

The Founding of the *International Tracing Service (ITS)*

In 1947, UNRRA brought most of its work in Europe to an end. Tracing activities were taken over by its successor at the UN, the *International Refugee Organization (IRO)* based in Geneva. To consolidate the search for missing persons even more, the CTB became the *International Tracing Service (ITS)* in 1948. It brought together the three Western zonal tracing bureaus. This meant they were gradually dissolved in the following years, and most documents and employees were moved to Arolsen. The Soviet Union was not involved in the ITS, however, because conflict with the Western powers was intensifying.

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Officials Confer On Future Of UNRRA CTB



UNRRA and Allied officials shown at a recent conference at the former UNRRA Central Headquarters, for the DP Operation in Germany, which was called to discuss plans for the future of UNRRA Central Tracing Bureau.

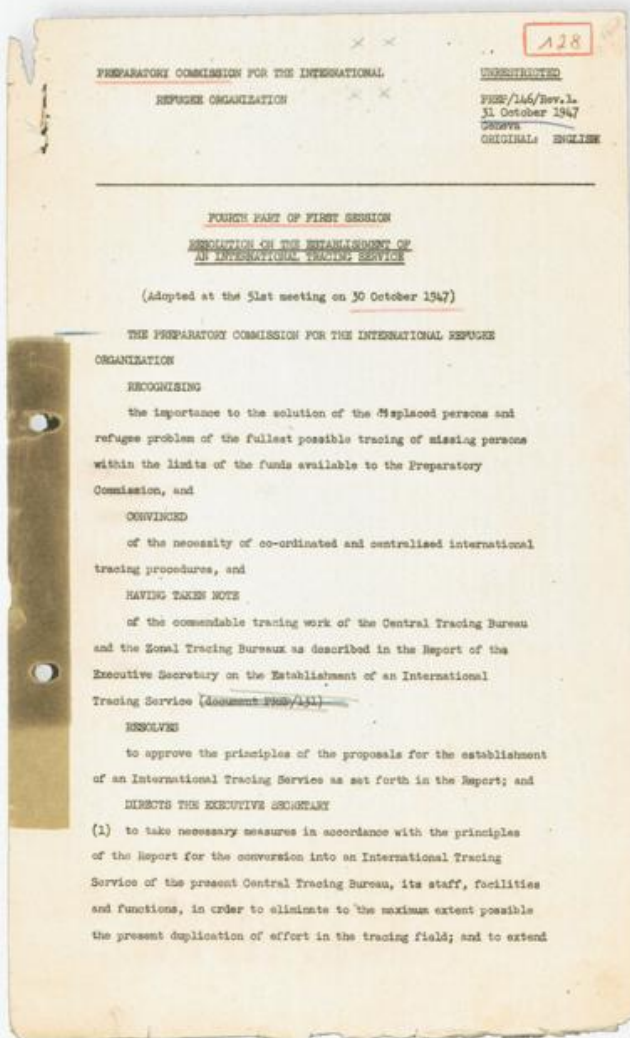
The group includes, reading around table, left to right: Miss Cecile Kesteman, chief of tracing division at CTB; Mrs. Schlesinger, of the British Red Cross search office, Goettingen; Miss Warner, of British Red Cross foreign relations, London; Lt. Col. Robert W. P. Dawson, chief of UNRRA field operations, British zone; Miss Helen Montgomery, deputy chief of field operations, CIG; Carl H. Martini, director of field operations, CIG; Emma Fisher, director of CTB; Evelyn Mendosa, secretary to Mr. Fisher; Capt. Puzoska, Czechoslovak liaison officer; Col. Garbutt, USPT chief liaison officer, UNRRA bureau of documents and tracing, U.S. zone; Royal D. McTavish, director of the U. S. zone bureau of documents and tracing; Miss Malba Felix, deputy director of U. S. zone bureau of documents and tracing; Miss Odette Despelgus, UNRRA repatriation officer, French zone; Miss Marjorie Buckle, child search officer, CIG; Miss Eileen Blackey, child welfare consultant, CIG; and Miss Joan Hastings Hagerford, chief of child tracing at CTB.

