

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.

CHILD SEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE I.R.O.

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1947 (July - December)

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The definition of an unaccompanied child was given in Provisional Order No. 37, issued on the 18th November 1947 by the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organisation, and the amendment, Provisional Order No. 37.1, 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) 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) 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

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(a) Not recommended by a close relative (child's mother, sister, uncle, aunt, or grandparents).

(1) Children in respect of whom there exists a presumption that they belong to one of the categories of refugees or displaced persons to whom economic AID was embodied.

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It was decided by the I.R.O. Headquarters, Geneva, that the activities of Child Search - Training 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 Special Training Office and representatives of Social Child Welfare Offices. It was the consensus of opinion of the conference group that any division of responsibility for location and re-education of children into two processes, carried out under separate organizational auspices, was a mistake. It was felt that the programme could not be fully effected 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 Training functions should remain:

- (a) The setting up of a central master index of all children lost and found.
- (b) Centralization 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.

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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

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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

(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.

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- (b) The German authorities to be responsible for implementing the directive.
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- (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 those children who came within the following categories:
 - i) Juveniles who entered the territory of the "Aktion" (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 "Aktion".
 - iv) Any questionnaires in 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.

(2) The General 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.

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- (1) Native language
- (2) Citizenship
- (3) Place of birth
- (4) Permanent 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. 75, dated 20th July, 1948. This was the final outline of the responsibilities of the Child Search Branch of the International Traveling Service. This order ruled that, in collaboration with the organization under UNRWA, work for unaccompanied children under the I.R.C. should be divided between the International Traveling 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 Travel, Welfare Eligibility, Legal Protection, Health, Repatriation and Resettlement have been allocated between the operational divisions of the Organization as follows:

(a) The International Traveling Service

- i) The location of unaccompanied children
- ii) The preparation of original and final visual 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; expediting 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 contact 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 Traveling 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) Eligibility 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 un-accompanied 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 POLICE 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 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 registration or resettlement.

It will be noted, that the responsibility for unaccompanied children, which was carried under UNRWA by one branch was, through this Provisional Order, subdivided by the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization. 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 action plan for United Nations' children in Germany, a few/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.

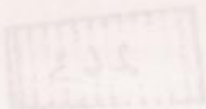
Implementation of this plan involved the following German agencies:

- (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.

All-



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 temporarily 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 Jugendamt (Youth Office) 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, personal 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 German 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 German court.

Implementation of this plan involved the following German agencies:

- (a) At Land level: Landjugendämter (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 Jugendamt (Youth Office) would forward the completed questionnaire direct to the Child Search Branch or via the Landjugendamt (Land Youth Office).

The Amtsgerichte would forward the completed questionnaires on adopted children direct to the Child Search Branch, or via the Minister 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 Office in the field for investigation and registration as might be required.

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 .

This

All German institutions in which children were cared for
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 be restricted to parts of a territory wherever it
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- I. The Headquarters Office was divided into two main
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- 1) Research Intelligence 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 Offices 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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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 operational aspects of the United Registration Plan with their staff

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.

1949

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

protection

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and the respective military and naval authorities. Approval of the plan by the respective military Government of the island 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 children. The American Film "The Search" was released. Several radio programmes covered Child Search and some dozen newspaper correspondents visited the island. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, on the occasion of her visit to Puerto Rico, had a conversation with the Chief of the Search. 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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Continuation 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. Mission, that all search work during 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. Mission and Voluntary Societies in the following countries - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, East Africa, Egypt, France, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, South Africa, and Spain. All unaccompanied children of foreign nationality in those countries were registered and their registration 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 the 13 countries which were represented 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 Eselingen 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

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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 was developed far beyond the restricted mandate of the I.R.O., resulted in many anomalies. A vast quantity of papers passed from office to office, delays were, if necessary, many. Many cases worked on for months, were finally determined to be ineligible for I.R.O. services and were then turned into the care 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 solution, of course, was the unaccompanied children who continue to grow up not knowing who they are or where they come from.

United Nations Plan

In the Spring of 1949 a distance was finally established from the U.S. and British Military Governments for the implementation of the United Nations Plan in their zones of Germany. In the U.S. zone, conferences were held with the three major Military Governments and instructions forwarded 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 implementation of the German Military Government. In the British zone, the representatives of the United States Branch were empowered to deal directly with the appropriate German officials.

