

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE
CHILD SEARCH BRANCH
APO 154 US ARMY

HISTORY OF THE SEARCH FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Part I The Preamble. Gives an explanation of the problem and the categories of unaccompanied children dealt with. This part is compiled mainly from excerpts from original Nazi documents introduced as evidence in the International War Crime Trials at Nürnberg, Germany.

Part II Child Search Activities of UNRRA. This part is compiled from excerpts from the UNRRA Closure Report on United Nations Unaccompanied Children in Germany, dated June 1947.

Part III Child Search Activities of the I.R.O. This part is compiled from excerpts from the Yearly and Quarterly Reports of the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service.

PREAMBLE

Since 1945, first UNRRA and then the I.R.O. have had to deal with the problem of unaccompanied children. This problem involves the finding of those innocent victims of Nazism, the kidnapped Allied children, as well as those non-German children who became displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war, the identification of the children found, the establishment of their citizenship, their documentation, and, if necessary, the tracing of their families so that, in the end, they may be reunited with their parents or relatives.

These children fall into 5 categories:

- (1) Those children who were forcibly removed from their relatives and country of origin under the Nazi programme for the kidnapping of racially desirable children. The children concerned are mainly those from Eastern nations. The scheme originated with Himmler, Chief of the German S.S. who dealt with the matter in a document called "Reflections on the Treatment of Foreign Elements in the East". The part relating to the kidnapping of children reads as follows:

"One of the basic principles in the solution of these problems is the question of education and the sifting and selection of the youth. The non-German population of the East should have no schooling beyond 4 years elementary school. This elementary school should have the following objectives :

"The teaching of simple calculating up to 500 at the most, writing of the pupil's own name, the doctrine that it is a divine commandment to obey the

Germans

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Part II Child Search Activities of UNRRA. This part is compiled from reports from the UNRRA Child Search Branch on Unaccompanied Children in Germany, dated June 1947.

Part III Child Search Activities of the I.R.O. This part is compiled from reports from the I.R.O. Child Search Branch of the International Red Cross Service.

GENERAL

Since 1945, UNRRA and then the I.R.O., have had to deal with the problem of unaccompanied children. This problem involves the finding of these innocent victims of war, the displaced Allied children, as well as those non-German children who became displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war, the identification of the children found, the establishment of their identities, their documentation, and, if necessary, the tracing of their families so that, in the end, they may be reunited with their parents or relatives.

These children fall into 3 categories:

- (1) Those children who were forcibly removed from their relatives and country of origin under the Nazi program for the kidnapping of racially desirable children. The children concerned are mainly those from Eastern nations. The names originated with Himmler, Chief of the German S.S. who dealt with the matter in a document called "Measures on the Treatment of Foreign Elements in the East". The part relating to the kidnapping of children reads as follows:

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Germans and to be honest, diligent and well behaved. I do not see any necessity for reading.

"This should be the only type of school in the East. Parents who intend to provide better schooling for their children both in elementary school and later in a more advanced school will have to file application to that effect with the Higher SS and Police Leaders. Decision regarding this application will primarily depend upon the racial desirability of the child. Should it be decided that such a child is of our blood, the parents are to be told that the child will be sent to a German school and remain in Germany.

"Cruel and tragic as each individual case may be, this method is still the best and most human if, out of inner conviction, one rejects as un-German and impossible the Bolshevik method of psychic extermination of a people.

"The parents of children of good blood will be faced with the following alternatives: either they must surrender the child, in which case they will probably refrain from having more children thus eliminating the danger of inferior peoples of the East developing a group of leaders from people of good blood who, being our equals, may constitute a threst to us; or they may emigrate to Germany and become loyal citizens.

"Thus when the future and education of children depends upon their parents' loyalty, the parents will be easily influenced. In addition to the examination of the application for better schooling made by the parents, a thorough search will be made involving all 6 to 10 years olds throughout the General Government in order to separate racially desirable from racially undesirable elements. Those selected as racially desirable will be treated in the same manner as children accepted on the basis of their parents' application. Both sentiment and pure reasoning tell me that children should not be treated like lepers after they have entered Germany; when their names have been changed they should be treated carefully and considerately and included in German life. The children must not feel like outcasts for we have a profound faith in our own blood which has been absorbed into a foreign nationality through errors committed in the German history, and we are convinced that our philosophy of life and our ideals will find response in the souls of the children who are of the same race as we.

246

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"This should be the only type of school in the East. Parents who intend to provide better schooling for their children born in elementary school and later in a more advanced school will have to file application to that effect with the High or SS and Police Leaders. Decision regarding this application will primarily depend upon the racial health-ity of the child. Should it be decided that such a child is of our blood, the parents are to be told that the child will be sent to a German school and remain in Germany.

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"The parents of children of good blood will be faced with the following alternatives: either they must surrender the child, in which case they will gradually refrain from having more children thus eliminating the danger of inferior people of the East developing a group of leaders from people of good blood who, being our enemies, may constitute a threat to us or they may withdraw to Germany and become loyal citizens.

"Thus when the future and education of children depends upon their parents' loyalty, the parents will be easily in-duced. In addition to the examination of the application for better schooling made by the parents, a thorough search will be made involving all 6 to 10 years olds through-out the General Government in order to separate racially desirable from racially undesirable elements. Those selected as racially desirable will be treated in the same manner as children accepted on the basis of their parents' application. Both sentiment and pure reasoning tell us that children should not be treated like lepers after they have entered Germany when their names have been changed they should be treated carefully and considered and included in German life. The children must not feel like outcasts for we have a profound faith in our own blood which has been absorbed into a foreign nationality through errors committed in the German history, and we are convinced that our philosophy of life and our ideals will find response in the souls of the children who are of the same race as we.

"Basic principles should be established for the use of teachers and Hitler youth leaders, and the mistake which was made in the case of the people from Alsace-Lorraine must never be repeated. On the one hand, the intention was to make Germans out of them, but, on the other hand, they were insulted at every opportunity through distrust and deflation of their human value, pride and honour. Name calling like "Pollack" or "Ukrainian" or similar epithets should be forbidden. Four years of preliminary schooling should be given and then it should be decided whether the children are to remain in the German public school or whether they should be sent to a National Political Educational Institution (Napola)."

Himmler's outline for the kidnapping of racially desirable children was put into operation by the S.S. Office of the Reichscommissioner for the Strengthening of Germanism. As an example we quote from Decree No. 67/1, which was signed by the Chief of the Office of the Reichscommissioner for the Strengthening of Germanism and deals with the germanisation of children from Polish families and Polish orphanages.

"The children whose racial characteristics point to nordic ancestry should be reclaimed for Germanism; therefore it is necessary that a racial and psychological selection be performed among those orphans who are in Polish orphanages or with Polish foster parents. The children recognised as valuable proponents of Germanism are to be germanised. The children would be racially examined by the Branch Office of the S.S. Main Race and Settlement Office in Litzmannstadt in order to establish their racial desirability. The Reichs-Protector of the Reichsgau Wartheland, emissary of the Reichs-Commissar for the Strengthening of Germanism, will decide, on the basis of the examination results, which child is to be germanised. In all doubtful cases, I request that my Posen emissary contact the two reception agencies (Lebensborn e.V. and the Inspector of the German home schools.

"My emissary will report the racially desirable children who fall within the age group from 2 to 6 years, to the Lebensborn e.V. Lebensborn e.V. will first place the children in one of its children's homes. From there, Lebensborn e.V. will place the children with childless families of S.S. men for adoption at a later date.

"My Posen emissary will report all racially desirable children who fall within the age group from 6 to 12 years, to the Inspector of German home schools. The Inspector of German home schools will place these children in special home schools which will be able to comply with their needs. Children who leave the home school showing positive results are to be placed as foster children in rural communities of the German Reich proper. These children are to be treated like German children even before they receive their German citizenship.

"Basic principles should be established for the use of language and Hitler youth leaders, and the message which was made in the case of the people from Alsace-Lorraine must never be repeated. On the one hand, the intention was to make Germans out of them, but on the other hand, they were treated as every opportunity through distrust and belittling of their human value, pride and honor. These children like 'Polacks' or 'Ukrainians' or similar epithets should be forbidden. Four years of preliminary schooling should be given and then it should be decided whether the children are to remain in the German public school or whether they should be sent to a National Political Educational Institution (Nazi)."

Himmler's outline for the kidnapping of racially desirable children was put into operation by the S.S. Office of the Reichskommissariat for the Strengthening of Germany. As an example we quote from Report No. 67/1, which was signed by the Chief of the Office of the Reichskommissariat for the Strengthening of Germany and deals with the Germanization of children from Polish families and Polish orphanages.

"The children whose racial characteristics point to a high ancestry should be retained for Germany; therefore it is necessary that a racial and psychopedagogical selection be performed among those orphanages who are in Polish orphanages or with Polish foster parents. The children recognized as valuable progeny of Germans are to be Germanized. The children would be racially examined by the Branch Office of the S.S. Main Race and Settlement Office in Litzmannstadt in order to establish their racial desirability. The Reich-Proctor of the Reichsgau Wartheland, Embassy of the Reich-Consul for the Strengthening of Germany, will decide, on the basis of the examination results, which child is to be Germanized. In all doubtful cases, I request that my Polish Embassy contact the two reception agencies (Jabensdorf e.V. and the Inspector of the German Home Schools).

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"My Polish Embassy will report all racially desirable children who fall within the age group from 6 to 12 years, to the Inspector of German Home Schools. The Inspector of German Home Schools will place these children in special home schools which will be able to comply with their needs. Children who leave the home school showing positive results are to be placed as foster children in rural communities of the German Reich proper. These children are to be treated like German children even before they receive their German citizenship.

First all children who are located in former Polish orphanages will be X-rayed and quartered. The children now living with Polish foster parents will be examined after this action has been carried out. Any forewarning of the Polish foster parents is to be avoided; thus during the whole examination the point that the children will receive fellowships in schools or be sent to recreation camps, should be stressed. Children in the foster care of racially desirable families may, as well as the natural children of these families, be admitted to home schools upon application by the head of the family. Special care should be taken that the expression "racially desirable Polish children" does not reach the public and thus harm the children. The children are to be described as German orphans from the re-captured Eastern territories."

Even though the above decree deals mainly with the kidnapping of Polish orphans and Polish children with foster families, it was applied equally to children living with their own families. This becomes evident in a document originating from the German Ministry of the Interior and deals with the establishment of a special Registration Office in the German Children's Home which was used as a transit station for kidnapped children.

"Experience has taught us that Polish relatives or acquaintance of the children will make efforts to find their place of residence. This would be possible through enquiries from the local Police. Contact between the children and their relatives or old acquaintances is to be avoided, inasmuch as serious difficulties in the Germanisation process can be anticipated through the influence of these relatives.

"It is requested that a special Registration Office called "Polizeiliche Meldestelle II in Kalisch/Warthegeau" be established. This matter is to be considered as confidential and is not to be published."

A further process of the germanisation of kidnapped children was the change of names, which is dealt with in instructions issued by the Chief of the S.S. Race and Settlement Office.

"Germanisation will be carried out in such a manner that the new name will not deviate too much from the existing name as to root and pronunciation. Where it is impossible to germanise existing names, new German names are to be chosen. Commonly used names (certainly without religious connotation) should be selected; names of a pronounced nordic character should not be used.

"Children must be in possession of their germanised names prior to being sent to institutions, particularly Lebensborn and Home Schools."

- (2) Those children who were born in Germany during the war to slave labourers and who were forcibly separated from their mothers. This was dealt with by

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148

First all children who are located in former Polish territories will be X-rayed and vaccinated. The children now living with Polish foster parents will be vaccinated after their return to their parents. Any forwarding of the Polish foster parents is to be avoided; those during the whole examination in the point that the children will receive follow-up in schools or be sent to vacation camps, should be assessed. Children in the foster care of socially undesirable families may, as well as the natural children of these families, be assessed as home schools upon application by the head of the family. Special care should be taken that the expression "socially desirable Polish children" does not mean the public and does harm the children. The children are to be described as German children from the re-organized German territories."

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"It is requested that a special Registration Office called 'Polnische Heimerziehung II' in 'Katholischer Kindergarten' be established. This matter is to be considered as confidential and is not to be published."

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"Children must be in possession of their Germanized names prior to being sent to institutions, particularly Lebensborn and Home Schools."

(3) These children who were born in Germany during the war to slave laborers and who were forcibly separated from their mothers. This was dealt with by

Dr. Kalfenbrunner

Dr. Kaltenbrunner, the S.S. Chief of the German Police, under the subject "Treatment of pregnant foreign female labourers and children born by these labourers within the confines of the German Reich".

"The children born by foreign female labourers must in no case be cared for by German institutions, placed in German children's homes, or be permitted to grow up and be educated together with German children. Thus special institutions of the most primitive type for the care of babies (Ausländer Kinderpflegestätten) will be created in camps, where these foreign children will be cared for by female nationals of their respective countries.

"The necessity to prevent the loss of German blood to foreign nationalities is increased by losses incurred through the war. Thus it becomes necessary to accept children of foreign women who are of partly German or equally valuable blood and can be regarded as racially desirable from placement in those "Ausländer Kinderpflegestätten" and to save them for germanisation wherever possible, and education as German children. For this reason a racial examination is to be performed upon the fathers and mothers of children begotten by a German or a member of an equally valuable Germanic nationality.

"In cases where racially desirable offspring may be expected on the basis of racial as well as health examinations of the father and mother, the children will be placed in the care of the N.S.V. (National Socialist Welfare Organisation). The N.S.V. will place them in special children's homes for racially desirable foreign children or with foster families.

Acceptance of a racially desirable child into the care of N.S.V. or Lebensborn will, in most cases, necessitate its separation from the mother who must remain at her place of work. For this reason, the mother's consent will be necessary in cases of racially desirable children. The mother will be informed of the advantages but not of the aims of this process and will thus be inclined to consent. A plan is being considered under which the consent of Eastern female workers, workers from the General Government and Protectorates, will be considered unnecessary whenever indoctrination proves futile. Until further notice no measures will be taken in such cases. Mothers of racially desirable children who intend to return to their home countries with their children should be kept within the German Reich, whenever possible, by the Labour Allocation Administration on the basis of the labour draft. Where those efforts prove futile the children cannot be made to stay by means of force; different measures are under consideration in the case of Eastern female workers, workers from the General Government and Protectorates."

In practice

Dr. Kautsky, the S.E. Unit of the German
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In practice, children born to foreign workers in Germany were separated from their mothers either with or without their consent. In most cases this consent was obtained under pressure by the S.S. Security Police. Children termed as racially undesirable, who were sent to the Aueländer Kinderpflegestätten, died in almost all cases, either due to malnutrition or mistreatment. Proof of this was established during the War Crim Trials. In our work we are mainly concerned with those children of slave labourers who were termed "racially desirable" and kept alive for the purpose of germanisation.

- (3) Children who were separated from their relatives and native country through war action.
- (4) "Non Aryan children", who were declared racially undesirable by the Nazis. These children were liberated from Concentration Camps or were found hidden in religious institutions and by the civilian population of many countries. This group consists mainly of Jewish children. At the time of the liberation, unaccompanied Jewish children were found in Concentration Camps in Germany and Austria. The greatest problem in connection with Jewish children however was that caused by the infiltration, shortly after the war, of large numbers into Germany from the Eastern countries.
- (5) Children who were born to D.P.s during and after the war and who have been abandoned. These are, in most cases, illegitimate children who have been abandoned, either through economic pressure or in the case of the repatriation of the mother, because the family at home did not know about the existence of the child or, in the case of resettlement, because in the early stages of resettlement, unwed mothers were not accepted with children. Very often these children are looked for later because, either the economic situation of the mother has improved, or she has told her family about her illegitimate child and they are willing to receive the child, or she has been sufficiently well established in a new country to take care of her child.

Germany was the main point of search for children but the chief extent of the present country, Austria, for example, was also a source for many children who departed or were brought from Germany to Czechoslovakia and Poland. Regrettably, however, after the occupying Powers did not appreciate the importance of centralising and preserving all relevant records and records from the four zones of Germany. Records with invaluable information were unavailably destroyed or turned back to German sources.

The Child Search Teams carefully combed German institutions and, by this means, uncovered many United Nations' children. Most of the children thus located, however, were those who had been evacuated from Germany, were born in Germany or had been brought in directly with their families and later separated from them. The children who had been stolen from their families in their home countries under the Nazi programme of Germanisation accounted for the majority of untraced cases. These children were known to be living in German families or German children and they could only be found by discovering and studying documents and records which might reveal the disposition

In practice, children born to foreign parents in Germany were separated from their mothers either with or without their consent. In most cases this consent was obtained under pressure by the S.S. Security Police. Children born to Jewish mothers, who were sent to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, died in great numbers, either due to malnutrition or mistreatment. Proof of fact was established during the War Crime Trials. In our work we are mainly concerned with those children of slave laborers who were termed "racially desirable" and kept alive for the purpose of Germanization.

(1) Children who were separated from their relatives and native country through war action.

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CHILD SEARCH ACTIVITIES OF UNRRA

Under the aegis of UNRRA, Child Search activities comprised the search for unaccompanied Allied children (mainly in Germany), the documentation of these children, welfare investigation, negotiation with the Military Authorities for removal of the child from German institutions and homes, planning for the child's future, referral of the child for repatriation or resettlement. The tracing of relatives was conducted through correspondence by the Child Tracing Section of the Central Tracing Bureau of UNRRA. In order to bring this summary of the Child Search work under UNRRA into line with the present work of the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service, all activities which now fall under the Welfare, Eligibility, Resettlement, Repatriation, and Legal Divisions have been omitted from this report.

Child Search and Tracing Programmes

That children belonging to other nations were scattered throughout Germany was an established fact, but information as to their identity and their whereabouts had to be dug out from many sources. Unfortunately, some of the most important documents and records on children were destroyed either by the Nazis themselves or by the Occupying Forces.

