Minister of State for Culture and the Media, Berlin



“Those who live in the memory of their loved ones are not dead, just distant. Only those who are forgotten are truly dead.” This insight as expressed by Immanuel Kant has guided the outstanding work of the International Tracing Service (ITS), which has been under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 1955. The ITS has provided information in more than eleven million cases and has therefore shed light on the fates of thousands and reunified families torn apart by war and dictatorship.

*“This work must be honoured, continued, and intensified.”*

With the ICRC’s withdrawal from the ITS administration and management at the end of 2012 a new chapter in ITS history is opened. Next year the Federal Archives, which is one of the major institutions in my remit, will become the Institutional Partner of the ITS and will help the ITS to maintain its archive and make it more accessible to researchers. The study of the Nazi terror regime is a priority for the Federal Government. We are aware of our responsibility born of a shameful past; the ITS is indispensable to the study of this past. This work must be honoured, continued, and intensified.

I am particularly grateful to the ICRC, which has supported the work of the ITS for more than half a century and thorough its competence and high moral standing helped the ITS become an institution renowned throughout the world.