While these negotiations were proceeding a detailed study was made by the Branch Headquarters office of the United Nations Plan and in London a position on the United Nations Plan was developed with a view to being the experience gained through the national planning and giving instructions to the German authorities and the United States Field Office. It was anticipated, on the basis of German statistics, that 400,000 cases would have to be handled. After discussion with the British (I.R.O. 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 British (I.R.O. system). From this 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 1949, the United Nations 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.) machines. Children

U.S. Branch and Berlin Bureau 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 administrative 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 to be a handicap. As a matter of fact, search results were given to the German administration in the City of Berlin for the most operative results they adopted for words along the International Tracing Service in the City of Berlin.

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 concluded to make the following proposals concerning the probable finishing dates of the various processes involved:

- (a) The to inaccurate reports by the German authorities, the machine processing (I.R.O.) of the questionnaires would not be completed before the beginning of 1953.
- (b) The bulk of the field investigations which is expected to be completed on 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 questionnaires - had been completed in the British, French and U.S. Sectors. Of this phase there remained to be done only the City of Berlin where 52 questionnaires had yet to be checked. It had been noted, however, that the German authorities progressively made incomplete reports on questionnaires, and that much checking and relating back was required. It was anticipated that some unreported questionnaires 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. Sector 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 early children reported was made possible by a check of the German return against the index of birth certificates held by the Child Search Branch. It will be remembered that in 1945 the German authorities had been advised to send in documents concerning non-German nationals (see page 8). These documents included the birth certificates of the non-German children born to slave laborers 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 return of the limited registration plan by means of the Hollerith (I.R.M.) machine. Children

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, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia.

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Queries in regard to the Registration of Children

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(1) Registration of unaccompanied children

- (a) Children of ex-enemy countries (with the exception of Germany)
- (b) Children of other German origin (with presumed non-German citizenship)
- (c) Children who became 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 facilities 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)

(2) Children once deemed accompanied who might become unaccompanied

A new program arose as a result of the enlarged resettlement program. Under the I.R.G. definition of an unaccompanied child (Geneva Convention Order No. 25), a child is not accompanied if under the care of a close relative, i.e. adult brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandparent. Such relatives, however, do not constitute legal guardians. The point is that if the child is not accompanied, the child is not accompanied. 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 program should be reported by Child Welfare officers to the International Tracing Service for necessary action.

(3) Realization of eligible children whose presence pending status was established.

- (a) Children living with relative foster 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

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 - (a) Children over 14 years of age, separated from their parents after the war, but as a direct result of it, on whom all information related to their being German, even though no documentary evidence was available.

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- (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) Children who were living with their adoptive parents who were living with their biological parents.
- (c) Children who were living with their biological parents who were living with their adoptive parents.
- (1) If they were still unknown placed with their biological parents after the war, and still with their biological parents.
- (2) Founding children for whom the law was not applicable were unable to establish identity of their relatives.
- (4) Children adopted after war, with the consent of both parents for a legitimate child, and of the mother for an illegitimate child.
- (5) In general, founding children placed up after 1st January 1945, could not be registered, unless there were indications that the child might not be of German citizenship.
- (7) Children expelled after the war from their countries of residence to Germany, together with their parents, and who became registered from then either on the journey or afterwards.

Some controversy also arose as to whether a person who had reached the age of 17 would be considered as a child. The question was discussed and the following instruction 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. However, should he wish to travel as family group, for instance, if the mother is aged 17 and is together with her child, she should be registered, even though the case of the child would not normally be handled by Child Search. In this way, the Child Search staff are enabled to be joint planning for both children."

Search outside Germany

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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

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 IRO 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.

Case of European children and the National Catholic Welfare Conference investigated the matter on their own initiative and find 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.

Further difficulties arose in the coordination of efforts with consular unaccompanied children between the Child Search Branch and the various offices of the I.N.O. Mission in Austria. Twice a representative of the International Training Service visited Austria and conducted surveys. After he returned, 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.N.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.N.O. Headquarters fully recognized this, no action whatever was taken in this direction either during the year 1949 or the year 1950.