In September 1945, an organized plan for the location and identification of United Nations' children living in German institutions and families was instituted by UNRRA in the British and U.S. Zones of Germany. Such a search programme was not possible in the French Zone since, under the terms of UNRRA's agreement with the French Government, all search and tracing activities were conducted by French Military Government personnel. The work fell into two categories - tracing for individual children who were asked for by name, and the general mass search for all Allied unaccompanied children. These two functions were carried by different branches of UNRRA who worked closely together.

Germany was the nodal point in the search for children but the clues extended out into adjacent countries. Austria, for example, was the destination for many children deported or evacuated from Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Regrettably, however, as yet the Occupying Powers did not appreciate the importance of centralising and preserving all relevant documents and records from the four Zones of Germany. Records with invaluable information were unwittingly destroyed or turned back to German sources.

The Child Search Teams carefully combed German institutions and, by this means, uncovered many United Nations' children. Most of the children thus located, however, were those who had been evacuated into Germany, were born in Germany or had been brought in forcibly with their families and later separated from them. The children who had been stolen from their families in their home countries under the Nazi programme of Germanisation accounted for the majority of unsolved cases. These children were known to be living in German families as German children and they could only be found by discovering and studying documents and records which might reveal the disposition

221

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Under the title of UNRRA, Child Search activities encompass the search for abandoned Allied children (born in Germany). The documentation of these children, as they investigated, established with the Military Authorities for removal of the child from German institutions and homes, planning for the child's future, referral of the child for registration or resettlement. The tracing of relatives was conducted through correspondence by the Child Search Section of the Central Tracing Bureau of UNRRA. In order to bring this activity of the Child Search work under UNRRA into line with the present work of the Child Search Section of the International Tracing Service, all activities which now fall under the Welfare, Hospitality, Resettlement, Registration, and Legal Divisions have been omitted from this report.

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made of these children during the Nazi regime.

The most effective way of achieving this end would have been to centralise the collection and analysis of documents and records affecting children. Unfortunately, however, there was no central clearing house and the problem was studied both in the Central Tracing Bureau and by the Zonal Bureaux, with a consequent lack of co-ordination and a resulting lack of efficiency which has never been completely compensated for. Important clues for locating children were often obtained from enquiries received from parents or relatives seeking individual children by name.

Until February 1947, the Central Tracing Bureau functioned as an important cog in the machinery set up for finding children and reuniting them with their families. All enquiries concerning lost children were received by the Child Tracing Section of the Central Tracing Bureau and routed by them to the Zones for tracing. This permitted the compilation of a central register on missing children. Upon locating an unaccompanied child, the Search teams made out a case history containing all available information on the child. A copy of this was, as a matter of routine, forwarded to the Child Tracing Section, who included the name in their index and initiated a search for parents or relatives on the basis of the information contained in the history. If positive replies were received, the information was relayed back to the appropriate Field office so that plans might be made for reunion with his relatives. Lists of the missing and located children were compiled and circulated within Germany and to all other interested countries and agencies. The Documents Intelligence Section of the Central Tracing Bureau gave invaluable assistance to the programme by searching for and analysing documentary evidence pertaining to children. Information obtained was transmitted to the Field so that clues might be followed up by the local workers.

With the reorganisation of the Central Tracing Bureau in February 1947, the Child Tracing Service underwent major changes. Individual tracing, including both incoming enquiries and the tracing of families of children located in Germany, was decentralised to the individual Zones. In the U.S. Zone, this function was carried by the U.S. Zone Tracing Bureau, in the British Zone jointly by UNRRA and the British Red Cross, and in the French Zone by the French Military Government Tracing Bureau.

It was unfortunate, to put it mildly, that the decentralization had to take place, since it necessitated the handling of enquiries by three tracing bureaux rather than one, greatly increased the work of the National Tracing Bureau, and caused considerable confusion and loss of efficiency.

It was possible to continue centrally one of the most important functions of the Central Tracing Bureau, namely, the Documents Intelligence work, with a special section devoted to further exploration of documentary evidence on children. The Child Tracing Section of the Central Tracing Bureau continued to serve as a clearing and assembly point on all documents, records or lists coming from outside Germany and continued active search for information which would assist the field in locating children individually or in groups.

The search

made of these children during the Nazi regime.

The most effective way of achieving this end would have been to centralize the collection and analysis of documents and records affecting children. Unfortunately, however, there was no central clearing house and the records were scattered both in the Central Tracing Bureau and by the local Bureaux, with a consequent lack of co-ordination and a resulting lack of efficiency which has never been completely compensated for. Important clues for locating children were often obtained from enquiries received from parents or relatives seeking individual children by name.

Until February 1947, the Central Tracing Bureau functioned as an important cog in the machinery set up for locating children and reuniting them with their families. All enquiries concerning lost children were received by the Child Tracing Section of the Central Tracing Bureau and routed by them to the Bureaux for tracing. This permitted the completion of a central register on missing children. Upon locating an unaccompanied child, the Bureau sends out a case history containing all available information on the child. A copy of this was sent to the parent or relative, forwarded to the Child Tracing Section, who included the name in their index and initiated a search for parents or relatives on the basis of the information contained in the history. If positive replies were received, the information was relayed back to the appropriate Field Office so that plans might be made for reunion with his relatives. Lists of the missing and located children were compiled and circulated within Germany and to all other interested countries and agencies. The documents and information of the Central Tracing Bureau gave invaluable assistance to the programme by assisting for and analyzing documentary evidence pertaining to children. Information obtained was transmitted to the Field so that plans might be followed up by the local workers.

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It was anticipated, to put it mildly, that the decentralization had to take place, since it necessitated the handling of enquiries by three tracing bureaux rather than one, greatly increased the work of the National Tracing Bureau, and caused considerable confusion and loss of efficiency.

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The search

The search for and analysis of documentary evidence within Germany, however, was the responsibility of each Zonal Tracing Bureau. The sources of evidence and information uncovered in the Zones were not always referred to the central office and many clues were lost and opportunities missed because of the lack of a systematic and central direction.

The Mass Tracing activities of the Central Tracing Bureau, of course, brought results which could not have been achieved in any other way. Radio broadcasts and the publication of names in newspapers and periodicals offered the only hope of identifying children on whom there was only scanty information. This service could not be decentralized and it continued to function centrally in conjunction with the residual unit of the Central Tracing Bureau.

Military Government Action affecting Unaccompanied Children.

From the beginning of the unaccompanied children's programme, it was thought desirable to have certain policies enunciated by the Allied Control Authority in Berlin. This would have ensured uniform treatment of unaccompanied children in the British, French, U.S. and U.S.S.R. Zones with regard to such basic issues as determination of nationality, guardianship and repatriation. For various reasons, such overall policies were not possible at quadripartite level, and the decisions on major problems were left to the individual Zones.

Action was taken by the Allied Control Authority with regard to the search for United Nations' children in the form of two search directives, one issued in January of 1946 and the other in March of 1946. These directives were mandatory on all four Zones and were implemented by each Zone in line with its own Military Government structure. The January directive required German officials to submit lists of identifying information on all United Nations' nationals, both adults and children, who had been and were still living in the German communities and who were not already registered in Displaced Persons Camps, and also calling in for examination all records and documents on Allied nationals who had been in Germany during the war. The March directive called specifically for information on unaccompanied children, being a supplement to the first directive. The purpose of this directive was to secure an inventory of non-German children in German institutions and German families. Had this second directive been implemented effectively in the British, French, U.S. and U.S.S.R. Zones, the result would have given UNRRA the first comprehensive picture of the number of United Nations' children to be accounted for in Germany. The returns from this directive were anticipated with eagerness by the Child Search workers, since other sources of information with regard to these children had been so incomplete and uncertain.

Unfortunately, however, neither of these directives yielded the expected result. This was due primarily to the gradual decrease in Military Government personnel and the consequent lack of supervision in checking the results

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The Child Search Teams found that even Grave

Registration

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Military Government Action after Unaccompanied Children

From the beginning of the unaccompanied children's program, it was thought desirable to have certain policies formulated by the Allied Control Authority in Berlin. This would have secured uniform treatment of unaccompanied children in the British, French, U.S., and U.S.S.R. zones with regard to such basic issues as determination of nationality, guardianship and repatriation. For various reasons, such overall policies were not possible at the administrative level, and the decisions on major problems were left to the individual zones.

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Unfortunately, however, neither of these directives yielded the expected results. This was due primarily to the gradual decrease in Military Government personnel and the consequent lack of supervision in checking the results of the

of the directive. There was a rapid reinstatement of German jurisdiction over their Government offices and organizations. Some Kreise reported adequately and completely, others responded in a haphazard manner, or not at all. When this was drawn by UNRRA to the attention of Military Government authorities, they often cooperated by reiterating the instructions, but the machinery for carrying out checking and disciplinary action was practically non-existent. Added to this, there was confusion on the part of German officials and the directives were given various interpretations. Officials responsible for reporting and compiling these lists included both accompanied and unaccompanied children and also many illegitimate children of German girls and United Nations' fathers. This meant considerable screening of the lists before effective follow-up could be done by the Child Search workers.

The object of these directives was to make available information on the whereabouts of United Nations' children, so that investigations could be carried on by Child Search workers, with a view to identifying and repatriating these children. In the British Zone, the lists compiled by German officials were turned over regularly to the UNRRA Child Search staff for investigation. In the U.S. Zone, the lists resulting from the March directive had to be routed to the D.P. Division of OMGUS in Berlin. This did a great deal to retard the effective location of children in the U.S. Zone, since for a period of four or five months these lists were held in the D.P. Division and were not made available either to the Central Tracing Bureau for tracing or to the Child Search workers for investigation. These lists when finally received proved to be very inadequate, and, indeed, returns in all the Zones were very poor.

In the French Zone, the results of the March directive were turned over to the Tracing Bureau of the French Military Government, and responsibility for the investigation of these cases rested with the Military Government Search and Tracing Teams. The Division "Personnes Deplacées et Réfugiés" reported that some 5,000 children's names were submitted to them from German sources. Obviously, only a small percentage of this group could be unaccompanied or eligible, under the definition of United Nations' children, since the French Zone covered a comparatively small area and it was known that the number of unaccompanied children who had been placed in or evacuated to that part of Germany was very small.

The returns received by the Soviet authorities were not made available to the UNRRA services.

The January directive provided that, in addition to lists of Displaced Persons, German officials would be expected to turn over within a stipulated period of time various types of official records, such as birth and death certificates, employment records and health records. These came in exceedingly late, and with varying degrees of completeness. One source of information which would have proved extremely valuable in the location of hidden children was the German adoption records. These, however, were not specified as being one of the groups of records required. The local Child Search workers made it a point to review such records wherever they had access to them, but there was no centralized reporting of the adoptions which had been made during and after the war.

The Child Search Teams found that even Grave

Registration

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In the French Zone, the results of the March directive were turned over to the Tracing Bureau of the French Military Government, and responsibility for the investigation of these cases rested with the Military Government Search and Tracing Teams. The Division's personnel reported that some 2,000 children's names were reported to them from German sources. Obviously, only a small percentage of this group could be unaccompanied or eligible, under the definition of United Nations' children, since the French Zone covered a comparatively small area and it was known that the number of unaccompanied children who had been placed in or evacuated to that part of Germany was very small.

The returns received by the Soviet authorities were not made available to the UNRRA services.

The January directive provided that, in addition to lists of displaced persons, German officials would be expected to turn over within a stipulated period of time various types of official records, such as birth and death certificates, employment records and health records. These came in exceedingly late, and with varying degrees of completeness. One source of information which would have proved extremely valuable in the location of hidden children was the German adoption records. These, however, were not specified as being one of the groups of records required. The local Child Search workers made it a point to review such records wherever they had access to them, but there was no centralized reporting of the adoptions which had been made during and after the war.

The Child Search Teams found that even grave

Registration should have been extended to cover the unaccompanied children's group. Graves of children who died in Germany were sometimes discovered by the Child Search workers. It was, of course, just as important to establish the death of a child as it was to locate living children. Therefore, complete records on hospitalisation and deaths should also have been required under this Search directive.

UNRRA Recommendations

Out of UNRRA's two years' experience with the problem of unaccompanied children in Germany, emerged certain conclusions and recommendations which the successor agency had to consider when planning the continuation of the unaccompanied children's programme. These points may be summarised as follows :

- (1) The search for lost United Nations' children had to be continued but it was important that some goal should be set for the completion of this task and that there should be an evaluation of all the factors which would make this possible.
- (2) The search for records, lists and documentary evidence, leading to the discovery and identification of children and the analysis and dissemination of this material from a central point should be considered a priority in the continuation of the work.
- (3) Closely allied with the centralisation of documentary material, was the need for re-instating a centralised Child Tracing service to handle all unaccompanied children.
- (4) It was extremely important that the working relationships established in the past with National Governments, whose children were lost in Germany, should be maintained and that the policies formulated by them should be continued as a basis for carrying on this work.

It should be noted here that UNRRA omitted to make use of the most vital source of information for the possible location of United Nations children, the German Population Census, which was taken in 1946. Neither in the report nor in the recommendation does there appear any information suggesting that attempts were made either by UNRRA or Military authorities to utilise the German Census for this purpose. This omission was, in fact, largely responsible for the confused and incomplete stage at which the Child Search programme was left at the closure of UNRRA. It was also responsible for the fact that the I.R.O., successor of UNRRA, had to initiate a general search plan described in the third part of this report.

(c) Orphans or children whose parents have disappeared, or who have been abandoned, or whose parents are unobtainable.

(d) Not provided with a legal guardian, or children whose guardian has disappeared or abandoned them or who is unobtainable.

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General Recommendations

Out of UNRRA's two years' experience with the problem of unaccompanied children in Germany, emerged certain conclusions and recommendations which the successor agency had to consider when planning the continuation of the unaccompanied children's programs. These points may be summarized as follows:

- (1) The search for lost United Nations' children had to be continued but it was important that some goal should be set for the continuation of this task and that there should be an evaluation of all the factors which would make this possible.
- (2) The search for records, lists and documents, very evidence, leading to the discovery and identification of children and the acquisition and dissemination of this material from a general point should be considered a priority in the continuation of the work.
- (3) Closely allied with the centralization of documentary material, was the need for installing a centralized Child Finding service to handle all unaccompanied children.
- (4) It was extremely important that the working relationships established in the past with national governments, whose children were lost in Germany, should be maintained and that the policies formulated by them should be continued as a basis for carrying on this work.

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CHILD SEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE I.R.O.

This part of the history of Child Search covers the work performed from the beginning of the I.R.O. in July 1947 until August 31st 1950 - the date set by the Director-General, as a result of a Resolution of the General Council, for the liquidation of the present work of the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service. It is felt that the later developments in the problem of Child Search will be more clearly understood if written chronologically and this procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

1 9 4 7 (July - December)

In the early part of 1947, it was decided by the UNRRA Central Headquarters for Germany that the centralization of tracing in Germany by the Central Tracing Bureau should be discontinued. In its place, the Zonal offices, already in existence in each of the three Western Zones of Germany, were to take over complete responsibility for tracing in their own Zones. The Central Tracing Bureau was to function solely as a clearing house (see Page 7). Towards the end of 1947, the order was given that tracing should once again be directed from a central office, under the management of the successor of the Central Tracing Bureau of UNRRA - the International Tracing Service of the I.R.O. At the same time, it was decided that only tracing for individual children specifically asked for by name would be continued and that the general search for unaccompanied children should cease. Child Search work stopped almost immediately in the British Zone; but was carried on in a very reduced form in the U.S. Zone, while the question was further explored. In the French Zone of Occupation, only a little Child Search work had at any time been undertaken. Since the central organisational pattern had not been set up, the centralisation of Child Tracing work was in name only, and the Zonal offices continued to function as before.

The definition of an unaccompanied child was given in Provisional Order No. 33, issued on the 18th November 1947 by the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organisation, and its amendment, Provisional Order No. 33.1, issued on the 13th April 1948.

"The definition of "Unaccompanied Children" in the Constitution of the International Refugee Organisation, para. 4, Section A, Part I, Annex 1, is interpreted to mean children who fulfil the six following conditions. They must be:

- (a) 16 years of age or under (i.e. a child who has not attained his/her 17th birthday).
- (b) Outside of their countries of origin or of that of their parents.
- (c) Orphans or children whose parents have disappeared, or who have been abandoned, or whose parents are unattainable.
- (d) Not provided with a legal guardian, or children whose guardian has disappeared or abandoned them or who is unattainable.

(e)

22

CHILD SEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE I.R.O.

This part of the history of Child Search covers the work performed from the beginning of the I.R.O. in July 1947 until August 31st 1953 - the date set by the Director-General, as a result of a resolution of the General Council, for the liquidation of the present work of the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service. It is felt that the later developments in the program of Child Search will be more clearly understood if written chronologically and this procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

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The definition of an unaccompanied child was given in Provisional Order No. 35, issued on the 18th November 1947 by the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization, and its amendment, Provisional Order No. 35.1, issued on the 17th April 1948.

"The definition of 'Unaccompanied Children' in the Constitution of the International Refugee Organization, para. 4, Section A, Part I, Annex 1, is interpreted to mean children who fulfil the six following conditions. They must be:

- (a) 16 years of age or under (i.e. a child who has not attained his 17th birthday);
- (b) Orphan of their country of origin or of that of their parents;
- (c) Orphan or children whose parents have disappeared, or who have been abandoned, or whose parents are untraceable;
- (d) Not provided with a legal guardian, or children whose guardian has disappeared, or abandoned them or who is untraceable.

(e)

257

- (e) Not accompanied by a close relative (adult brother, sister, uncle, aunt, or grandparents).
- (f) Children in respect of whom there exists a presumption that they belong to one of the categories of refugees or displaced persons on whose account PCIRO was embodied."

