

1 January 1949 to 1 January 1951. They were handled in the same way as adult enquiries. Altogether, a total of 4,808 cases were solved by Child Search and Child Tracing during 1949/50.

51. On 1 January 1948, the total Child Search/Tracing staff amounted to 11 (2 international); by 1 January 1950, 386 (59 international); and by 1 January 1951 it had been reduced to 20 (1 international).

#### F. CURTAILMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR TRANSFER

52. By the autumn of 1949, it had become increasingly urgent to find a successor organization to be responsible for the continuation of the activities of the ITS. IRO was scheduled to terminate operations in June 1950, by which time the main work of the ITS was not likely to be completed. Western European countries in particular were extremely anxious that valuable information concerning their nationals should not be lost to them, such information being essential for indemnification and other purposes, such as succession, remarriage, etc.

53. The Director-General was directed by the General Council to "re-examine in detail the programme and budget of the ITS 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 30 June 1950 within the limits of the funds allocated", and, further, "to negotiate with interested governments and with occupation authorities for the transfer by 30 June 1950 of the then remaining tracing functions of the International Tracing Service to governments or to another international or intergovernmental body".

54. During the first quarter of 1950 every effort was made within the ITS to implement the first part of these instructions. Mass tracing was closed down as

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answered only on the basis of records held by the ITS.

55. In the meantime, in response to an instruction from the council at its Third (Special) Session, the Director-General had been discussing with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the possibility of that body taking over responsibility for the ITS, at least custody of the archives and certain essential functions. Accordingly, the ICRC sent an investigating mission to ITS Headquarters. These negotiations led to no positive result, however, principally because the ICRC felt unable to take on certain essential operational functions that could not be completed by 30 June 1950.

56. In view of the failure of the possibility of turning over responsibility for the ITS to the ICRC; the fact that the life of the organization had been extended through a supplementary period; and that the organization was able to make certain savings in the funds allocated for the ITS, it was found practical to extend the activities of the ITS beyond 30 June on a reduced scale. It would thus be possible to complete the most important tasks and provide time for further negotiations concerning the future of the ITS.

57. At the Fifth Session of the General Council, in March 1950, the need was again stressed to supply the NTS with material concerning their nationals; and the Director-General was instructed to make provision in the Plan of Expenditure for the Supplementary Period of the IRO of the necessary funds for the maintenance at Arosen after 1 July 1950 of a reduced IRO supervisory staff, provided that such provision not exceed the amount of the savings which could be made in the sum allocated in the Plan of Expenditure for 1949-1950 for the ITS, including Child Search; and to enter into negotiations with the High Commission in Germany with a view to arranging for the taking over at a date as early as possible before 31 March 1951 of the operations of the ITS.

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58. Drastic reductions had to be made in the Child Search Programme immediately. After 1 April 1950 no further children were registered, although the work of identifying and documenting children already found continued until 31 August. After that date the Child Search Headquarters (Esslingen) was liquidated and all records removed to Arolsen. Incoming enquiries were handled on the same basis as those for adults.

59. In all sections of the ITS plans were made immediately to reduce personnel, meanwhile concentrating on the major work of processing material for the NTBs. International staff, which totalled 144 on 1 January 1950, numbered only 30 by December of that year, and indigenous personnel 1,113 as against 1,912. The Berlin Liaison Office had already been closed. The United States Zone division was closed down in September and the British Zone division in December, leaving only field representatives with a very reduced staff to complete the work of locating and checking graves. Records from these field offices were transferred to ITS headquarters at Arolsen.

#### G. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY

60. In September 1950 the Allied High Commission, having been approached regarding the take-over of the ITS, agreed in principle to assume responsibility as of 1 January 1951 and set up a working committee composed of British, French and United States representatives to negotiate the transfer. Although the collection of documents had in the main been completed, there still remained a considerable amount of processing to be done. In order, therefore, to be able to take over the ITS and complete this work so that ultimately the service would represent an information centre only, the High Commission proposed to take over operational responsibility as from 1 April 1951, provided that IRO send eight tracing experts, the cost of whose services would be borne by the IRO, to be attached to the ITS