In the latter part of 1949, when the starting of the phase out of the programs of the I.N.O. and the gradual closing down of staff in the I.N.O. Mission, it became necessary to reconsider the question of Child Search Branch of Germany. The various I.N.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 individuals in their areas. It appeared doubtful, however, that they would be long able to carry on with this work. After discussion with I.N.O. Headquarters, it was decided, therefore, to address an appeal to the Government of the country concerned seeing that they or agencies appointed by them should assist in the tracing and registration of unaccompanied children. The appeal was formulated as follows:

"At the last meeting of the General Council of the International Rescue Organization, the member nations agreed that negotiations should be undertaken to transfer, by June 30th, 1950, functions of the International Training Service to Governments, or to another international or intergovernmental body. It has been necessary, therefore, for the Child Search Branch of the International Training Service to review its commitments, to a pass by which 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 for to find the children relinquished by the Nazis and other non-German children who have become displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war:
- (a) to identify these children, enter in their files, and provide them with documentation;
 - (b) 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.

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The work outside the Bremen 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 League Service is the one named. It was organized in 1938 and is the only one of its kind. At present we are in the midst of a program for registering all non-German children in German health stations and foster homes, and are also investigating all other children listed with the German courts since 1933. By this means, it is hoped that we may locate at least the greater proportion of these children still hidden away in 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 external offices:

- (a) Completion of the identification of the children located, that is, to establish their citizenship and provide them with documents.
- (b) Necessary travel 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 developed by the national traveling bureau or other agencies of the countries concerned, and the I.L.C. Mission assigned to these countries. We have received from them lists of unaccompanied children who are living within their countries. 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 cases of these displaced unaccompanied children located in Germany have been reported to us. It is our firm belief that we would be able to locate a part of the 25,000 children for whom we have registered, and bring them into contact with their relatives. The staff of the I.L.C. Mission is generally being withdrawn, and these offices are being able to assist us in this work. It is the firm belief that we are now able to give you the order to appeal for your help in assisting us with complete lists of all foreign unaccompanied children, displaced as a result of the war, at present within your country. In addition to the cases of children actually located within your borders, we are anxious to obtain lists of those children who passed through your territory during the war. This information will give us since the previous investigations in yet another country. On your lists we would require the following information: full name, date and place of birth, parent's 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 also be known to us, but the receipt of the names of others not known to us may yet change the picture 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 explored.

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 recognised 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 sure 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 program."

This appeal was sent to the following 40 countries:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Albania | Denmark | Poland |
| Australia | Egypt | Portugal |
| Austria | France | Romania |
| Belgium | Germany | South Africa |
| Bulgaria | Great Britain | Spain |
| Canada | Guatemala | Sweden |
| Czechoslovakia | Hungary | Switzerland |
| Dutch East Indies | India | Tanzania |
| France | Iran | Turkey |
| Great Britain | Italy | U.S.A. |
| Guatemala | Japan | U.S.S.R. |
| Hungary | Latin America | Yugoslavia |
| India | Malaya | |
| Iran | Netherlands | |
| Italy | New Zealand | |
| Japan | Norway | |
| Latin America | | |
| Malaya | | |
| Netherlands | | |
| New Zealand | | |
| Norway | | |

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Special Assignment of Child Search Officers

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(1) Visit to Poland

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- (a) The incidence of Germanization resulting from Poland was a very difficult for successful search and tracing to be done in Germany.
- (b) The lack of information received from Poland concerning 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 collected valuable data.
- (c) The first leg involved in the tracing of refugees 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.

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listed children under I.S.O. cards, who had previously
been in the Middle East, were forwarded to
Italy. At the request of I.S.O. Headquarters, the
Child Search Branch sent a representative to Italy
to assist in the registration of these children
where records were maintained. The Child Search
Officer interviewed 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, young 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
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belief that we had performed a real service by
re-registering these children, even though at an
late date. The Child Search officer was able
to make available to the I.S.O. Child Search Centre
in Italy extracts from tracing files, files previously
received from the Middle East. Some of the tracing
files had been reported to the Middle East office
as late as November and December 1945, 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 in 1943, however, individual
case records existed only on approximately 60 children
and youths. These were a part of the case records
transferred several months previously by the Middle
East tracing office. Some 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
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ing of the tracing results to the I.S.O. Mission in
Canada with the request that the children involved
might be notified and the informing of the relatives
in Italy 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:

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Decision and Order 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 Child Search should be the business of which D.P. and various working committees from I.R.O. should register with the organization. These committees were established, for which exception would be made. The list of these committees 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. membership."