It should be noted here that this definition varied from the UNRRA definition under (a) in that under UNRRA a child retained its "Unaccompanied Child" status until its 18th birthday. This new definition was to produce certain difficulties in the work, since most countries regard children as minors until their 18th birthday.

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It was decided at the I.R.O. Headquarters, Geneva, that the activities of Child Search - tracing and documentation of children - should be separated from those of welfare investigations and future planning. To implement this decision, a conference was held between representatives of the Zonal tracing offices and representatives of Zonal Child Welfare Offices. It was the consensus of opinion of the conference group that any division of responsibility for location and re-establishment planning for children into two processes, carried on under separate organisational auspices, was a mistake. It was felt that the programme could not be fully effective unless one administration - either within an already existing IRO unit, or an entirely new separate unit - were responsible for all activities in relation to unaccompanied children (with the exception of physical care in the Children's Centres). It was recommended that the direction of Child Search and Tracing functions should entail:

- (a) The setting up of a central master index of all children lost and found.
- (b) Centralisation of all tracing correspondence,
- (c) Establishment of a central library of documents pertaining to children,
- (d) Central development and supervision of search and tracing plans and methods.

For some time thereafter, no decision was made by I.R.O. Headquarters concerning the exact future of Child Search, but information was received that the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization would issue an order for the continuation of Child Search. In view of this, Child Search was continued on the same basis as before. The only field staff available were those of the International Tracing Service whose duty it was to trace adults and supervise the collection of German documents in accordance with the 1946 Military directives (see Page 8). Child Search had not been included in the original plans of the International Tracing Service and no provision had been made for staff to handle the work. A full speed ahead was, therefore, impossible and an attempt was made to steer a middle course - major search

plans

127

(a) Not recommended by a close relative (child, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, or grandparent).

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plans

158

plans were held in abeyance and efforts were made to prevent matters from slipping too far back.

The importance of the work of Child Search was again stressed as a result of the judgment given by the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nurnberg in Case No. 8, commonly known as the RUSHA (Race and Settlement Main Office) Case, which involved deportation and kidnapping of children. Vital information was obtained through interrogations of the defendants by members of the Child Search staff. The probable destination of a number of "Lebensborn" children was reported and more detailed information was given about the operation of "Lebensborn", together with the names of many persons able to furnish further details on the possible location of kidnapped United Nations' children.

A second conference was held, in order further to clarify the work of Child Search. This conference was attended by representatives of the International Tracing Service and representatives from Child Search and Child Welfare of the three Western Zones of Germany and Austria. It was decided, with the general concurrence of all the members of this working committee, that a central Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service should be built up. Furthermore, the U.S. Zone Child Search and Tracing Section was to form the nucleus for the newly formed Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service. All future Child Search and Child Tracing activities were to be centralised and coordinated by this Branch office.

A special survey for the possible location of United Nations unaccompanied children was carried out in Land Niedersachsen of the British Zone of Germany. This survey was made by German authorities. The names of all presumably non-German children were to be recorded and reported to the International Tracing Service. The initial stage of the investigation of the children reported had to be done through correspondence, for there was at the time no Field investigation staff in the British Zone. As a result of the sifting of the material received, the following points became evident:

- (a) The number of cases of children to be investigated was relatively high.
- (b) Much useful documentary material was found and many valuable clues were uncovered.
- (c) Dependence on German reporting, regardless of how carefully planned and interpreted, would never solve the problem of locating all the unaccompanied non-German children being sought.
- (d) The answer lay in a method which would provide automatically for a check on every child's case, German or Allied.

Extensive research, taking the above mentioned points into consideration, resulted in the drafting of two possible plans for the final effort to locate Allied children in Germany :

(1) The General

plans were held in abeyance and efforts were made to prevent matters from slipping too far back.

The importance of the work of Child Search was again stressed as a result of the judgment given by the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg in Case No. 8, commonly known as the BUSHA (Bessie and Settlement Main Office) Case, which involved deportation and kidnapping of children. Vital information was obtained through interrogations of the defendants by members of the Child Search staff. The probable destination of a number of "Leprosy" children was reported and was detailed information was given about the operation of "Leprosy", together with the names of many persons able to furnish further details on the possible location of kidnapped United Nations' children.

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- (b) Much useful documentary material was found and many valuable clues were uncovered.
- (c) Dependence on German reporting, regardless of how carefully planned and interpreted, would never solve the problem of locating all the unaccompanied non-German children being sought.
- (d) The answer lay in a method which would provide automatically for a check on every child's case, German or Allied.

Extensive research, taking the above mentioned points for consideration, resulted in the drafting of two possible plans for the final effort to locate Allied children in Germany:

(1) The General

(1) The General Registration Plan, requiring the registration of all children in Germany falling within certain age groups. The outline of this plan was as follows:

(a) A uniform directive to be issued for the registration of all children under 18 years of age, without regard to their citizenship, living in the Western Occupied Zones of Germany.

(b) The German authorities to be responsible for implementing the directive.

(c) The Bürgermeister (Mayor) of each community to be responsible for carrying out the directive.

(d) The German Food Office to be responsible for the distribution of the questionnaires (it should be noted that at that time food was rationed in Germany) through its own channels.

(e) The questionnaires, when returned to the German Food Office, to be submitted to the local Kreis or Stadtjugendamt (County or City Youth Office) concerned.

(f) The Jugendamt (Youth Office) to forward to the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service, through appropriate channels, the completed questionnaires of these children who came within the following categories:

i) Juveniles who entered the territory of the "Altreich" (Germany before the annexation of Austria) during the period 1st October 1938 to May 9th 1945.

ii) Any child who entered Germany after the above mentioned period and whose birthplace was established as being outside the boundaries of Germany (as of 1st October 1938).

iii) Any child born to a mother of foreign nationality (as from 1st October 1938) in or outside the boundaries of the so-called "Altreich".

iv) Any questionnaires on which answers to either of the following two points were not clear:
(a) Concerning the child's mother
(b) Origin of the child.

v) Any child adopted by, or in foster care of, resettlers, refugees and expellers, who entered Germany after the 9th May 1945.

(2) The Census Plan utilising the German Census returns of 1946. For the purpose of Child

Search

(1) The General Registration Plan, regarding the registration of all children in Germany falling within certain age groups. The outline of this plan was as follows:

(a) A uniform directive to be issued for the registration of all children under 18 years of age, without regard to their citizenship, living in the Western Occupied Zones of Germany.

(b) The German authorities to be responsible for implementing the directive.

(c) The Bürgermeister (Mayor) of each community to be responsible for carrying out the directive.

(d) The German Food Office to be responsible for the distribution of the questionnaires (it should be noted that at that time food was rationed in Germany) through its own channels.

(e) The questionnaires, when returned to the German Food Office, to be submitted to the local Kreis or Stadtjugendamt (County or City Youth Office) concerned.

(2) The Jugendamt (Youth Office) to forward to the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service, through appropriate channels, the completed questionnaires of those children who came within the following categories:

i) Children who entered the territory of the "Altreich" (Germany before the annexation of Austria) during the period 1st October 1938 to May 9th 1945.

ii) Any child who entered Germany after the above mentioned period and whose birthplace was established as being outside the boundaries of Germany (as of 1st October 1938).

iii) Any child born to a mother of foreign nationality (as from 1st October 1938) in or outside the boundaries of the so-called "Altreich".

iv) Any questionnaires on which answers to either of the following two points were not clear:
(a) Concerning the child's mother
(b) Origin of the child.

v) Any child adopted by, or in foster care of, resettlers, refugees and expellees, who entered Germany after the 9th May 1945.

(3) The German Plan utilizing the German Census Returns of 1940. For the purpose of Child Search

Search, the following questions were of major importance :

- (a) Year of birth
- (b) Address
- (c) Permanent residence, as of 1st September 1939
- (d) Place of birth
- (e) Citizenship
- (f) Native language

It was considered that the population group which arrived in Germany after 1st September 1939 ought to contain, theoretically at least, most of the Allied children deported to Germany during the war, or born there during the war, and also those non-German children who had been displaced as a result of the war.

An informal conference was held at I.R.O. Headquarters, Geneva in May. This was attended by representatives of the three Occupying Powers in Western Germany, as well as the Director of the International Tracing Service and the Chief of the Child Search Branch. Here, the foundation was laid for the I.R.O. policy in agreement with the Occupation Authorities. The majority opinion was that a concerted and intensified effort must be made to find and repatriate all non-German children within a limited period of time, possibly within 12 to 18 months. The importance of removing the children from German care was stressed. It was considered that, in the absence of a parent, the Government of the nation of which the unaccompanied child was a citizen, should be the authority responsible for children from countries who had no recognized governmental representation in Germany. In line with the recommendation for an intensified Search Programme with an early terminal date in view, representatives of the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service and of the Care and Maintenance staff at I.R.O. Headquarters Geneva collaborated in setting up a budget, covering the estimated total costs of location, care and reestablishment of unaccompanied non-German children. The Child Welfare Consultant at Geneva Headquarters considered it highly important that the Child Search Branch should carry the work on the individual child through registration, investigation and documentation. The International Tracing Service, Child Search Branch portion of the proposed budget was, therefore, made out to include these functions.

An emergency budget was prepared, submitted and approved by I.R.O. Headquarters, Geneva. Provision was made for setting up a fairly complete establishment for the Child Tracing Section, as the hub about which all future action on cases would revolve. The Documents Intelligence Section was allotted sufficient staff to carry out the planning and initiation of large scale and uniform search measures. The position of Zonal Child Search Officer was set up in each of the three Western Zones of Germany to lay the foundations for field work in the respective Zones. Subsequently, a second budget was prepared, covering the full requirements for carrying out the final search plans.

In order

Search, the following questions were of major importance:

- (1) Native language
- (2) Citizenship
- (3) Place of birth
- (4) Present residence, as of 1st September 1939
- (5) Address
- (6) Year of birth

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In order to implement the decisions reached at the conference between I.R.O. and the Occupation representatives, additional conferences were held with representatives of Military Authorities in Germany. The Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organisation issued Provisional Order No. 75, dated 26th July, 1948. This was the final outline of the responsibilities of the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service. This order ruled that, in contradistinction to the organisation under UNRRA, work for unaccompanied children under the I.R.O. should be divided between the International Tracing Service, Child Search Branch, and the Department of Care and Maintenance, Child Welfare. The division of responsibilities was outlined as follows:

"RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PCIRO PROGRAMME FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN"

Under the Organisation's expanded programme for dealing with Unaccompanied Children, the functions and responsibilities for Child Search and Child Tracing, Welfare Eligibility, Legal Protection, Health, Repatriation and Resettlement have been allocated between the operational divisions of the Organisation as follows:

(a) The International Tracing Service

- i) The location of unaccompanied children
- ii) The preparation of original and individual documentation. This includes interviewing the person or family which has the child in its care; securing corroborative evidence and procuring documents of identity, nationality and family; appending relevant comments which are likely to assist Child Welfare Officers in planning for the child's future.
- iii) The tracing of the child's relatives
- iv) The transmission of records and related documents to and conduct of correspondence with the Child Welfare staff
- v) The maintenance of the case file on record for tracing purposes and for the answering of subsequent enquiries.

(b) The Department of Care and Maintenance - Child Welfare Staff

- i) The verification of the child's nationality and social status
- ii) The initiation and completion of the social investigation report
- iii) The recommending of both temporary and permanent plans for the child's repatriation, resettlement or establishment.
- iv) The execution of the agreed plans
- v) Informing the International Tracing

In order to implement the decisions reached at the conference between I.R.C. and the Government representatives, additional conferences were held with representatives of Military authorities in Germany. The Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization issued Provisional Order No. 72, dated 28th July, 1948. This was the final outline of the responsibilities of the Child Search Branch of the International Refugee Service. This order laid down the coordination of the organization with UNRWA, work for unaccompanied children under the I.R.C. should be divided between the International Tracing Service, Child Search Branch, and the Department of Care and Maintenance, Child Welfare. The division of responsibilities was outlined as follows:

*** RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN ***

Under the Organization's expanded programme for dealing with Unaccompanied Children, the functions and responsibilities for Child Search and Child Tracing, Welfare, Identity, Legal, Protection, Health, Registration and Health - have been allocated between the operational divisions of the Organization as follows:

(a) The International Tracing Service

- i) The location of unaccompanied children
- ii) The preparation of original and last-visual documentation. This includes interviewing the person or family which has the child in its care; securing corroborative evidence and producing documents of identity, nationality and family; appealing relevant documents which are likely to assist Child Welfare Officers in planning for the child's future.
- iii) The tracing of the child's relatives
- iv) The transmission of records and related documents to and conduct of correspondence with the Child Welfare staff
- v) The maintenance of the case file on record for tracing purposes and for the answering of subsequent enquiries.

(b) The Department of Care and Maintenance - Child Welfare Staff

- i) The verification of the child's nationality and social status
- ii) The initiation and completion of the social investigation report
- iii) The recommending of both temporary and permanent plans for the child's reception, resettlement or establishment.
- iv) The execution of the agreed plans
- v) Informing the International Tracing Service

Service of the child's final location and the decisions reached in the case

- vi) The reference to and coordination with appropriate PCIRO officials of all matters affecting eligibility, legal protection, health, care, maintenance, repatriation, resettlement, or local establishment. The advice given and the action taken, however, will not conflict with procedures currently followed by Field Offices.

(c) Elizibility Officer

Initiation of eligibility certificates to entitled children

(d) The Legal Adviser

- i) Advising concerning the validity of documents and the nature of required statements for determining of nationality
- ii) Advice and guidance on all individual legal problems affecting adoption, abandonment, etc.

(e) Health, Care and Maintenance

Implementation of all policies defined and procedures prescribed

(f) Repatriation and Resettlement

- i) Advising on all problems affecting repatriation
- ii) Initiation and organisation of resettlement schemes in accordance with established policies to determine the cases referred by Child Welfare Officer.
- iii) Initiation of technical arrangements for collection and transportation of children and their travel documents, and the provision of escorts (after clearance for departure has been given by the Occupation Authorities) on all movements for repatriation or resettlement."

It will be noted, that the responsibility for unaccompanied children, which was carried under UNRRA by one branch was, through this Provisional Order, subdivided by the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organisation. The consequence of this move soon became apparent.

In order to be absolutely sure of obtaining the approval of the Military Authorities for a final general search plan for United Nations' children in Germany, a less ambitious plan - the limited Registration Plan - was prepared, in addition to the two plans previously described (the General Registration Plan and the Census Plan).

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(vi) The reference to and coordination with appropriate local officials of all matters affecting eligibility, legal protection, health, care, maintenance, registration, resettlement, or local establishment. The advice given and the action taken, however, will not conflict with procedures currently followed by field offices.

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(ii) Advice and guidance on all individual legal problems affecting adoption, abandonment, etc.

(e) Health, Care and Maintenance

Implementation of all policies defined and procedures prescribed

(f) Registration and Resettlement

(i) Advising on all problems affecting registration

(ii) Initiation and organization of resettlement schemes in accordance with established policies to determine the cases referred by Child Welfare Officers.

(iii) Initiation of technical arrangements for collection and transmission of children and their travel documents, and the provision of escorts (after clearance for departure has been given by the Occupation Authorities) on all movements for registration or resettlement.

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In order to be absolutely sure of obtaining the approval of the Military Authorities for a final general action plan for United Nations' children in Germany, a less ambitious plan - the limited Registration Plan - was prepared, in addition to the two plans previously described (the General Registration Plan and the Census Plan).

The Limited Registration Plan entailed the registration of all children in German institutions and foster homes, as well as all children adopted since the beginning of the last war. The object of this plan was to obtain complete data on the following categories of children residing in the three Western Zones of Occupied Germany :

- (a) Foster children (Pflegekinder), that is, children under 14 years of age who are constantly or for certain hours of the day regularly provided for by foster parents, if it has not been agreed beforehand that they will be cared for temporarily and free of charge. In addition, returns would be made on those foster children over whom the Jugendämter (Youth Offices) had relinquished control within the three year period preceding the registration, due to their having reached the age of 14.
- (b) All children who, on the date specified, were cared for by any kind of children's home, public or private, including, but not limited to, welfare institutions, orphanages, houses of correction, parochial institutes, homes for physically handicapped children, etc.
- (c) All children who were adopted between 1st September 1939 and the date of registration by virtue of an adoption contract approved by any Guardianship Court located within the three Western Zones in Germany. This category also contained a small group of children for whom an adoption contract had been concluded, but which contract had then been disapproved by the Guardianship Court.

Implementation of this plan involved the following German agencies:

- (a) At Land level: Landesjugendämter (Land Youth Offices), Justizministerien (Ministries of Justice) and Kultur- oder Erziehungsministerien (Ministries of Religious Affairs and/or Education).
- (b) At Kreis level: Kreis oder Stadtjugendämter, respectively, (County or Town Youth Offices) and Amtsgerichte (District Courts).

In the case of foster children the Jugendämter (Youth Offices) would forward the completed questionnaires direct to the Child Search Branch or via the Landesjugendämter (Land Youth Offices).

The Amtsgerichte would forward the completed questionnaires on adopted children direct to the Child Search Branch, or via the Ministries of Justice. These questionnaires on foster children and adopted children would then be checked against the master files and processed. All cases of children of non-German or undetermined nationality would be turned over to the Child Search officers in the Field for investigation and registration as might be required.

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(b) All children who, on the date specified, were cared for by any kind of children's home, public or private, including, but not limited to, welfare institutions, orphanages, homes of correction, parental institutes, homes for physically handicapped children, etc.

(c) All children who were adopted between 1st September 1939 and the date of registration by virtue of an adoption contract approved by any Guardianship Court located within the three Western Zones in Germany. This category also contained a small group of children for whom an adoption contract had been concluded, but which contract had then been dissolved by the Guardianship Court.

