

During March 1946, Miss S.J. Warner, Director of the Foreign Relations Department of the British Red Cross, was taken on by ERO on a temporary basis as a Consultant of Tracing. Early in April she was sent to Germany and Austria to investigate the situation and advise ERO. On her return to London, Miss Warner presented a long and valuable report, including recommendations with regard to the budget. She was able to show that the description of the duties of Director of CTB in the budget request contained sentences which went beyond the mandate contained in Sir Humphrey Gale's memorandum sent to General Morgan of February 22nd. She also advised that the records of missing persons which had been accumulated in considerable quantities by CTB ought to be handed over to the permanent care of some organisation such as the United Nations Organisation or the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. She suggested that UNRRA might sound the latter on their willingness to undertake such a function, and might in due course approach UNO officially on the subject.

Miss Warner expressed her view that "UNRRA ERO could well recommend to UNO that the tracing and recording of missing and displaced persons could now be carried out without regard to the political action during the war of the original country of these unfortunate people - with the sole exception of the German persons making enquiries for Germans....." She recommended "that the tracing and recording of displaced and missing persons should now be regarded as the humanitarian responsibility of all civilised nations working together."

6. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON TRACING.

During the lifetime of UNRRA three international conferences have been held with representatives of National Tracing Bureaux at which UNRRA representatives have been present.

On June 25th, 1946 ERO agreed that UNRRA should be represented at the Conference called by the Polish Government at Warsaw by an official of the CTB, but this official must not take any responsibility for coordinating UNRRA policy with that of the National Tracing Bureaux or for tracing activities regarding persons not eligible for UNRRA care.

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6. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSING PERSONS

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In September 1945, Col. Bowring (for CTB) and Miss Rading (for ERO) attended the Tracing Conference at Brussels in which UNRRA consulted with the Government representatives at their request, but did not participate in any of the final recommendations.

Finally, Mr. Karl Martini, Displaced Persons Headquarters, after his temporary appointment as Consultant on Tracing attached to EPHQ Paris, was instructed to act as UNRRA observer at the International Tracing Congress at Prague on 3rd to 10th March 1947. He was, however, given much wider terms of reference than on the occasion of previous conferences. He was to present to the Tracing Congress UNRRA's functions and limitations in relating to tracing, and he was to consult with the Tracing Congress on subjects within UNRRA's competence.

7. THE HANDING OVER OF TRACING ACTIVITIES BY UNRRA TO A SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION.

At the Relief Services Conference on May 21-24 1946, a special session was held on Tracing Policies and procedures and a draft directive for the field was prepared and agreed by those present. This directive was drawn up with the consideration in mind that UNRRA was a temporary organisation and that provision should be made for eventual hand-over to a permanent body. This aspect of the problem of UNRRA's tracing activities had already been noted by Mr. Rabinoff, Deputy Director of DP Division ERO in the report which he submitted after returning from Germany in February 1946. On one of the accompanying documents he dealt with the permanent legatee should be nominated as soon as possible to permit orientation and arrangements for transfer starting about July 1st. The draft directive envisaged a greater degree of decentralisation of tracing activities upon the respective Zonal Bureaux which would be empowered to correspond direct with National Tracing Bureaux. The CTB would deal only with the documents and records and with enquiries regarding persons whose Zonal location was unknown. Thus the importance of the CTB in comparison with the Zonal Bureau would be diminished. This draft directive was passed on to Gen. Morgan on June 18th and comments upon it were requested. Gen. Morgan replied by indicating that in his opinion some of the proposals were either undesirable