The General Council furthermore stated:

"An extended search for missing children which I.R.O. has recently begun will not be concluded until after June 30, 1950. It will be necessary to continue searching after June 30, 1950, I.R.O. termination date, for children of children unaccompanied 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. However, this Resolution of the General Council provides for unaccompanied children, as shown by the fact that even though unaccompanied children located after the July August 1949 may be admitted to I.R.O. membership, in practice, the I.R.O. Constitution was applied with and with slightly in the case of unaccompanied children by the eligibility Officers so that comparatively few children were actually taken care of, beyond the services which would 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 30, 1950, it will be seen in the last part of this report, that not only was search not continued after June 30, 1950, but that actually it was broken off as early as March 31st in the middle of the operation at an about a notice as 70 days.

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

- (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

- (a) to find children kidnapped by the Nazis and all other non-German children who have become displaced and are accounted as a result of the war;
- (b) to identify these children, establish their whereabouts 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 program only now to be reaching the peak of its activity. After lengthy negotiation with the Occupation Authorities and with the German authorities, the I.R.O. received permission to start a program of intensive search in institutions, with foster parents and for adopted children. Organized search for children 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 has not, however, included organized search for children living with foster parents and a program has been started for them which, if it begins on 1 January 1950 could, if 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 the country of origin are informed, and as the case with the process of documentation is begun and the I.R.O. Child Welfare officers conduct special visits investigations. It has been the practice in the U.S. Zone of Germany for children to be removed from German institutions and sent to I.R.O. Assembly Centers, while in both the British and French Zones children are placed in centers, run by the military authorities under I.R.O. supervision, thus the continuation of the Child Search program has usually been connected with the continuation of the I.R.O. Care and Maintenance program, and it has been considered prudent to plan for the closure of the Child Search program 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 I.R.O. 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,

necessary

necessitate 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 undertaken in part
...by the existing work of identification and
...documentation, together with other
...necessary for the resolution of similar
...and always be taken by the Government concerned.

"It is thus concluded that the contin-
...tion of the Child Search Programme is not neces-
...rily dependent on the continuation of the I.C.C.
...Care and Maintenance Programme and that the
...I.C.C. Registration Programme, and that the
...present Child Search Programme could, if so
...desired, continue with certain modifications 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 in-
...crease in the number of cases referred to the
...Service in the past three months as in the past
...six. This applies particularly to the cases
...which have been referred to the Service since
...20,000 enquiries have been received of 21 children
...are still open, of which 2,000 have had their
...in 1949, and solved cases reported were 10,000
...children of 38 different nationalities. The con-
...pletion of search proper by the middle of 1950
...would of course still leave unaccounted for the
...of documentation and of tracing children and
...relatives into touch with one another. This would
...be no worse, however, in respect of children dis-
...covered during 1950 than in respect of children dis-
...covered earlier, and adequate steps for a
...continuation of efforts to solve these individual
...problems have yet to be made. A continuation and
...completion of existing work on material of this
...kind."

After studying the report 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 Operation Authority 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 instruc-
tions as they concerned Child Search, it was evident that the
following points had to be taken into consideration:

(a) The realization that the identification of the
children located, establishing their dissem-
inate 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) 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 |
| Enquiries received from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949 | = 5,277 |
| Enquiries solved from 1 May 1945 to 31 Dec. 1949 | = 3,369 |
| Enquiries solved from 1 Jan. 1949 to 31 Dec. 1949 | = 1,624 |

398
439
60
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

(c) Necessary to also advise and correspondance would have to be continued in order to bring the children located into contact with their parents or other relatives.