Implementation of this plan involved the following German agencies:

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All German institutions in which children were cared for would be visited by Child Search Field officers. The latter would require the heads of the German institutions to submit a list of all children accommodated there. The Child Search Officer would register, on the spot, all cases of children of non-German as well as of undetermined nationality. The lists of children received from the institutions, as well as the completed registrations, would then be forwarded by the Child Search Officer to the Child Search Branch Headquarters for further processing.

These three major search plans, - the General Registration Plan, the Census Plan and the Limited Registration Plan - were presented to the Military Authorities of all three Western Zones. The plans were given a generally favourable recognition. It was suggested by the Military Authorities that tests of the three methods should be carried out. For the General Registration Plan a test in a small sample community, namely in a German Refugee Camp in the British Zone, was agreed upon. For the Census Plan, a test was made of about 300 sample cases of the 1946 German Census returns. For the Limited Registration Plan, a miniature operation was decided upon, covering only Landkreis Esslingen in the U.S. Zone, the seat of the Headquarters of the Child Search Branch. After the completion of these tests, the staff who had conducted these operations met and discussed the results. It was the consensus of opinion of these officers that the General Registration Plan was the best. It was found, after examining the results of the Census Plan test, that there was insufficient information available for our purpose on the Census questionnaires. The scope of the Limited Registration Plan was decided to be too limited to permit of a thorough coverage. It seemed, therefore, that the General Registration Plan presented the best possible solution for finalising the search for unaccompanied United Nations' children in Germany. A recommendation was made on these lines to the Military Authorities of the three Western Zones of Germany. The response of the Military Authorities definitely precluded the acceptance of the General Registration Plan. It was agreed upon, therefore, to concentrate on the efficient implementation of the Limited Registration Plan.

Finally, in October 1948, approval was given by I.R.O. Headquarters for a budget to cover the full requirement for carrying out the search plan within one year. The time limit of one year, however, proved to be illusory, due to the difficulties encountered even in implementing the Limited Registration Plan. The allocation of funds, however, at that time permitted the Child Search Branch to set up its organizational pattern as follows :

I. The Headquarters Office was divided into two main sections:

- 1) Documents Intelligence section with sub-sections:
 - a) Operational Planning
 - b) Documents Processing Unit
 - c) Central Library of Children's Documents

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222

All German institutions in which children were cared for
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 latter would register the names of the German institutions
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 parentage. The list of children received
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 to set up its organizational pattern as follows:

- I. The Headquarters Office was divided into two main sections:
 - 1) Document Investigation Section with sub-sections:
 - a) Operational Planning
 - b) Document Processing Unit
 - c) Central Library of Children's Documents

This section was responsible for evolving and carrying out the plans for the general search for unaccompanied non-German children by utilizing Nazi documents, found in Germany and other countries; for checking the records of German children's homes; for supervising the German authorities responsible for registering all unaccompanied children known to the Jugendämter, and all adoption cases known to the adoption courts; and for reviewing all cases of unaccompanied children living in German foster homes and institutions.

2) Tracing Section with sub-sections:

- a) Active Tracing Operation
- b) Central Children's Index
- c) Central Library of individual Children's Case Records.

The main responsibilities of the Tracing Section were tracing for individual missing children enquired for by name; and handling the cases of located unaccompanied non-German children, involving the identification of the children, establishing their citizenship, and finding their relatives.

Voluntary Agencies staff were to be attached to Field Offices.

II. Field Operations.

1) Within Germany.

Each Zone Child Search Officer was responsible for carrying out the operation within his Zone. In the U.S. and British Zones the Zone Officers controlled Search Teams which carried out all the necessary investigations and interrogations. In the French Zone there were no I.R.O. teams; the Zone Officer carried out his functions by coordination with the French Military Government Officers who did the actual investigations. This arrangement, in practice, proved to be unsatisfactory and, by agreement with the Military Government, the French Zone was later patterned in the same manner as the U.S. and British Zones.

2) In countries other than Germany.

The work, here, had to be conditioned to the local situation and was performed either by an IRO Mission, National Tracing Bureau, or Voluntary Agencies. All action was coordinated through the Headquarters of the Child Search Branch.

The Limited Registration Plan was put into operation in the French Zone of Occupation in December 1948. In cooperation with the French Military Government, complete agreement was reached with all agencies in the French Zone concerned with the efficient execution of this plan.

In the British and U.S. Zones of Occupation, the Zone Child Search officers, towards the end of the year, established local contacts and discussed the technical aspects of the Limited Registration Plan with their staff

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2) Working Section with sub-sections:

- a) Active Working Operation
- b) Central Children's Index
- c) Central Library of Individual Children's Case Records

The main responsibility of the Working Section were tracing for individual missing children reported for by name; and handling the cases of located unaccompanied non-German children, involving the identification of the children, establishing their citizenship, and finding their relatives.

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and the respective Military and German authorities. Approval of the plan by the responsible Military Government officials had not been received by the end of the year 1948.

During the year, much public interest was evinced in the problem of the search for unaccompanied United Nations' children. The American film "The Search" was released. Several radio programmes covered Child Search and some dozen newspaper correspondents visited the Branch. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, on the occasion of her visit to Stuttgart, Germany, had a conversation with the Chief of the Branch. She was particularly interested in the work of Child Search in view of her responsibilities as an American representative to the United Nations.

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At the beginning of 1949, the stage was finally set for the drive to locate and reunite with their relatives the thousands of children still missing so many years after the war. For the first time, in the history of Child Search, there was the prospect of a sufficient number of qualified staff, equipped with adequate transport. The original plan had been for the whole programme of Child Search work to be concluded in the year October 1948 - October 1949. It was obvious, however, at the beginning of 1949 that this would be impossible, since there appeared to be no likelihood of having the necessary staff and vehicles immediately in position. (Indeed, the staff was never complete and the transport was never adequate).

Centralisation of Child Search.

In January 1949, the problem of Child Search was presented to a conference of representatives of Voluntary Societies, held at I.R.O. Headquarters, Geneva. It was at this conference, also, that an agreement was reached with the various Voluntary Societies as well as with the I.R.O. Missions, that all search work concerning unaccompanied children should be centralized at the Headquarters of the Child Search Branch. This final centralization of all activities involved coordination with I.R.O. Missions and Voluntary Societies, in the following countries - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, East Africa, Egypt, France, Holland, India, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, New Zealand, South Africa, and Spain. All unaccompanied children of foreign nationality in these countries were registered and their registration forms forwarded for inclusion in the Master file of the Child Search Branch Headquarters. As a result, some long outstanding enquiries were immediately solved. The Voluntary Societies had always been very interested in the problem of unaccompanied children and felt strongly that some positive steps should be taken by the United Nations, and special consideration given to the problem of children. Accordingly, the delegates of 49 Voluntary Organizations, from the 13 countries which were represented at this meeting, formulated a resolution urging the United Nations to assume further responsibility for tracing children kidnapped by the Nazis and for the

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and the respective military and naval authorities.
Approval of the plan by the respective military govern-
ment officials has not been received by the end of the
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sufficient number of qualified staff, equipped with
adequate transport. The original plan had been for the
whole programme of Child Search work to be completed in
the year October 1948 - October 1949. It was obvious,
however, at the beginning of 1949 that this would be
impossible, since there appeared to be no likelihood of
having the necessary staff and vehicles immediately in
position. (Indeed, the staff was never complete and
the transport was never adequate.)

Continuation of Child Search

In January 1949, the problem of Child Search was
presented to a conference of representatives of Volun-
tary Societies held at I.R.O. Headquarters, Geneva.
It was at this conference, also, that an agreement
was reached with the various Voluntary Societies as well
as with the I.R.O. Mission, that all search work con-
cerning unaccompanied children should be coordinated at
the Headquarters of the Child Search Branch. This final
coordination of all activities involved coordinating
with I.R.O. Missions and Voluntary Societies in the
following countries - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, East
Africa, Egypt, France, Holland, India, Lebanon,
Luxembourg, New Zealand, South Africa, and Spain. All
unaccompanied children of foreign nationality in those
countries were registered and their respective forms
forwarded for inclusion in the Master List of the Child
Search Branch Headquarters. As a result, some long
outstanding enquiries were immediately solved. The
Voluntary Societies had always been very interested in
the problem of unaccompanied children and felt strongly
that some positive steps should be taken by the United
Nations, and special consideration given to the problem
of children. Accordingly, the delegates of 49 Voluntary
Organizations from 15 countries which were repre-
sented at this meeting, formulated a resolution urging
the United Nations to assume further responsibility for
finding children kidnapped by the Nazis and for the

protection

protection and care of those unaccompanied children, whose cases would not have been finally resolved by the time the I.R.O. closed. It is only too unfortunate that this resolution was never considered and acted upon by the United Nations and that the question of unaccompanied children continued to be handled merely as a part of the overall refugee problem, rather than as a special and separate problem.

This failure on the part of the I.R.O. and the United Nations to consider unaccompanied children as a separate problem, whose boundaries stretched far beyond the restricted mandate of the I.R.O., resulted in many anomalies. A vast quantity of paper passed from office to office, delays were, of necessity, many. Many cases worked on for months, were finally determined to be ineligible for I.R.O. services and were then thrown into the lap of the German authorities, who were frequently not equipped for or able to give the necessary services for reuniting parents and children, particularly when the parents were located outside Germany. The chief sufferers, of course, are the unfortunate children who continue to grow up not knowing who they are or where they come from.

Limited Registration Plan

In the Spring of 1949 clearance was finally obtained from the U.S. and British Military Governments for the implementation of the Limited Registration Plan in their Zones of Germany. In the U.S. Zone, conferences were held with the three Lander Military Governments and instructions formulated for issuance to the German authorities. These instructions were sent by Military Government to the Minister President of each Land who was responsible for the proper promulgation and compliance by the German Ministries concerned. In the British Zone, the representatives of the Child Search Branch were empowered to deal direct with the appropriate German offices.

While these negotiations were proceeding a careful study was made by the Branch Headquarters office of the test operation carried out in Landkreis Esslingen on the Limited Registration Plan with a view to using the experience gained thereby for technical planning and giving instructions to the German authorities and the Child Search Field staff. It was anticipated, on the basis of German statistical returns, that some 400,000 cases would have to be handled. After discussion with the Hollerith firm (I.B.M. system) and the Tracing Service of the German Red Cross, it was finally decided that, in cooperation with the German Red Cross, these cases should be processed by the Hollerith (I.B.M.) system. From this time forward, it should be noted, the Child Search Branch entered into a very close cooperation with the German Red Cross. This cooperation proved to be of mutual benefit to German unaccompanied children, as well as to United Nations unaccompanied children.

By May 1949, the Limited Registration Plan was being implemented in the three Western Zones of Germany with the exception of the City of Berlin. In Berlin, the blockade had precluded the possibility of holding meetings with the

D.P. Branch

744

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This failure on the part of the I.R.O. and the United Nations to consider unaccompanied children as a separate problem, whose handling overlapped for a period the restricted mandate of the I.R.O., resulted in many anomalies. A vast quantity of papers passed from office to office, delays were, of course, inevitable. Many cases worked on for months, were finally determined to be ineligible for I.R.O. services and were then thrown into the lap of the German authorities, who were frequently not equipped for or able to give the necessary services for resettling parents and children, particularly when the parents were located outside Germany. The only alternatives, of course, are the unfortunates children who continue to grow up not knowing who they are or where they come from.

Limited Registration Plan

In the Spring of 1953 clearance was finally obtained from the U.S. and British Military Governments for the implementation of the Limited Registration Plan in their zones of Germany. In the U.S. zone, conferences were held with the three Länder Military Governments and instructions formulated for clearance of the German authorities. These instructions were sent by Military Government to the Minister President of each Land who was responsible for the proper presentation and compliance by the German authorities concerned. In the British zone, the representatives of the United States Branch were empowered to deal direct with the appropriate German officials.

While these negotiations were proceeding a detailed study was made by the British Headquarters Office of the Limited Registration Plan with a view to being on the spot to assist the German authorities and give instructions to the German authorities and the United States Branch staff. It was anticipated, as the date of German registration varied, that some 400,000 cases would have to be handled. After discussion with the British Liaison (I.R.O. Liaison) and the Training Service of the German Red Cross, it was finally decided that in cooperation with the German Red Cross, these cases should be processed by the British (I.R.O.) system. From that time forward, it should be noted, the United States Branch entered into a very close cooperation with the German Red Cross. This cooperation proved to be of mutual benefit to German unaccompanied children, as well as to United Nations unaccompanied children.

By May 1953, the Limited Registration Plan was being implemented in the three Western zones of Germany with the exception of the City of Berlin. In Berlin, the blockade had precluded the possibility of holding meetings with the

D.P. Branch and Public Welfare Branch officials of the British, French and U.S. Military Governments. Discussions were finally held in May. A general agreement was reached for joint action in carrying out the Limited Registration Plan in all three Western Sectors of the city. Military Government officials of the City of Berlin did not issue direct orders to the German authorities responsible for the carrying out of the Plan. They stated that they preferred the search to be carried out on a cooperative basis between their office, our office, and the German administration in the City of Berlin. This lack of orders to the German administration, however, proved no handicap. As a matter of fact, much credit must be given to the German administration in the City of Berlin for the most cooperative attitude they adopted towards aiding the International Tracing Service in finding unaccompanied United Nations' children.

The progress of the Limited Registration Plan operation was reviewed and an analysis of the situation prepared, at the time of the General Council Meeting of the I.R.O. in July. As a result, it was possible to make the following prognosis concerning the probable finishing dates of the various processes involved:

- (a) Due to inaccurate reporting by the German authorities, the machine processing (I.B.M.) of the questionnaires would not be completed before the beginning of 1950.
- (b) The bulk of the Field investigations might be expected to be completed on or about June 30, 1950.
- (c) Individual tracing for children and relatives should probably be completed some time in 1951.

By the end of 1949 the first phase of the Limited Registration Plan - the screening of German children's institutions - had been completed in the British, French and U.S. Zones. Of this phase there remained to be done only the city of Berlin where 54 institutions had yet to be checked. It had been noted, however, that the German authorities frequently made incomplete reports on institutions, and that much checking and referring back was required. It was anticipated that some unreported institutions would be discovered by our Field staff, necessitating a return to work on the first phase of the operation.

The second phase - the investigation of children in German foster homes - had begun in the U.S. Zone in November. The results obtained by the end of December were very encouraging and a greatly increased number of children was registered during December.

Identification of many children reported was made possible by a check of the German returns against the index of birth certificates held by the Child Search Branch. It will be remembered that in 1946 the German authorities had been ordered to send in documents concerning non-German nationals (see Page 8). These documents included the birth certificates of the innumerable children born to slave labourers in Germany during the war. The birth certificates were sorted and filed in such a form as to make ready checking possible. It was planned to check all these birth certificates against the returns of the Limited Registration Plan by means of the Hollerith (I.B.M.) machine. Children

U.S. Branch and British Liaison Branch officials of the British, French and U.S. Military Governments. Discussions were finally held in May. A general agreement was reached for joint action in carrying out the limited registration plan in all urban areas of the city. Military Government officials of the City of Berlin did not seem to object to the German administrative responsibility for the carrying out of the plan. They stated that they preferred the plan to be carried out on a cooperative basis between their office, our office, and the German administration in the City of Berlin. This lack of objection to the German administration, however, proved to be a matter of fact, and it is noted that the German administration in the City of Berlin has given us the most cooperative attitude they adopted in words during the International Tracing Service in Berlin and unaccompanied British Warship children.

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- (a) The in accurate reports by the German authorities, the machine processing (I.R.C.) of the questionnaires would not be completed before the beginning of 1953.
- (b) The bulk of the field investigations might be expected to be completed in or about June 30, 1953.
- (c) Individual tracing for children and relatives should probably be completed some time in 1953.

By the end of 1952 the first phase of the limited registration plan - the processing of German children's institutions - had been completed in the British, French and U.S. Zones. Of this phase there remains to be done only the City of Berlin where 25 institutions had yet to be checked. It had been noted, however, that the German authorities progressively made inaccurate reports on institutions, and that such checking and relating had not yet started. It was anticipated that some of the reported institutions would be discovered by our field staff, necessitating a return to work on the first phase of the operation.

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of the following nationalities were involved: Austrian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Byelorussian, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, French, Greek, Hungarian, Iran, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luxembourg, Norwegian, Polish, Roumanian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Yugoslav.

It had been hoped, at the time of the inception of the Limited Registration Plan, that the majority of the unaccompanied missing children, falling within the mandate of the I.R.O., would be located by means of the plan. Nevertheless, it had always been realised that this plan could not be expected to give complete coverage. Apart from the fact that only certain categories of children were registered, success depended on complete records being held by the German authorities and upon their accurate reporting. Experience showed that this was far from being the case. In the course of their investigations, the Child Search Officers located German institutions and foster children whose existence had not apparently been known to the German authorities. It was felt, therefore, that the only way of being certain that every possible step had been taken to find the missing children was to make use of the coming German Population Census of 1950. By inserting a few additional questions to the census forms, it should be possible to uncover those children who had not been found under the Limited Registration Plan. It had not been possible to utilise the 1946 population census, since the questionnaires did not include the points required for the locating of unaccompanied children. To ensure that the 1950 German Census would cover all the points necessary for utilising the returns in the search for unaccompanied children in Germany, preliminary conferences were held with the German Statistical Office and the International Tracing Service addressed letters to the High Commissioners of the three Western Zones, asking them to permit the Child Search Branch to make use of the coming Census.

Queries in regard to the Registration of Children

In the course of working on the Limited Registration Plan, many and varied questions arose on technical points, which had to be referred to the I.R.O. Headquarters in Geneva, since they involved, in greater or lesser degrees, questions of policy and alignment with other branches of the I.R.O. Discussions occurred and decisions were made on the following points:

(1) Registration of questionably eligible categories of children

It was decided that registration should include:

- (a) Children of ex-enemy countries (with the exception of Germans)
- (b) Children of ethnic German origin (with presumed non-German citizenship)
- (c) Children who became unaccompanied after the war.