Also, at table in center, left to right: Lt. Col. Françoise d'Evrouin, French liaison officer; Mrs. Zawislowska, Polish liaison officer; Maj. Marcel Willy Wolf, Belgian Red Cross officer; Capt. Armand Hüper, Luxembourg liaison officer; Miss Sheila Callan, chief of the record division at CTB; and Miss Dorothy Clarke, chief of mass tracing bureau, CIG.

UNRRA VI Photo By R. G. Berry

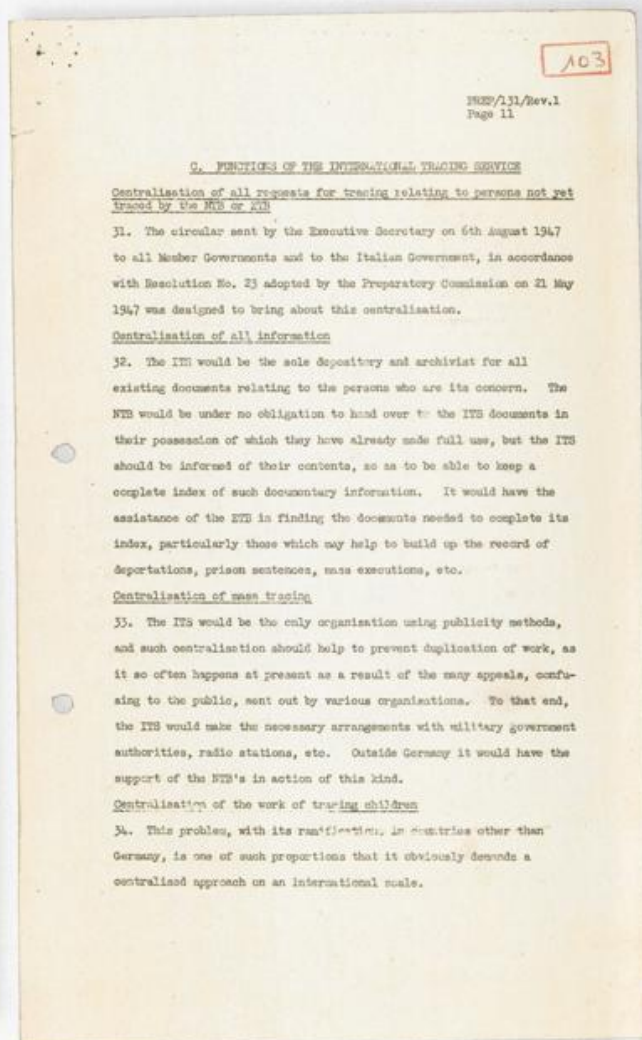
Article about the Future of the CTB in the UNRRA Newsletter Team News, March 22, 1947

In spring 1947, the future of the CTB was uncertain. It was clear that UNRRA would stop running the tracing service. But the search for and documentation of missing persons was far from over. Therefore, representatives of UNRRA met with the national tracing bureaus to find a solution to the operation of the tracing service.



**Resolution on the Founding of the ITS,
October 30, 1947**

The resolution on the founding of the ITS was passed just months before it officially began work at the start of 1948. The minutes shown here document the decisive meeting of the IRO, when it was acknowledged that the search for missing persons and the documentation of Nazi persecution had to be continued centrally.



**Excerpt from an Overview of the Reorganization of
the ITS in Arolsen, November 6, 1947**

When the tracing service was reorganized, Maurice Thudicum of the *International Red Cross* in Geneva first acted as a consultant. In a memo on the institution's future structure, he recommended centralizing the ITS documents and processes in Arolsen for a more systematic approach to the tracing and documentation of missing persons.