General Survey and Statistical Analysis

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

Monthly
Activity

| | |
|---|--------|
| Expatries received from 1 May 1948 to 31 Dec 1948 | 25,742 |
| Expatries received from 1 Jan 1949 to 31 Dec 1949 | 25,377 |
| Expatries solved from 1 May 1948 to 31 Dec 1948 | 2,383 |
| Expatries solved from 1 Jan 1949 to 31 Dec 1949 | 1,624 |

This was accomplished in spite of the fact that the operation encountered - some inherent in the fact that the operation took place in an occupied country. The chief cause of anxiety during the year was the delay in replacement of international staff to their posts of duty. The constant efforts to keep all field offices on the road, the willingness to have officers being mostly old army officers, and the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of the lines when they were most needed.

In order better to understand the requirements 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) 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 advise 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.B.G. Nations 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 treaties in connection with this problem. An international agreement concerning the jurisdiction of courts, signed in 1905, and ratified 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 jurisdiction:

- (i) Jurisdiction set up under the flag of the country of which the minor is a national.
- (ii) Jurisdiction set up by the diplomatic or consular agent, in accordance with the law of the country of which the minor is a national.
- (iii) Jurisdiction 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 jurisdiction shall take place only in such cases as when the law of the country of which the minor is a national refers to provisions for the setting up of jurisdiction for minors residing in a foreign country. A further condition to be observed before this second type of jurisdiction 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 jurisdiction by diplomatic or consular agents of a foreign nation. The last type of jurisdiction 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 evident, therefore, a prerequisite for the task of the International Tracing Service is 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 States Bureau's plan and assisting tracing. This activity, which was applicable to the situation in December 1949, is no longer applicable now in September 1950, as the Child Search Branch has become active. Investigations are still on a basis of very limited activity, with the 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:

Belgium

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

Belgium

Yemoungue Christian

Canada

Toronto Star

Denmark

Daily Herald
The Times

France

Nigero

Germany

Stark and Schlegel

U.S.A.

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

U.S.S.R.

Pravda

In addition, the following programs are being transmitted on radio:

American Peace Council

Child Search Council

British Broadcasting Corporation

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

United Nations Public Division

Daughter of Lidice
Eleven Marys Street
Home from Lake Success
The Milton 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

1950 (January - January)

At the beginning of 1950, the Director of the International Trading Service, accompanied by the Chief of the United States Branch, attended a meeting in Geneva at which were present the Director-General and various Department Chiefs of the I.L.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 stated and was again reiterated, that it was impossible for the United States Branch to be relieved before the close of the I.L.O. fiscal year. Therefore, it was made that the question should be referred immediately to the United Nations, who should assume ultimate responsibility for the relief program 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 unaccomplished 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.L.O., of a meeting held in preparation for that of the General Council in March. In this report, the Director-General of the International Trading Service for the future of Child Search was outlined as follows:

"As stated earlier the facts approved by the General Council are outlined 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 cases of major importance, to extend the life of Child Search long enough to ensure that the relocation of children promised to be non-German could be completed and that a further limited number of children, whose nationality, identity and eligibility under the I.L.O. mandate 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 eligibility before cases are turned over to Child Search. The Director-General has thus been able to prepare a plan for the operation of Child Search in accordance with which the operation functions at the present time since on 31st July 1950, and thereafter, only a very small staff would be required to carry out the normal administrative functions 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 provides for the following steps to be accomplished by 31st July:

- (a) Registration in accordance with the plan of all children who are to be non-Germans and provision of their names in the Master Index.
- (b) Preparation for addition to the Master Index and Master Index of all non-Germans and evidence produced by the Master Index.
- (c) As far as possible, establishment of nationality and identity of children and tracing of relatives. It is estimated that a further 1,000 names will be provided, 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 Bureau prior to 31st July 1935 and checking by the card-sorting machine all enquiries that were received prior to 31st December 1935.

The Director-General considers that, in addition to accordance with this plan, Child Search will have accomplished its main objective of identifying and registering children who are non-Germans, will have assisted in the early factory collection 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 for cases where non-Germans 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 1937, the possibility that consideration should be given to the allocation of the comparatively small sum retained 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 resolution of the funds allocated by the General Council in 1934 for the Child Search operation should be made 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 International

national

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 Arolsen 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 Arolsen, 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.