A great deal of work was done for children in categories (a) and (b) after their registration had been agreed upon by the I.R.O. Headquarters. In the end, however, after all action had been taken - children registered, parents or other relatives traced, documentation procured, - the I.R.O. declared many ineligible for further services.

of the following countries were involved: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia.

It had been hoped, at the time of the inception of the United Registration Plan, that the majority of the unaccompanied missing children, falling within the scope of the I.R.O., would be located by means of the plan. However, it has not yet been possible to locate any of these children. It is expected that the plan could not be expected to give complete coverage. Apart from the fact that only certain categories of children were registered, parents registered on the plan were held by the German authorities and were not permitted to travel. It is also known that this group of children was not reported to the German authorities. In the course of their investigations, the Child Search Officers located German locations and located children whose parents had not previously been known to the German authorities. It was felt, therefore, that the only way of being sure that every possible step had been taken to find the missing children was to make use of the German German Population Census of 1933. It was felt that it would be possible to question the census forms. It should be possible to discover those children who had not been found under the United Registration Plan. It had not been possible to utilize the 1930 population census, since the questionnaires did not include the points required for the location of unaccompanied children. To ensure that the 1933 German Census would cover all the points necessary for utilizing the returns in the search for unaccompanied children in Germany, preliminary questionnaires were held with the German Statistical Office and the International Tracing Service addressed letters to the High Commissioners of the three Western Zones, asking them to permit the Child Search Branch to make use of the census forms.

Queries in regard to the Registration of Children

In the course of working on the United Registration Plan, many and varied queries arose on technical points which had to be referred to the I.R.O. Headquarters in Geneva, since they involved, in greater or lesser degree, questions of policy and alignment with other branches of the I.R.O. Discussions occurred and decisions were made on the following points:

(1) Registration of unaccompanied missing children

- (a) Children of ex-enemy countries (with the exception of Germany)
- (b) Children of ethnic German origin (with presumed non-German citizenship)
- (c) Children who become unaccompanied after the war.

A great deal of work has been done for children in categories (a) and (b) since their registration had been agreed upon by the I.R.O. Headquarters. In the end, however, after all action had been taken - children registered, parents or other relatives traced, documentation prepared - the I.R.O. decided many inquiries for further services.

(2) Children once deemed accompanied who might become unaccompanied

A new problem arose as a result of the enlarged resettlement programme. Under the I.R.O. definition of an unaccompanied child (Geneva Provisional Order No. 33), a child is not unaccompanied if under the care of a close relative, i.e. adult brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandparents. Such relatives, however, do not constitute legal guardians. The possibility arose, therefore, that the "Close Relative" wishing to emigrate might, willingly or unwillingly, have to leave the child behind. It would then fall into the unaccompanied category. To meet this difficulty, it was agreed that any children who were expected to become unaccompanied due to the resettlement programme should be reported by Child Welfare officers to the International Tracing Service for necessary action.

(3) Registration of eligible children whose unaccompanied status was questionable.

- (a) Children living with putative father and/or putative relatives. To be considered as unaccompanied and therefore registered.
- (b) Children who are temporarily unaccompanied, that is, children who are under the supervision of an adult in jail, an insane asylum, or a hospital. These had to be considered as unaccompanied and registered, if the stay of the adult in one of the above mentioned places was likely to exceed three months.
- (c) Children in correspondence with parents or relatives, Children who were in Germany and in correspondence with parents or relatives outside Germany were to be considered as unaccompanied and registered, if such correspondence was more than three months old.

(4) Children not to be registered

It proved to be exceedingly difficult for the Field staff to make decisions as to which cases might reasonably be expected to be eligible for I.R.O. services. In order to obviate the registering of children whose cases would have to be closed as ineligible, a guide was worked out and approved by I.R.O. Headquarters, covering six categories of children who should not be registered, even though documentary proof of German citizenship might not be available. These categories were:

- (a) Children over 14 years of age, separated from their parents after the war, not as a direct result of it, on whom all information pointed to their being German, even though no documentary evidence was available.

(b)

Children who have accompanied the adult

A new program area as a result of the enlarged
resettlement program. Under the I.R.G.
definition of an unaccompanied child (Unaccompanied
Child Order No. 75), a child is not un-
accompanied if under the care of a close
relative, i.e. adult brother, sister, uncle,
aunt, grandparents, non-relatives, however,
do not constitute legal guardians. The govern-
ment agrees, therefore, that the "Close Rela-
tive" wishing to exercise rights, including or
including, have to leave the child behind.
If would have had had the unaccompanied
category. To meet this difficulty, it was
agreed that any children who were expected to
become unaccompanied in the resettlement
program should be reported by Child Welfare
Officers to the International Travel Service
for necessary action.

Registration of eligible children whose accompaniment status was determined.

- (a) Children living with relative father and/or
paternal relatives. To be considered as un-
accompanied and therefore registered.
- (b) Children who are temporarily unaccompanied,
that is, children who are under the super-
vision of an adult in jail, an insane asylum,
or a hospital. These had to be considered
as unaccompanied and registered, if the
stay of the adult in one of the above men-
tioned places was likely to exceed three
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- (c) Children in correspondence with parents or
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These categories were:
- (b) Children over 14 years of age, separated
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a direct result of it, or whom all relevant
evidence pointed to their being German, even
though no documentary evidence was
available.

271

- (b) Children legally adopted before the war, who were living with their adoptive parents.
- (c) Children born before the war on German Territory as at 31.12.37:
 - (i) If they were full orphans placed with foster parents prior to the war, and still with their foster parents.
 - (ii) Foundling children for whom the pre-war authorities were unable to establish identity or find relatives.
- (d) Children adopted after war, with the consent of both parents for a legitimate child, and of the mother for an illegitimate child.
- (e) In general, foundling children picked up after 1st January 1946, would not be registered, unless there were indications that the child might not be of German citizenship.
- (f) Children expelled after the war from their countries of residence to Germany, together with their parents, and who became separated from them either on the journey or afterwards.

Some controversy also arose as to whether a person who had not reached the age of 21 could be considered as a guardian to a child. The question was discussed and the following instructions issued to the Field Staff:

"A child should not be considered to be accompanied if it is being taken care of by a person who has not yet reached the age of 21. Such a child should be considered unaccompanied and registered. Efforts should be made not to break up family groups. For instance, if two brothers aged 15 and 19 are together, then both children should be registered, even though the case of the elder would not normally be handled by Child Search. In this way, the Child Welfare staff are enabled to do joint planning for both children."

Search outside Germany

It was decided upon, in consultation with the I.R.O. Headquarters, that all unaccompanied children known to the I.R.O., in whatever country they might be living, should be reported to the Child Search Branch Headquarters, in the hope that the inclusion of their names in the children's index might bring about the solution of some, at least, of the outstanding enquiries for missing children.

Towards the middle of 1949, difficulties were reported for the first time by the I.R.O. Mission in Italy in carrying out a search programme in Italy for United Nations' children. These difficulties were reported to I.R.O. Headquarters but no satisfactory solution was found. Various Voluntary Societies, such as the U.S. Committee for the

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- (b) Child a legally adopted before the war, who was living with their adoptive parents.
 - (c) Children born before the war in German Territory as of 31.12.37.
 - (1) If they were still exposed placed with foster parents after the war, and still with their foster parents.
 - (ii) Foundling children for whom the pre-war authorities were unable to establish identity or find relatives.
 - (d) Children adopted after war, with the consent of both parents for a legitimate child, and of the mother for an illegitimate child.
 - (e) In general, orphaned children placed up after the January 1945, would not be registered, unless there were indications that the child might not be of German citizenship.
 - (f) Children expelled after the war from their countries of residence to Germany, together with their parents, and who became registered first than either on the journey or afterwards.
- Some controversy also arose as to whether a person who had not reached the age of 17 would be considered as a German citizen. The question was discussed and the following instructions issued to the Field Staff:

"A child should not be considered to be accompanied if it is being taken care of by a person who has not yet reached the age of 17. Such a child should be considered unaccompanied and registered. If the child is not to be taken care of by a family group, but in a foster home, the foster parents should be registered, even though the care of the child would not normally be handled by Child Search. In this way, the Child Welfare Staff are enabled to do better planning for such children."

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Care of European Children and the National Catholic Welfare Conference investigated the matter on their own initiative and filed protests on the fate of United Nations' unaccompanied children in Italy. However, the situation of these children was never rectified and a complete registration of all the unaccompanied children was never made, although the presence of these children was known.

Further difficulties arose in the coordination of activities concerning unaccompanied children between the Child Search Branch and the Welfare officials of the I.R.O. Mission in Austria. Twice a representative of the International Tracing Service visited Austria and conducted surveys. After these surveys, it became clear that the search for unaccompanied United Nations' children in Austria could not be considered completed and that further action was necessary, even though the I.R.O. Mission had previously done some work in this field and the Austrian Government had been most cooperative. However, although responsible Welfare officials in I.R.O. Headquarters fully recognised this, no action whatever was taken in this direction either during the year 1949 or the year 1950.

In the latter part of 1949, owing to the starting of the phasing out of the programme of the I.R.O. and the gradual cutting down of staff in the I.R.O. Missions, it became necessary to reconsider the question of Child Search outside of Germany. The various I.R.O. Missions had been carrying out in their territories the registration of unaccompanied children, which, in Germany was performed by Child Search teams. In addition, they had also helped in investigating individual tracing cases. It appeared doubtful, however, that they would for long be able to carry on with this work. After discussion with I.R.O. Headquarters, it was decided, therefore, to address an appeal to the Governments of the countries concerned asking that they or Agencies appointed by them, should assist in the tracing and registering of unaccompanied children. The Appeal was formulated as follows :

"At the last meeting of the General Council of the International Refugee Organisation, the member nations agreed that negotiations should be undertaken to transfer, by June 30th, 1950, functions of the International Tracing Service to Governments, or to another international or intergovernmental body. It has been necessary, therefore, for the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service to review its achievements, to assess how much still remains to be done, and to consider by what means it could ensure that everything humanly possible will be undertaken to conclude the task entrusted to it.

- "The mandate given to the Child Search Branch is:
- (a) to find the children kidnapped by the Nazis and other non-German children who have become displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war;
 - (b) to identify these children, establish their citizenship, and provide them with documentation;
 - (c) to bring them into communication with their parents or other relatives.

"In order to carry this out, a central index of the names of missing and located unaccompanied children has been set up at the Branch Headquarters office.

Care of European children and the National Catholic Welfare Conference investigated the matter on their own initiative and filed reports on the fate of United Nations' unaccompanied children in Italy. However, the situation of these children was never clarified and a complete registration of all the unaccompanied children was never made, although the presence of these children was known.

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- (a) The mandate given to the Child Search Branch for to find the children kidnapped by the Nazis and other non-German children who have become displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war;
 - (b) to identify these children, enter their official files, and provide them with documentation;
 - (c) to bring the late communication with their parents or other relatives.
- "In order to carry this out, a central index of the names of missing and located unaccompanied children has been set up at the Branch Headquarters office.

"The work outside the Branch office can, for practical purposes, be divided into two distinct parts - that inside Germany and that outside of this country.

"Inside of Germany, where the majority of unaccompanied children are to be found, the International Tracing Service has its own Search Officers who conduct active investigations "in the field". At present we are in the midst of a programme for registering all non-German children in German institutions and foster homes, and are also investigating all adoption contracts filed with the German courts since 1939. By this means, it is hoped that we may locate at least the greater proportion of foreign children still hidden among the German population. We anticipate that the actual field investigations will be completed by June 1950. There will, however, still remain the work to be performed in our central office:

- (a) Completion of the identification of the children located, that is, to establish their citizenship and provide them with documents.
- (b) Necessary tracing action and correspondence to bring the children located in contact with their parents or other relatives.

"Outside of Germany, the task of searching for relatives and missing children has been performed by the national tracing bureaux or other agencies of the countries concerned, and the I.R.O. Missions attached to those countries. We have received from them lists of unaccompanied displaced children who are living within their boundaries. By this means, we have been able to bring many children and relatives into contact with one another. We are certain, however, that not all names of these displaced unaccompanied children outside of Germany have been reported to us. If we had these names, we believe we would be able to locate a part of the 20,000 children for whom we have enquiries, and bring them into contact with their relatives. The staff of the I.R.O. Missions is gradually being withdrawn, and these offices are no longer able to assist us as previously. It is for this reason that we now turn to you in order to appeal for your help in supplying us with complete lists of all foreign unaccompanied children, displaced as a result of the war, at present within your borders. In addition to the names of children actually located within your borders, we are anxious to obtain lists of the children who passed through your territory during, or after, the war. This information will give us clues for pursuing investigations in yet another country. On both lists we would require the following information: full name, date and place of birth, parents' names; and for the transient children we need, in addition, the date of arrival and place of origin, also the date of exit with destination. Probably the greater number of these children will already be known to us, but the receipt of the names of others not known to us may yet change the outlook on the future for many others who now know nothing about their families, and little about their own identity. We want to feel that, by the time our operation closes, every source of information and all data on unaccompanied and missing children inside and outside of Germany has been thoroughly exploited.

We look

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The work outside the Branch office can, for practical purposes, be divided into two distinct parts - that inside Germany and that outside of this country.

The Ministry of Germany, where the majority of unaccompanied children are to be found, the International League Service is the one German Office which has active investigations "in the field". It is hoped we are in the midst of a new wave of investigation of the German children in Germany itself and later in other parts of the German Empire. By this wave, it is hoped that we may find at least the greater proportion of German children still hidden away in the German population. We anticipate that the current field investigations will be completed by June 30th. There will, however, still remain the work to be performed in our central offices:

- (a) Completion of the identification of the children located, that is, to establish their relationship and provide them with documents.
- (b) Necessary tracing action and correspondence to bring the children located in contact with their parents or other relatives.

"Corridor" in Germany, the task of searching for relatives and missing children has been performed by the national tracing bureau or other agencies of the countries concerned, and the I.R.C. Mission assigned to those countries. We have received from these lists of unaccompanied displaced children and are living within their boundaries. By this means, we have been able to bring many children and relatives into contact with one another. We are certain, however, that not all names of these displaced unaccompanied children located in Germany have been reported to us. If we had these names we believe we would be able to locate a part of the 25,000 children for whom we have application and living in contact with their relatives. The work of the I.R.C. Mission is generally being withdrawn, and hence children are no longer able to assist us as previously. It is for this reason that we are now in need of your help. Appeal for your help in assisting us with complete lists of all German unaccompanied children, displaced as a result of the war, at present within Germany. In addition to the names of children actually located within your borders, we are anxious to obtain lists of the children who passed through your territory during the war. This information will give us a basis for pursuing investigations in other countries. On both lists we wish to include the following information: full name, date and place of birth, parent names and for the transient children we need, in addition, the date of arrival and place of origin, also the date of exit with destination. Probably the greater number of these children will assist us in our search for the records of the names of others not known to us. We are anxious to have the names of all children who have the names of their parents and their families, and little about their own identity. We want to feel that, by the time our operation starts, every source of information and all safe to unaccompanied and missing children inside and outside of Germany has been thoroughly exploited.

We look

"We look forward to your active cooperation in this service to unaccompanied children, a vital humanitarian service in which we feel sure your nation wishes to take part. We shall be glad to supply you with any further details you may require to enable you to give full consideration to the whole problem."

This Appeal was sent to the following 40 countries:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Albania | Greece | Pakistan |
| Australia | Hungary | Philippines |
| Austria | India | Portugal |
| Belgium | Iran | Roumania |
| Bulgaria | Iraq | South Africa |
| Canada | Italy | Spain |
| Czechoslovakia | Kenya | Sweden |
| Denmark | Lebanon | Switzerland |
| Egypt | Luxembourg | Tanganyika |
| Eire | Mexico | Turkey |
| Eastern Zone of Germany | Netherlands | U.S.A. |
| Finland | New Zealand | U.S.S.R. |
| France | Norway | Yugoslavia |
| Great Britain | | |

In the majority of cases, these countries responded well and gave valuable assistance.

Special Assignment of Child Search Officials

The experience of the Child Search Branch in connection with the registering and servicing of unaccompanied children was recognized on two occasions when a member of the staff was sent by the I.R.O. Headquarters on special missions outside of Germany.

(1) Visit to Poland

It was long realised that Poland was the nation which had suffered most under the Nazi regime, as regards the kidnapping and germanisation of its children. When I.R.O. Headquarters sent some Welfare representatives to Poland for discussions with the Polish authorities, a representative of the Child Search Branch was also included in the group. Topics discussed by the Child Search Officer with the Polish Red Cross in Warsaw during this trip included:

- (a) The inadequate information received from Poland made it very difficult for successful search and tracing to be done in Germany.
- (b) The lack of information received from Poland concerning the general Nazi organisation and programme which had been in existence in the country during the war and upon which the Polish authorities might have been expected to have made a study and obtained valuable data.
- (c) The time lag involved in the tracing of relatives and the procurement of documents in Poland in regard to unaccompanied Polish children located by the International Tracing Service.

"We look forward to your active cooperation in this service to unaccompanied children, a vital humanitarian service in which we feel your nation wishes to take part. We shall be glad to assist you with any further details you may require. It would be glad to give full consideration to the whole problem."

This appeal was sent to the following 40 countries:

Albania	Denmark	Poland
Austria	Egypt	Romania
Belgium	France	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Germany	Sweden
Canada	Greece	Switzerland
Czechoslovakia	Holland	Tanzania
Denmark	India	Turkey
Egypt	Iran	U.S.A.
France	Italy	U.S.S.R.
Germany	Japan	Yugoslavia
Greece	Norway	
Holland		
India		
Iran		
Italy		
Japan		
Norway		
Poland		
Romania		
Slovakia		
Sweden		
Switzerland		
Tanzania		
Turkey		
U.S.A.		
U.S.S.R.		
Yugoslavia		

In the majority of cases, these countries responded well and gave valuable assistance.

Special Assignment of Child Search Officers

The experience of the Child Search Branch in cooperation with the registering and tracing of unaccompanied children was recognized on two occasions by a number of the staff. It was sent by the I.R.O. Headquarters on special missions outside of Germany.

(1) Visit to Poland

It was long realized that Poland was the nation which had suffered most under the Nazi regime, as regards the kidnapping and extermination of its children. When I.R.O. Headquarters sent some officers representative of the Child Search Branch to Poland for discussions with the Polish authorities, a representative of the Child Search Branch was also included in the group. Topics discussed by the Child Search Officers with the Polish Red Cross in Warsaw during this trip included:

- (a) The inadequate information received from Poland was a very difficult task to be successful search and tracing to be done in Germany.
- (b) The lack of information received from Poland regarding the General Nazi organization and programs which had been in existence in the country during the war and upon which the Polish authorities might have been expected to have made a study and obtained valuable data.
- (c) The time lag involved in the tracing of relatives and the procurement of documents in Poland in regard to unaccompanied Polish children located by the International Tracing Service.

A free discussion of these points with the Polish Red Cross resulted in a better understanding of the difficulties encountered by the Child Search Branch in Germany and a realization of the type of information required for the successful solution of the missing children's cases.

(2) Registration of a special group of children in Italy.

During the month of July, some of the unaccompanied children under I.R.O. care, who had previously been in the Middle East, were transferred to Italy. At the request of I.R.O. Headquarters, the Child Search Branch sent a representative to Italy to assist in the registration of those children whose records were incomplete. The Child Search Officer interviewed more than 130 children of the group of 149. This resulted in the preparation of 121 registration forms, including social histories. These registrations included children over 17, members of family groups where younger children were present, who were registered in order to keep the family group together; and several unaccompanied youths on whom Child Search already had individual case records, previously forwarded from the Middle East tracing office. The documentation which the children brought with them from the Middle East was so inadequate that it was, at that time, our belief that we had performed a real service by re-registering these children, even though at so late a date. The Child Search officer was able to make available to the I.R.O. Children's Centre in Italy extracts from tracing information previously received from the Middle East. Some of the tracing clues had been reported to the Middle East office as late as November and December 1948, but owing to the impending liquidation of that office, had never been passed to or discussed with the children. The names of the majority of the children and youths in the group had already been recorded by the Child Search Branch Headquarters from lists submitted by the Middle East office in 1948. However, individual case records existed only on approximately 67 children and youths; these were a part of the case records transferred several months previously by the Middle East tracing office. None of these records contained a complete background and social history. As definite planning for this group of children was very urgent, these registrations were given priority and immediate tracing action was taken at Child Search Branch Headquarters. However, only a short time after the Child Search officer returned from Italy, information was received that the entire group was already on the way to Canada. By the time, therefore, that the first results of the tracing action were received and some relatives located, these children had already left Europe. The only remaining service which could be given was the passing of the tracing results to the I.R.O. Mission in Canada with the request that the children involved might be notified; and the informing of the relatives in Poland that the children were in Canada.

A first discussion of these points with the
United States resulted in a better understanding
of the difficulties encountered by the Child Search
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Child Search Bureau sent a representative to Italy
to assist in the registration of these children
whose records were incomplete. The Child Search
Officer interviewed with some 100 children of the
group of 149. This resulted in the preparation of
127 registration forms, including social histories.
These registrations included children over 17,
members of family groups where younger children
were present, who were registered in order to keep
the family group together and several unaccompanied
youths on whom Child Search already had tentative
case records, previously forwarded from the Middle
East tracing office. The documentation which the
children brought with them from the Middle East
was so inadequate that it was, at that time, not
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to make available to the I.R.O. Children's Centre
in Italy extracts from working lists, files previously
received from the Middle East. Some of the tracing
files had been referred to the Middle East office
as late as November and December 1945, but which
to the important information of that office, had
never been passed to or discussed with the children.
The cause of the delay in the children and youths
in the group had also been reported by the Child
Search Bureau Headquarters. The latter submitted by
the Middle East office in 1945. However, individual
case records existed only on approximately 40 children
and youths were a part of the case records
transferred several months previously by the Middle
East tracing office. None of these records contained
a complete background and social history, as
definite planning for this group of children was very
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viding of the tracing results to the I.R.O. Mission in
Canada with the request that the children involved
might be notified and the informing of the relatives
in Poland that the children were in Canada.

Decisions and Orders issued by I.R.O. General Council
in connection with Child Search.

At the July meeting of the General Council, it was decided that the 31st August should be the deadline date by which D.P.s and refugees desiring assistance from I.R.O. should register with the Organisation. Three categories were established, for which exception would be made. The first of these categories concerned unaccompanied children and was defined by the Council as follows :

"Such unaccompanied children as may be located by the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service after that date may be admitted to I.R.O. assistance."

The General Council furthermore stated:

"An extended search for missing children which I.T.S. has recently begun will not be concluded until after June 1950. It will be necessary to continue hunting, after 30th June 1950, I.R.O. termination date, for relatives of children uncovered as a result of the search." (It should be noted that, at that time, the I.R.O. was due to terminate on this date.)

This was one of the reasons upon which the General Council based its conclusion that the International Tracing Service should continue to operate after the end of the I.R.O., and that a new sponsor would have to be sought. How illusory this Resolution of the General Council proved for unaccompanied children, is shown by the fact that even though unaccompanied children located after the 31st August 1949 may be admitted to I.R.O. assistance, in practice, the I.R.O. Constitution was applied more and more rigidly in the case of unaccompanied children by the Eligibility Officers so that comparatively few children were actually taken care of, beyond the services which could be given by the Child Search Branch. As regards the second part of the Council statement, that the search for children would have to continue after June 30th 1950, it will be seen in the last part of this report, that not only was search not continued after June 30th 1950, but that actually it was broken off as early as March 31st in the middle of the operation at so short a notice as 10 days.

At the October meeting of the I.R.O. General Council, the Director General gave the following outline on Child Search to the Council :

"The International Committee of the Red Cross is not prepared to take over the Child Search programme. The I.R.O. has now to decide, therefore, whether this programme should cease on 31 December 1949, when funds now allocated will have been largely exhausted, or whether means should be found to continue it until 30 June 1950 or until some other convenient date before the transfer of other work of the International Tracing Service takes place.

"The aims of the Child Search Branch of the I.T.S. are:

Resolution and Order passed by I.R.O. General Council in connection with Child Search

At the July meeting of the General Council, it was decided that the Child Search should be the business of which D.P. and other bodies desiring assistance from I.R.O. should register with the organization. These categories were established, for which exception would be made. The list of these categories concerned unaccompanied children and was defined by the Council as follows:

"Such unaccompanied children as may be located by the Child Search Branch of the International Tracing Service after that date may be admitted to I.R.O. assistance."

The General Council furthermore stated:

"An extended search for missing children which I.T.S. has recently begun will not be concluded until after June 1950. It will be necessary to continue searching after June 1950, I.R.O. termination date, for relatives of children uncovered as a result of the search. (It should be noted that, at that time, I.R.O. was due to terminate on this date.)

This was one of the reasons upon which the General Council based its conclusion that the International Tracing Service should continue to operate after the end of the I.R.O. and that a new sponsor would have to be sought. In view of this, the General Council proposed that unaccompanied children, as shown by the fact that even though unaccompanied children located after the Child Search 1949 may be admitted to I.R.O. assistance, in practice, the I.R.O. Constitution was applied more and more strictly in the case of unaccompanied children by the eligibility officers so that comparatively few children were actually taken care of, beyond the services which could be given by the Child Search Branch. As regards the second part of the Council's statement, that the search for children would have to continue after June 1950, it will be seen in the last part of this report, that not only was search not continued after June 1950, but that actually it was broken off as early as March 1949 in the middle of the operation as to short a notice as 70 days.

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"The aim of the Child Search Branch of the I.T.S. was:

- (a) to find children kidnapped by the Nazis and all other non-German children who have become displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war;
- (b) to identify these children, establish their citizenship and provide them with documents;
- (c) to bring them into communication with their parents or relatives.

"The late receipt of material giving information on these children has caused the Child Search programme only now to be reaching the peak of its activity. After lengthy negotiation with the Occupation Authorities and with the German authorities, the I.T.S. received permission to start a programme of intensive search in institutions, with foster parents and for adopted children. Organised search for children in institutions started in June 1949 and is expected to be finished by the end of the year, by which time some 200,000 children will have been investigated and about 1,500 unaccompanied non-German children discovered. This work does not, however, include organised search for children living with foster parents and a programme has been worked out for them which, if it began on 1 January 1950 would, it is expected, be finished by the middle of that year. Investigations of adopted children is a continuous process.

"The procedure adopted is that, on discovery of a child, the authorities of its country of origin are informed, and at the same time the process of documentation is begun and the I.R.O. Child Welfare officers conduct social welfare investigations. It has been the practice in the U.S. Zone of Germany for children to be removed from German institutions and put in I.R.O. Assembly Centres; while in both the British and French Zones children are placed in centres, run by the military authorities under I.R.O. supervision, thus the continuation of the Child Search programme has usually been connected with the continuation of the I.R.O. Care and Maintenance programme, and it has been considered prudent to plan for the closure of the Child Search programme sufficiently far in advance of the Care and Maintenance programme for the children under care and maintenance to have their cases completed before the closure of Assembly Centres.

"Increasingly, however, it is evident to the Director-General that there is no need on grounds of physical welfare alone for children to be put in I.R.O. Assembly Centres, since economic conditions are so much improved in Germany. It would in many cases be reasonable and possible for a child to remain where it is until final plans are made for its future. This would, of course,

necessitate

177

- (a) to find children kidnapped by the Nazis and all other non-German children who have become displaced and who are accounted as a result of the war;
- (b) to identify these children, establish their citizenship and provide them with documents;
- (c) to bring them into communication with their parents or relatives.

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"The procedure adopted is that, on discovery of a child, the authorities of the country of origin are informed, and at the same time the process of documentation is begun and the U.S.C. Child Welfare Office conducts special visits investigations. It has been the practice in the U.S. Zone of Germany for children to be removed from German institutions and put in U.S.C. Assembly Centers while in both the British and French Zones children are placed in centers, run by the military authorities under U.S.C. supervision, thus the continuation of the Child Search program has usually been connected with the continuation of the U.S.C. Care and Maintenance program, and it has been considered prudent to plan for the closure of the Child Search programs sufficiently far in advance of the Care and Maintenance program for the children under care and maintenance to have their cases completed before the closure of Assembly Centers.

"Increasingly, however, it is evident to the Director-General that there is no need on grounds of physical welfare alone for children to be put in U.S.C. Assembly Centers, since economic conditions are so much improved in Germany. It would in many cases be reasonable and possible for a child to remain where it is until final plans are made for its future. This would, of course,

continue

necessitates a continuance of the legal protection which is already undertaken in part by the existing work of identification and documentation. Furthermore, any action necessary for the repatriation of children can always be taken by the government concerned.

"It is thus considered that the continuation of the Child Search programme is not necessarily dependent on the continuation of the I.R.O. Care and Maintenance programme and even of the I.R.O. Repatriation programme, and that the present Child Search programme could, if so desired, continue with certain handicaps until it is completed, about the middle of 1950, even though the care and maintenance programme were not continued after 30th June 1950.

"There has recently been a marked increase in the number of cases solved, as many being solved in the past three months as in the previous six. This applies particularly to old cases on which new information has been obtained. About 20,000 enquiries about children of 31 nationalities are still open, of which 5,000 have been received in 1949, and solved cases represent over 10,000 children of 38 different nationalities. The completion of search proper by the middle of 1950 would of course still leave uncompleted the work of documentation and of bringing children and relatives into touch with one another. This would be no worse, however, in respect of children discovered during 1950 than in respect of children discovered earlier, and adequate plans for a continuation of efforts to solve these individual problems have yet to be made. A continuation and completion of searching would not materially affect them."

After studying the problem of the International Tracing Service, the General Council instructed the Director-General as follows:

"1. to re-examine in detail the programme and budget of the International Tracing Service and to effect the maximum possible savings and simplification of operations in order that the main documentation functions of the Service may be completed by 30th June 1950."

"2. to negotiate with the interested governments and with Occupation Authorities for the transfer by 30th June 1950 of the then remaining tracing functions of the International Tracing Service to governments or to another international or intergovernmental body."

In order to put into practice Part 2 of these instructions as they concerned Child Search, it was evident that the following points had to be taken into consideration:

- (a) The realisation that the identification of the children located, establishing their citizenship and providing them with documents, would have to continue after June 30th, 1950. This was in any case a part of the residual problem of legal protection.

(b)

...of the legal pro-
...which is already underway in part
...of the existing work of identification and
...documentation. Furthermore, the existing
...necessary for the protection of children
...are always be taken by the Government concerned.

"It is thus considered that the contin-
...of the Child Search Program is not neces-
...ly dependent on the continuation of the I.C.C.
...and Maintenance Programs, and that the
...I.C.C. Separation Program, and that the
...present Child Search Program could, if so
...desired, continue with separate maintenance work
...it is completed, about the middle of 1952, even
...through the end and maintenance Program will
...not continue after 30th June 1952.

"There has recently been a marked in-
...in the number of cases which are not being
...solved in the past three years in the program
...etc. This applies particularly to the cases of
...which new information has been obtained. About
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...of documentation and of biological children and
...relatives into touch with one another. This would
...be no worse, however, in respect of children dis-
...covered during 1952 than in respect of children
...discovered earlier, and might also be a
...continuation of efforts to solve these individual
...problems have yet to be made. A coordinated and
...completion of searching work is maintaining these
...them."

After studying the report of the International Working
...Service, the General Council instructed the Director-General
...as follows:

"1. to re-examine in detail the program and
...budget of the International Working Service and
...to effect the maximum possible savings and
...simplification of operations in order that the main
...documentation functions of the Service may be
...completed by 30th June 1952."

"2. to negotiate with the interested governments
...and with Occupied Authorities for the transfer
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...functions of the International Working Service to
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...intergovernmental body."

In order to put into practice Part 2 of these instruc-
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...following points had to be taken into consideration:

- (a) The realization that the identification of the
...children located, establishing their dissem-
...ing and providing them with documents, would
...have to continue after June 30th, 1952. This
...was in any case a part of the residual problem
...of legal protection.

- (b) Necessary tracing action and correspondence would have to be continued in order to bring the children located into contact with their parents or other relatives.

General Survey and Residual Workload

The year 1949 was one of continuous achievement, as can be seen from a statistical comparison of 1945 and 1949:

	<u>Monthly Average</u>
Enquiries received from 1 May 1945 to 31 Dec. 1949	
= 22,314	398
Enquiries received from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949	
= 5,277	439
Enquiries solved from 1 May 1945 to 31 Dec. 1949	
= 3,369	60
Enquiries solved from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949	
= 1,624	135

This was accomplished in spite of the many difficulties encountered - some inherent in the fact that the operation took place in an occupied country. The chief causes of anxiety during the year were: the delay in assignment of international staff to their posts of duty; the turnover of 75% of the D.P. staff because of emigration; the constant struggle to keep all field officers on the road, the vehicles allotted to these officers being mostly old army jeeps; and the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies at the times when they were most needed.

In order better to understand the achievements of the year and the work which still remained to be done after December 1949, it is necessary to examine the mandate of the Child Search Branch. This was:

- (a) To find the children kidnapped by the Nazis and other non-German children who became displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war;
- (b) To identify these children, establish their citizenship, and provide them with documentation;
- (c) To bring them into communication with their parents or other relatives.

It was anticipated that the task described under (a) would be completed about the middle of 1950 -

- (1) In Germany - when the field investigations under the Limited Registration Plan had been completed.
- (2) Outside of Germany - when all individual case records held by the I.R.O. Missions had been consolidated at Child Search Branch Headquarters and the results of the appeal for governmental cooperation had been received.

In order to have a comprehensive picture of the residual problem of unaccompanied children, it is necessary to

examine

(b) Necessary to also include and coordinate would have to be included in order to bring the children located into contact with their parents or other relatives.

General Survey and Statistical Services

The year 1949 was one of continuing development, as can be seen from a statistical comparison of 1948 and 1949.

STATISTICAL SERVICES

Statistics received from 1 May 1948 to 31 Dec. 1948	22,378
Statistics received from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949	2,277
Statistics received from 1 May 1948 to 31 Dec. 1948	2,382
Statistics received from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949	1,604

This was accomplished in spite of the fact that the operation was hampered in the fact that the operation took place in an occupied country. The total amount of statistics during the year were the delay in assignment of international staff to their posts of duty; the constant struggle to keep all field officers on the road; the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of the items that they were most needed.

In order better to understand the development of the year and the work which still remained to be done after December 1948, it is necessary to examine the progress of the Child Search Branch. This was a

- (a) To find the children kidnapped by the Nazis and other non-German children who became displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war;
- (b) To identify those children, establish their citizenship, and provide them with educational facilities;
- (c) To bring them into communication with their parents or other relatives.

It was anticipated that the task described under (a) would be completed about the middle of 1949.

- (1) In Germany - when the Child Search Branch had been completed.
- (2) Outside of Germany - when all individual case records held by the I.R.G. Members had been consolidated at Child Search Branch Headquarters and the results of the appeal for governmental cooperation had been received.

In order to have a comprehensive picture of the residual problem of unaccompanied children, it is necessary to

examine

examine previous international action in connection with this problem. An international agreement concerning the guardianship of minors, signed in 1902, and ratified in 1904, is still considered valid. This is particularly interesting, as Germany was one of the signatories. This agreement makes provision for the setting up of three types of guardianship :

- (i) Guardianship set up under the aegis of the country of which the minor is a national.
- (ii) Guardianship set up by the diplomatic or consular agent, in accordance with the law of the country of which the minor is a national
- (iii) Guardianship set up by the authorities of the country in which the minor is residing, and in accordance with the local law.