It had

national Training Service were brought up for review, no mention whatsoever was made of Child Search as an integral part of the International Training Service with specific funds allocated for its work. After discussion, a Resolution, No. 00/15/Rev. 2, was passed, instructing the Director-General:

"To make provision in the Plan of Expenditure for the Supplementary Fund of the I.T.S. of the necessary funds for the maintenance of activities after July 1950 at a reduced I.T.S. activity level, it is provided that such activities shall not exceed the amount of the savings which can be made in the sum allocated in the Plan of Expenditure for 1950 for the I.T.S., including Child Search."

This Resolution was interpreted to mean that the funds previously specifically allocated for Child Search to 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. 00/15/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 in 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 Geneva, which is arranged for liquidation 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 correspondence resulting from previous activities.

The funds thus made available by the liquidation 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.

This,

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 in the 2nd phase of the limited registration plan from which the most results were anticipated. Thus in the 1st phase the 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 programme' is no longer needed, and if so why?"

1. What number 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 Organization'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 in respect of certain though figures for 1955 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 taking 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 1955, no new registrations of children shall be made by Child Search, though the work of identifying and describing the children already found shall continue up to 31st August 1955. After that date, the Child Search Bureau 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 resulting from previous activities."

"We cannot, at this time, state when 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 location 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.

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

having

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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.G. Care and Maintenance programme and even of the I.R.G. Hospitalisation programme, and that the present Child Search programme could, if so desired, continue until it is completed, about the middle of 1950, even through 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 inter-governmental bodies, the reply to the United Nations implied that no such steps had been taken.

Almost simultaneously with the receipt 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 utilization 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 Control Operations Office. It is recalled 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 United Nations 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 supplying but inaccurate data as illustrated by the fact that from the children who were located in Germany by individual tracing parties during the period 1st January to 31st August 1950, and who should have been covered by the United Nations 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 abruptly on the 31st August 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

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 | 86 | 327 |
| Württemberg- Hohenzollern | | 7 | 175 | 123 | 305 | |
| Rhineland Pfalz | | 22 | 180 | 272 | 474 | |
| 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 this list and carry out special investigations of those German citizens which failed to report these children. Unfortunately, owing to the heavy demands of our operation, a thorough investigation of the reporting of the delinquent German citizens has not been possible.

Some of the outstanding listed delinquents have been reported but not located by the field office. These cases are being followed up by correspondence with the German Headquarters Office. Investigation of the end of these cases will remain in the hands of the field office which could not be cleared through correspondence. How many thousands of these are listed is not known. German citizens cannot be located unless they investigate and report. These children are listed in the following categories:

| Zone of Occupation (State) | German Land | Number of children reported | Number of children located | Number of children in custody | Number of children in Germany |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| British | Prussia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Lower Saxony | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Westphalia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | North Rhine | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Germany | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Prussia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Lower Saxony | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Westphalia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | North Rhine | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Germany | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| French | Prussia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Lower Saxony | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Westphalia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | North Rhine | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Germany | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Prussia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Lower Saxony | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Westphalia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | North Rhine | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Germany | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| U.S. | Prussia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Lower Saxony | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Westphalia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | North Rhine | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Germany | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Prussia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Lower Saxony | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Westphalia | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | North Rhine | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Germany | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| TOTAL | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

The German Red Cross - who have organized the investigation of unaccounted 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 (if given 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 realise 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

Search

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.O. 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 15,172
Jewish children included in the above total 7,099

Search Branch was initially set on April 1951. Since April the work of identifying, interviewing and tracing of unaccompanied children has been performed by the Search Branch in addition, Germany. The last phase of the identification of the program is now imminent.

The present Search Branch activities will continue to exist in Berlin as from 1951 onwards. Subsequently all records will be transferred to the International Tracing Service Headquarters in Aachen, Germany. Some small part will continue to give limited services. There will be an effort

- (a) Checking requests for missing children against the records held and notifying the requestors if the results obtained.
- (b) Forwarding to the appropriate authorities the incoming correspondence resulting from action initiated prior to August 1951.
- (c) Answering any enquiries (legal, medical and welfare etc.) which may be received in respect of children whose cases are held by the I.T.S.
- (d) Serving the I.A.S. Child Welfare Office in connection with the identifying and determining 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.

Attachments

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

Remarks :

The Child Search Branch on 31st August 1950 holds 33,684 individual children's case files, of which 27,187 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 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 a number of years.