The agreement provides that the second type of guardianship shall take place only in such cases in which the law of the country of which the minor is a national makes no provision for the setting up of guardianship for minors residing in a foreign country. A further condition to be observed before this second type of guardianship can be set up is that no clause in the laws and regulations of the state in which the minor resides prevents the setting up of guardianship by diplomatic or consular agents of a foreign nation. The last type of guardianship shall be set up only in such cases in which, for some reason, neither of the other two types is possible.

The terms of this agreement have been given since it is evident that this or any other agreement purporting to provide for the settlement of the problem of unaccompanied children, can only be applied after the identity and citizenship of the child have been clearly established. The work of the Child Search Branch, therefore, provides the basis upon which rests the solution of the problem. It seemed, therefore, a prerequisite that the task of the International Tracing Service in providing proper identification and documentation would have to be concluded before any permanent settlement of the question could be made. It was with this in mind, that the Child Search Branch in December 1949 looked forward to completing the Limited Registration Plan and continuing tracing. This analysis, which was applicable to the situation in December 1949, is no less applicable now in September 1950, as the Child Search Branch ceases active investigations and starts on a phase of very limited activities, with its original aims unattained and the problem of the missing children incompletely investigated.

Public Interest in Child Search

It is a well known fact that the general public is always interested in children and will respond to any appeal for help for children. Consequently, as the press in various countries became aware of the children's problem resulting from the war, correspondents from many papers visited the Child Search Branch Headquarters. They included representatives of the following newspapers and agencies :

Belgium

examine previous international action in connection with this problem. An international agreement concerning the guardianship of minors, signed in 1907, and revised in 1904, is still considered valid. This is particularly interesting in Germany was one of the signatories. This agreement makes provision for the setting up of three types of guardianship:

- (i) Guardianship set up under the laws of the country of which the minor is a national.
- (ii) Guardianship set up by the diplomatic or consular agent, in accordance with the law of the country of which the minor is a national.
- (iii) Guardianship set up by the authorities of the country in which the minor is resident, and in accordance with the local law.

The agreement provides that the second type of guardianship shall take place only in such cases as when the law of the country of which the minor is a national does not provide for the setting up of guardianship for minors residing in a foreign country. A further condition to be observed before this second type of guardianship can be set up is that no clause in the law and regulations of the state in which the minor resides prevents the setting up of guardianship by diplomatic or consular agents of a foreign nation. The last type of guardianship shall be set up only in such cases in which, for some reason, neither of the other two types is possible.

The terms of this agreement have been given since it is evident that this or any other agreement purporting to provide for the settlement of the problem of unaccompanied children, can only be applied after the identity and citizenship of the child have been clearly established. The work of the Child Search Branch, therefore, provides the basis upon which rests the solution of the problem. It is noteworthy, a prerequisite that the work of the International Tracing Service in providing proper identification and documentation would have to be completed before any permanent settlement of the question could be made. It was with this in mind, that the Child Search Branch in December 1949 looked forward to completing the United Nations plan and continuing tracing. This analysis, which was applicable to the situation in December 1949, is no less applicable now in September 1950, as the Child Search Branch makes active investigations and starts on a phase of very limited activities, with its original aim unaltered and the problem of the missing children incompletely investigated.

Public Interest in Child Search

It is a well known fact that the general public is always interested in children and will respond to any appeal for help for children. Consequently, as the press in various countries became aware of the children's problem resulting from the war, correspondents from many papers visited the Child Search Branch headquarters. They included representatives of the following newspapers and agencies:

Belgian

Belgium

Temoignage Chrétien

Canada

Toronto Star

England

Daily Herald
The Times

France

Figaro

Germany

Stars and Stripes

U.S.A.

Bridgeport, Connecticut, Sunday Herald
Chicago Daily News
Christian Science Monitor
Denver Post
Liberty Magazine and Nations Business
Memphis Commercial Appeal
Miami Herald
Milwaukee Journal
Newark News
Pittsburgh Post Gazette
Seattle Times
United States Overseas Agency

U.S.S.R.

Pravda

In addition, the following programmes concerning unaccompanied children were broadcast over the radio:

American Forces Network

Child Search General Outline

British Broadcasting Corporation

A story of three Polish children deported to Germany but who had been located and reunited with their father in Poland.

United Nations Radio Division

Daughter of Lidice
Eleven Memory Street
Memo from Lake Success
Two Billion Strong
United Nations To-day

1284

Belgium

Templeton's Carriage

Canada

Toronto Star

Denmark

Daily Herald
The Times

France

L'Espresso

Germany

Time and Tide

U.S.A.

Washington Post, Connecticut, Sunday Herald
Chicago Daily News
Cleveland Plain Dealer
Lester News
Liberty Magazine and Nation Magazine
Memphis Commercial Appeal
Miami Herald
Milwaukee Journal
Newark News
Richmond News Leader
Seattle Times
United States Overseas Agency

U.S.A.

Travel

In addition, the following agencies were
radioing unaccompanied children were broadcast over the
radio:

American Forces Network

Edith Search General Collins

British Broadcasting Corporation

A copy of three Polish children deported
to Germany but who had been located and
remained with their father in Poland.

United Nations Public Division

Department of Justice
Eleven Henry Street
New York Lake Success
The Million Strong
United Nations Today

1950 (January - August)

At the beginning of 1950, the Director of the International Tracing Service, accompanied by the Chief of the Child Search Branch, attended a meeting in Geneva at which were present the Director-General and various Department Chiefs of the I.R.O. Headquarters. At this meeting a report was presented by the International Tracing Service giving the current situation of Child Search. This report was made bearing in mind the statement made by the Director-General on Child Search at the October 1949 meeting of the General Council (see Page 27). It had been previously stressed and was again reiterated, that it was impossible for the whole problem to be solved before the closure of the I.R.O. Urgent representation, therefore, was made that the question should be referred immediately to the United Nations, who should assume ultimate responsibility for the legal protection and care of unaccompanied children outside their country of origin.

At this same time, the offices of the British, French and U.S. High Commissioners requested a full report on the work of Child Search, together with an analysis of how much of the programme was still uncompleted and the amount of time required to finish it.

In February, the Director-General issued a report on the problem of Child Search to the Executive Committee of the I.R.O., at a meeting held in preparation for that of the General Council in March. In this report, the proposal of the Director-General for the future of Child Search was outlined as follows :

"As stated earlier the funds approved by the General Council are sufficient for the continuation of Child Search on its present basis until 30th June 1950. In the absence of additional funds, the Director-General has carefully reviewed the activities and budget of the Child Search Branch to determine whether it might be possible, by making administrative economies, improving the organisation of the Branch and concentrating staff and resources on tasks of major importance, to extend the life of Child Search long enough to ensure that the registration of children presumed to be non-German might be completed and that a further limited number of children, whose nationality, identity and eligibility under the I.R.O. mandate could be definitely established, might be referred to Child Welfare for appropriate action. In order to reduce to a minimum the number of cases referred to Child Welfare, the Director-General has attached to the Child Search Branch Child Welfare and Eligibility Officers who will make a preliminary review of eligibility before cases are turned over to Child Welfare. The Director-General has thus been able to prepare a plan for the liquidation of Child Search, in accordance with which the operation functions of the Branch would cease on 31st July 1950, and thereafter, only a very small staff would be required to carry out the normal administrative liquidation which would be completed no later than 31st August 1950.

This plan

282

1950 (January - March)

At the beginning of 1950, the Director of the International Trading Service, accompanied by the Chief of the Child Search Branch, attended a meeting in Geneva at which were present the Director-General and various Department Chiefs of the I.R.O. Headquarters. At this meeting a report was presented by the International Trading Service giving the current situation of Child Search. This report was being in mind the statement made by the Director-General on Child Search at the October 1949 meeting of the General Council (see page 27). It had been previously stressed and was again reiterated, that it was impossible for the world problem to be solved before war broke out in the I.R.O. Under investigation, therefore, was made that the question should be referred immediately to the United Nations, who should assume ultimate responsibility for the legal problem and care of unaccompanied children outside their country of origin.

At this same time, the office of the British, French and U.S. High Commissioners requested a full report on the work of Child Search, together with an analysis of how much of the program was still uncompleted and the amount of time required to finish it.

In February, the Director-General issued a report on the problem of Child Search to the Executive Committee of the I.R.O. of a meeting held in preparation for that of the General Council in March. In this report, the proposal of the Director-General for the future of Child Search was outlined as follows:

"As stated earlier the funds approved by the General Council are allocated for the continuation of Child Search on the present basis until 30th June 1950. In the absence of additional funds, the Director-General has carefully reviewed the activities and budget of the Child Search Branch to determine whether it might be possible, by making administrative economies, improving the organization of the Branch and concentrating staff and resources on tasks of major importance, to extend the life of Child Search long enough to ensure that the registration of children proposed to be non-Germans should be completed and that a further limited number of children, whose nationality, identity and eligibility under the I.R.O. statute could be definitely established, might be referred to Child Search for appropriate action. In order to reduce to a minimum the number of cases referred to Child Search, the Director-General has attached to the Child Search Branch Child Welfare and Eligibility Officers who will make a preliminary review of Children before cases are turned over to Child Welfare. The Director-General has thus been able to prepare a plan for the liquidation of Child Search in accordance with which the operation functions of the Branch would cease on 31st July 1950, and thereafter, only a very small staff would be required to carry out the normal administrative liquidation which would be completed no later than 31st August 1950.

This plan

"This plan provides for the following tasks to be accomplished by 31st July:

- (a) Registration in accordance with the Limited Registration Plan of all children presumed to be non-German and insertion of their names in the Master Index;
- (b) Preparation for addition to the archives and Master Index of all documentary evidence produced by the Limited Registration Plan;
- (c) As far as possible, establishment of nationality and identity of children and tracing of relatives. It is estimated that a further 1,250 cases will be completed, and that there will remain several thousand children registered whose cases will not have been completed.
- (d) Checking against the Master Index of all individual enquiries for children received by the Branch prior to 31st July 1950 and checking by the punch-card machine system all enquiries that were received prior to 31st December 1949.

"The Director-General considers that, on liquidation in accordance with this plan, Child Search will have accomplished its main objective of discovering and registering children who are presumed to be non-German, will have assisted in the satisfactory solution of these cases as far as allocated funds permit (by attempting to establish their nationality and identity and to trace their relatives) and will have passed on to the Child Welfare services of the Organisation the cases whose non-German origin will have been established and whose eligibility under the I.R.O. mandate is reasonably certain."

It should be noted here that, although at this time the I.R.O., as an organisation, had been extended until 31st March 1951, the possibility that consideration should be given to the allotment of the comparatively small sum required to complete the Child Search programme, was not even mentioned. This meant, in effect, that although most eligible children would have been registered, tracing service to identify them and locate relatives would not have been performed. What, in fact, would happen would be that the children would remain in Germany and for their whole lives be ignorant of their identity and background.

The report, however, did make it quite clear that the remainder of the funds allocated by the General Council in 1948 for the Child Search operation should be used in such a manner as to conclude as much as possible of the programme, without exceeding those funds.

The whole question of Child Search was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. However, at the General Council meeting in March, when the activities of the Inter-

national

This plan provided for the following items to be accomplished by 31st March:

- (a) Registration in accordance with the plan. Registration was to be carried out in the form of a non-German and inventory of their names in the latter country.
- (b) Preparation for addition to the register and transfer of all necessary evidence produced by the limited registration plan.
- (c) As far as possible, establishment of nationality and identity of children, tracing of relatives. It is estimated that a further 7,000 names will be placed, and that these will include several thousand children registered whose cases will not have been completed.
- (d) Checking against the Master Index of all individual enquiries for children received by the Bureau since 1st July 1945 and checking by the post-card mailing system all enquiries that were received prior to 1st December 1945.

"The Director-General considers that the action in accordance with this plan, Child Search will have accomplished the main objective of the covering and registering children who are presumed to be non-German, will have assisted in the early factory solution of those cases as far as possible (by attempting to establish their nationality and identity and to trace their relatives) and will have passed on to the Child Welfare services of the Organisation the cases where non-German origin will have been established and where efficiency under the I.R.O. mandate is reasonably certain."

It should be noted here that, although at this time the I.R.O., as an organisation, had been extended until 31st March 1951, the possibility that consideration should be given to the efficient of the comparatively small sum required to complete the Child Search programme, was not even mentioned. This meant, in effect, that although most eligible children would have been registered, tracing services to identify them and locate relatives would not have been performed. What, in fact, would happen would be that the children would remain in Germany and for their whole lives be ignorant of their identity and background.

The report, however, did make it quite clear that the transfer of the funds allocated by the General Council in 1948 for the Child Search operation should be used in such a manner as to conclude as much as possible of the programme without exceeding those funds.

The whole question of Child Search was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. However, at the General Council meeting in March, when the activities of the Inter-

national Tracing Service were brought up for review, no mention whatsoever was made of Child Search - an integral part of the International Tracing Service with specific funds allotted for its work. After discussion, a Resolution, No. GC/151/Rev. 3, was passed, instructing the Director-General:

"To make provision in the Plan of Expenditure for the Supplementary Period of the I.R.O. of the necessary funds for the maintenance at Arosen after 1st July 1950 of a reduced I.R.O. supervisory staff; provided that such provisions shall not exceed the amount of the savings which he can make in the sum allocated in the Plan of Expenditure for 1949/50 for the I.T.S., including Child Search."

This Resolution was interpreted to mean that the funds previously specifically allocated for Child Search by the General Council, should now be used for the general activities of the International Tracing Service - although the matter had never been brought before the General Council in this light.

The Director-General on 21st March 1950 issued the following instructions to the Director of the International Tracing Service :

"This is to inform you that the question of the present position and the future of the International Tracing Service was examined by the Executive Committee during its Seventh Session, and the General Council during its Fifth Session, held in Geneva during March 1950.

"On the basis of the report submitted by the Executive Committee to the General Council, Resolution No. GC/151/Rev. 3 was adopted.

"In order to implement the above mentioned resolution I have decided that, as a result of our discussions:

- (1) Child Search Branch will cease to register children as from 1st April 1950, but will continue up to 31st August 1950 the work of identifying and documenting the children already found. Starting 1st September 1950, the normal period of one month's liquidation will be carried out by a reduced staff. This liquidation entails the removal of the Child Search archives to the I.T.S. Headquarters at Arosen, suitably arranged for integration therein. Provision will be made at this time for the minimum number of international employees, say two, to be attached to I.T.S. Headquarters for the handling of incoming enquiries or correspondence resulting from previous activities.

The funds thus made available by the limitation of Child Search activities will be transferred to the general budget of the International Tracing Service."

The effect of this order was to stop short, at ten days notice, all Field work on the Limited Registration Plan.

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national Training Service were brought up for review, in
relation to the work of Child Search - an important
part of the International Training Service with specific
tasks listed for the work. After discussion,
Resolution No. 20/15/Rev. 2, was passed, instructing
the Director-General.

"To make provision in the Plan of Expenditure
for the biennially revised of the I.T.S. of the
agency funds for the maintenance of activities
after July 1950 at a reduced I.T.S. level,
which shall provide that such activities shall
not exceed the amount of the savings which he can
make in the sum allocated in the Plan of Expenditure
for 1949/50 for the I.T.S., including Child Search."

This Resolution was interpreted to mean that the funds
previously specifically allocated for Child Search of the
General Council, should now be used for the general activities
of the International Training Service - although the matter
had never been brought before the General Conference this
year.

The Director-General on 17th March 1950 issued the
following instructions to the Director of the International
Training Service:

"This is to inform you that the question of the
present position and the future of the International
Training Service was examined by the Executive
Committee during its seventh session, and the General
Council during its fifth session, held in Geneva
during March 1950.

"On the basis of the report submitted by the
Executive Committee to the General Council, Resolution
No. 20/15/Rev. 2 was adopted.

"In order to implement the above mentioned
resolution I have decided that, as a result of our
discussions:

- (f) Child Search Branch will cease to register
children as from 1st April 1950, but will
continue up to 31st August 1950 the work of
identifying and documenting the children
already found. Starting on September 1950,
the normal period of one month's registration
will be carried out by a reduced staff. This
registration entails the removal of the Child
Search archives to the I.T.S. Headquarters at
Geneva, suitably arranged for investigation
therein. Provision will be made of this time
for the minimum number of international employees,
say two, to be attached to I.T.S. Headquarters
for the handling of incoming enquiries or corres-
pondence resulting from previous activities.

The funds thus made available by the limitation
of Child Search activities will be transferred
to the general budget of the International
Training Service."

The effect of this order was to stop short, at ten
days notice, all field work on the limited registration plan.

It had been expected that this Field work would have been completed within a further three or four months. It should also be noted that the Field staff were now engaged on that phase of the Limited Registration Plan from which the most results were anticipated, that is, the investigation of children living in foster homes or who had been adopted during the war years.

The General Council meeting was attended by an observer from the Secretariat of the United Nations, who put the following questions to the International Refugee Organisation:

"Does the I.R.O. consider that the 'Child Search programme' is no longer needed, and if it is still needed -

1. What numbers of such children have been found, and what disposal made of them during the last twelve months?
2. What provision exists in the countries concerned for the possibility of continuing this service through local resources?"

The Organisation's reply, made on the 24th March, was based mainly on the report of the Director-General to the Executive Committee in February (see Page 32). Concerning the future possibilities of the Child Search programme, the answer given was in part as follows:

"That enquiries will continue to be received for probably some years to come is reasonably certain, though figures for 1950 show a noticeable reduction in new enquiries - many being only re-enquiries.

"At the Seventh Session of the Executive Committee and the Fifth Session of the General Council, the question of the Child Search programme was considered in relation to the Child Welfare programme of I.R.O. and the overall need for winding up all of the I.R.O. activities at the earliest possible date.

"To this end, the Director-General has decided that, as from April 1st 1950, no new registrations of children shall be made by Child Search, though the work of identifying and documenting the children already found shall continue up to 31st August 1950. After that date, the Child Search Branch will be liquidated; the archives transferred and integrated into the main files at I.T.S. Headquarters, and provision made for a small international staff to handle incoming enquiries or correspondence resulting from previous activities.

"We cannot, at this time, state which Voluntary Agencies, National Tracing Bureaux and Government Departments are, in Europe, equipped and prepared to continue Child Search. To answer this question would necessitate a detailed enquiry which I.R.O. is not in a position to undertake."

This reply indicated that the locating of unaccompanied children was contingent on the winding up of the I.R.O. and the capacity of Child Welfare to handle additional cases.

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It had been expected that this field work would have been completed within a certain time or four months. It should also be noted that the field staff were now engaged in the phase of the United Nations World Health Survey which the most results were collected. Thus in the investigation of children living in foster homes or who had been adopted during the war years.

The General Council meeting was attended by an observer from the Secretariat of the United Nations, who put the following questions to the International Refugee Organization:

"Does the I.R.O. consider that the 'Child Search program' is no longer needed, and if it is still needed -

1. What number of such children have been found, and what general name of them during the last twelve months?

2. What provision exists in the countries concerned for the possibility of continuing this service through local resources?"

The Organization's reply, made on the 21st March, was based mainly on the report of the Director-General to the Executive Committee in February (see page 22). Concerning the future possibilities of the Child Search program, the answer given was in part as follows:

"That enquiries will continue to be received for possibly some years to come in necessarily certain though figures for 1953 show a noticeable reduction in new enquiries - many being only re-enquiries."

"At the Seventh Session of the Executive Committee and the Fifth Session of the General Council, the question of the Child Search program was considered in relation to the Child Welfare program of the I.R.O. and the overall need for making up all of the I.R.O. activities at the earliest possible date."

"To this end, the Director-General has decided that, as from April 1st 1953, no new applications of children shall be made to Child Search, though the work of identifying and documenting the children already found shall continue up to 31st August 1953. After that date, the Child Search Branch will be liquidated; the archives transferred and integrated into the main files of I.R.O. Headquarters, and provision made for a small international staff to handle incoming enquiries or correspondence deriving from previous activities."

"We cannot, at this time, state which voluntary agencies, National Training Bureau and Government departments are, in Europe, equipped and prepared to continue Child Search. To answer this question would necessitate a detailed enquiry which I.R.O. is not in a position to undertake."

This reply indicated that the finding of unaccompanied children was contingent on the winding up of the I.R.O. and the capacity of Child Welfare to handle additional cases.

This, in spite of the fact that, in his October report, the Director-General had stated that :

"The continuation of the Child Search programme is not necessarily dependent on the continuation of the I.R.O. Care and Maintenance programme and even of the I.R.O. Repatriation programme, and that the present Child Search programme could, if so desired, continue with certain handicaps until it is completed, about the middle of 1950, even though the Care and Maintenance programme was not continued after 30th June 1950."

The new statement was a complete reversal of the earlier one - Child Search was to cease and Child Welfare to continue.

It should also be noted that, although the General Council meeting in October (see Page 27) had given instructions for negotiations to be undertaken with Governments or international or intergovernmental bodies, the reply to the United Nations implied that no such steps had been taken.

Almost simultaneously with the abrupt closure of the Child Search activities, notice was received from the Tripartite Committee on Displaced Persons of the British, French and U.S. High Commissioners that they looked favourably upon the utilisation of the 1950 German Population Census for locating unaccompanied Allied children in Germany and that they had referred this matter for approval to the Director of the Allied Central Statistical Office. It is ironical that this action should have been taken at the same time as that when the delegates of the three Occupying Powers at the General Council meeting of the International Refugee Organisation made no attempt to enable the programme of Child Search to be completed.

As stated earlier in this report, the planning staff of the Child Search Branch had originally considered that no overall coverage of the problem of the missing children and the unaccompanied children could be made except by means of a general registration of all children in Germany. Nevertheless, the Limited Registration Plan, which depended largely on the cooperation of the German authorities for its success, was deemed by the Occupying Powers to be the only feasible plan. In actual practice, it was found that the German Administration reports were anything but accurate. This is best illustrated by the fact that from the children who were located in Germany by individual tracing action during the period 1st January to 31st August 1950, and who should have been covered by the Limited Registration Plan, 45% were not reported by the German Administration. Of this percentage, 75% fall into the category of children in German foster homes and adopted children, the group for which investigations were broken off so abruptly on the 31st March, as previously mentioned in this report. To overcome this inaccurate reporting, which was foreseen, a system of control was set up to check on the information received from the institutions, youth offices and adoption courts. An index was set up of children previously known to the Branch as

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282

...in spite of the fact that, in his October report, the Director-General had stated that:

"The continuation of the Child Search program is not necessarily dependent on the continuation of the I.R.G. Care and Maintenance program and even of the I.R.G. Rehabilitation program, and in the present Child Search program could, if so desired, continue with certain handicaps until it is completed, about the middle of 1953, even though the Care and Maintenance program was not continued after 30th June 1952."

The new statement was a complete reversal of the earlier one - Child Search was to cease and Child Welfare to continue.

It should also be noted that, although the General Council meeting in October (see page 27) had given instructions for negotiations to be undertaken with Governmental or International or inter-governmental bodies, the reply to the United Nations implied that no such steps had been taken.

Almost simultaneously with the abrupt closure of the Child Search activities, action was received from the Executive Committee on Displaced Persons of the British Forces and U.S. High Commissioners that they looked favourably upon the utilization of the 1952 German Population Census for locating unaccompanied allied children in Germany and that they had referred this matter for approval to the Director of the Allied Control Operations Office. It is recalled that this action should have been taken at the same time as that when the findings of the three occupying powers at the General Council meeting of the International Refugee Organization made no attempt to enable the programs of Child Search to be completed.

As stated earlier in this report, the planning staff of the Child Search Branch had originally considered that an overall coverage of the problem of the missing children and the unaccompanied children could be made except by means of a general registration of all children in Germany. Nevertheless, the limited registration plan, which depended largely on the cooperation of the German authorities for its success, was deemed by the occupying powers to be the only feasible plan. In actual practice, it was found that the German administrative reports were anything but accurate. This is best illustrated by the fact that from the children who were located in Germany by individual tracing actions during the period January to June 1952, and who should have been covered by the limited registration plan, 45% were not reported by the German Administration. Of this percentage, 75% fall into the category of children in German foster homes and adopted children, the group for which investigations were broken off as a result of the 1952 survey. As previously mentioned in this report, to overcome this inaccurate reporting, which was likewise a matter of control was set up to check on the information received from the institutions, youth offices and adoption courts. An index was set up of children previously known to the Branch as

ending

having been located in Germany. It was then thought to check the names of the children reported by the German Administration against this index and carry out special investigations of those German offices which failed to report these children. Unfortunately, owing to the hasty closure of our operation, a thorough examination of the reporting of the defaulting German offices has not been possible.

Some of the outstanding Limited Registration Plan investigations left unfinished by the Field offices have been carried out by correspondence from the Branch Headquarters office. Nevertheless, at the end of August, there still remained 13,517 unfinished investigations which could not be cleared through correspondence action. How many thousands of these are Allied or other non-German children cannot be established unless Field investigations are reactivated. These unfinished Field investigations fall into the following categories:

Germany Zones of Occupation	German Land (State)	Childr. who have been adopted	Childr. in Foster Homes	Childr. in Insti- tutions	German Land Totals	Zone Totals
British	Schleswig- Holstein	65	992	104	1161	
	Nieder- sachsen	144	1474	141	1759	
	Northrhine Westphalia	117	946	124	1187	
	City of Hamburg	48	126	5	179	
	Berlin	20	280	1294	1594	5880
	UK Sector					
	French	South Baden	27	214	56	327
Württemberg- Hohenzollern	7	175	123	305		
Rhineland	22	180	272	474		
Pfalz						
Berlin	30	355	1088	1473	2579	
Fr. Sector						
U.S.	Bavaria	138	1011	549	1698	
	Württemberg- Baden	49	384	50	483	
	Hesse	45	542	185	772	
	Bremen	9	80	-	89	
	Berlin	48	559	1409	2016	5058
TOTAL :		769	7318	5430	13517	13517

The German Red Cross - who have cooperated in the investigation of unaccompanied children in Germany - immediately upon receiving notice of the closure of our Field office, offered their services for the continuation of the programme. They were prepared to continue the work (if given financial assistance) under the supervision of the International Refugee Organisation. This proposal, which was referred to

the Headquarters

having been located in Germany. It was then thought to check the names of the children reported by the German Administration against the lists and carry out special investigations of those German children which failed to report these children. Unfortunately, owing to the heavy demands of our operation, a thorough investigation of the reporting of the detaining German officer has not been possible.

Some of the outstanding limited investigations have been carried out by correspondence from the German High Commission Office. Investigations at the end of 1945, when still remained 12,527 unlocated investigations which could not be cleared through correspondence, and how many thousands of these are listed by other German children cannot be estimated unless these investigations are rechecked. These children's investigations fall into the following categories:

Zone of Occupation (State)	German (State)	and how many reported	German (State)	and how many reported	German (State)	and how many reported
British	Schleswig-Holstein	62	202	140	104	104
	Niederrhein	142	142	142	142	142
	Westfalen	117	244	121	121	121
	City of Hamburg	48	128	0	0	0
	Prussia	20	200	1284	1284	1284
	Lower Saxony	27	274	27	27	27
	Baden	7	112	112	112	112
	Wurttemberg	22	100	112	112	112
	Rhineland	20	225	1000	1000	1000
	Palatinate	152	1011	288	1011	1011
U.S.	Wurttemberg	42	20	20	20	20
	Baden	42	242	182	182	182
	Hesse	2	20	20	20	20
	Hessen	42	222	142	142	142
TOTAL		768	7270	2400	2287	2287

The German Red Cross - who have concentrated in the investigation of unreported children in Germany - immediately upon receiving notice of the closure of the field office, offered their services for the continuation of the program. They were prepared to continue the work (it gives financial assistance) under the supervision of the International Refugee Organization. This proposal, which was referred to the Headquarters

the Headquarters of the International Refugee Organisation in Geneva was, however, never acted upon.

During the months of April and May, the various Field offices in the three Western Zones of Germany and the City of Berlin were closed in accordance with instructions. The period April to August 1950 has been filled by the integration of the Field office records into those held by the Headquarters office, and by continuing, by correspondence only, the work of identifying, documenting and tracing relatives of children previously located.

As has elsewhere been noted in this report, it took several years for the Organisation finally to realize that the problem of Child Search could only be resolved through a centralised Headquarters. Yet, as soon as successful results were really becoming apparent - each year saw an increase in the number of cases solved - a decision was made to cease Child Search activities. The sudden liquidation of Child Search will leave many parents and relatives without news of their lost children. Below is a statistical table of results obtained in the four years 1945 to 1949 as compared with the results obtained in the first eight months of 1950:

	<u>Monthly Average</u>
Enquiries received from 1 May 1945 to 31 Dec. 1949	= 22,314 398
Enquiries received from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949	= 5,277 439
Enquiries received from 1 Jan. 1950 to 31 Aug. 1950	= 246 31
Enquiries solved from 1 May 1945 to 31 Dec. 1949	= 3,369 60
Enquiries solved from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949	= 1,624 135
Enquiries solved from 1 Jan. 1950 to 31 Dec. 1950	= 1,281 160

Again, much publicity through newspapers and radio was given to Child Search activities during this year. However, all this publicity - the resolution of the Voluntary Agencies in January 1949, the resolution of the I.R.O. General Council in July 1949, the report of the Director-General of the I.R.O. of October 1949, the reports furnished by request to the offices of the British, French and U.S. High Commissioners in January 1950 did not prevent an abrupt liquidation of the programme of locating unaccompanied Allied children. The report furnished by the International Refugee Organisation to the Secretariat of the United Nations in March 1950 also produced no visible reaction in the United Nations.

On the 15th August 1950, it was deemed that the time had finally arrived to notify the various Governmental offices, Voluntary Agencies, and individuals who had co-operated with the Child Search Branch during the last few years, that the last phase of the liquidation was therefore circulated :

"As you were previously notified by the Director of the International Tracing Service in his letter dated March 28th, 1950, the programme of the Child

The Department of the International Refugee Organization in Geneva was, however, never noted open.

During the months of April and May, the various Field Offices in the three Western Zones of Germany and the City of Berlin were visited in accordance with instructions. The period April to August 1950 has been filled by the instructions of the Field Office records have been laid by the Headquarters Office, and by continuing by correspondence only, the work of identifying, documenting and listing relatives of children previously located.

As has elsewhere been noted in this report, it took several years for the Department finally to realize that the problem of Child Search could only be handled through a centralized Headquarters staff, as well as a substantial increase in the number of search personnel - a detailed plan made to cover Child Search activities. The plan is in effect at Child Search will have many years and years' time without news of their lost children. This is a statistical table of results obtained in the last years 1945 to 1950 compared with the results obtained in the first eight months of 1951:

Monthly
Average

Expatries received from 1 May 1952 to 31 Dec. 1952	2,374
Expatries received from 1 Jan. 1952 to 31 Dec. 1951	2,577
Expatries received from 1 Jan. 1950 to 31 Dec. 1949	242
Expatries solved from 1 May 1952 to 31 Dec. 1952	2,369
Expatries solved from 1 Jan. 1952 to 31 Dec. 1951	1,624
Expatries solved from 1 Jan. 1950 to 31 Dec. 1949	1,281

Again, such publicity through newspapers and radio was given to Child Search activities during this year. However, all this publicity - the resolution of the Voluntary Agencies in January 1949, the resolution of the I.R.O. General Council in July 1949, the report of the Director-General of the I.R.O. of October 1949, the reports furnished by request to the office of the British, French and U.S. High Commissioners in January 1950 did not prevent an abrupt liquidation of the programs of locating unaccompanied child children. The report furnished by the International Refugee Organization to the Secretariat of the United Nations in March 1950 also produced no visible reaction in the United Nations.

On the 15th August 1950, it was deemed that the time had finally arrived to notify the various Governmental, Voluntary Agencies, and individuals who had co-operated with the Child Search Branch during the last few years, that the last phase of the liquidation was therefore circumscribed:

"As you were previously notified by the Director of the International Tracing Service in his letter dated March 28th, 1950, the programs of the Child Search

Branch

Search Branch was partially cut on April 1st. Since April the work of identifying, documenting and tracing of unaccompanied children has been performed by the Branch Headquarters in Esslingen, Germany. The last phase of the liquidation of the programme is now imminent.

"The present Branch Headquarters office will cease to exist in Esslingen as from 15th September. Subsequently all records will be transferred to the International Tracing Service Headquarters in Arolsen, Germany. Here a small staff will continue to give limited services. These will be as follows:

- (a) Checking enquiries for missing children against the records held and notifying the enquirers of the results obtained.
- (b) Forwarding to the appropriate quarters the incoming correspondence resulting from action initiated prior to August 31st 1950.
- (c) Answering any enquiries (legal, social and medical, etc.) which may be received in respect of children whose cases are held by the I.T.S.
- (d) Servicing the I.R.C. Child Welfare offices in connection with the identifying and documenting of children and in tracing for relatives.

"As you will note, the services to be undertaken are limited in comparison with those at present being given. We will, nevertheless, continue to do all that is within our power to be of assistance to you."

Attachments

- Appendix I : Statistics on Missing Children
- Appendix II : Statistics on Unaccompanied Located Children.
- Appendix III : List of IRO International Staff Members.

Remarks :

The Child Search Branch on 31st August 1950 holds 33,684 individual children's case files, of which 23,189 are closed and 10,495 still active. The active cases are about evenly divided between cases of missing children for whom individual tracing action is still necessary and children who have been located and for whom the procurement of documentation to prove identity and the tracing of relatives are still outstanding. Unfortunately, due to drastic staff cuts, it has not been possible to prepare an analysis of individual case files for issuance at this time.

Unresolved enquiries on hand as at 31st August, 1950 13,172
Jewish children included in the above total 7,039

Search Bureau was satisfied on April 1st, 1950 that the work of identifying, locating and tracing of unaccounted children has been performed by the German Landwehr in Berlin, Germany. The last part of the identification of the persons is now finished.

"The present Search Bureau activities will cease to exist in Berlin as from 1950 onwards. Subsequently all records will be transferred to the International Tracing Service Headquarters in Aachen, Germany. Some records will be retained to give limited services. These will be as follows:

- (a) Checking requests for missing children and the records will be kept in the records of the service obtained.
- (b) Forwarding to the appropriate authorities in missing correspondence pending from action initiated prior to August 1950.
- (c) Answering any enquiries (legal, social and medical etc.) which may be received in respect of children whose cases are held by the I.T.S.
- (d) Servicing the I.R.C. Child Welfare Office in connection with the identifying and tracing of children and in tracing for relatives.

"As you will note, the services to be undertaken are limited in comparison with those at present being given. We will, nevertheless, continue to do all that is within our power to do of assistance to you."

Appendix

- Appendix I : Statistics on Missing Children
- Appendix II : Statistics on Unaccounted for Children
- Appendix III : List of I.T.S. International Staff Members

Remarks

The Child Search Bureau on 31st August 1950 holds 33,604 individual children's case files, of which 27,107 are closed and 6,497 still active. The active cases are about evenly divided between cases of missing children for whom individual tracing action is still necessary and children who have been located and for whom the necessary documentation to prove identity and the tracing of relatives are still outstanding. Unfortunately, due to drastic staff cuts, it has not been possible to prepare an analysis of individual case files for a number of years.