

International  
tracing service

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Service **ITS**  
international  
de recherches

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Suchdienst

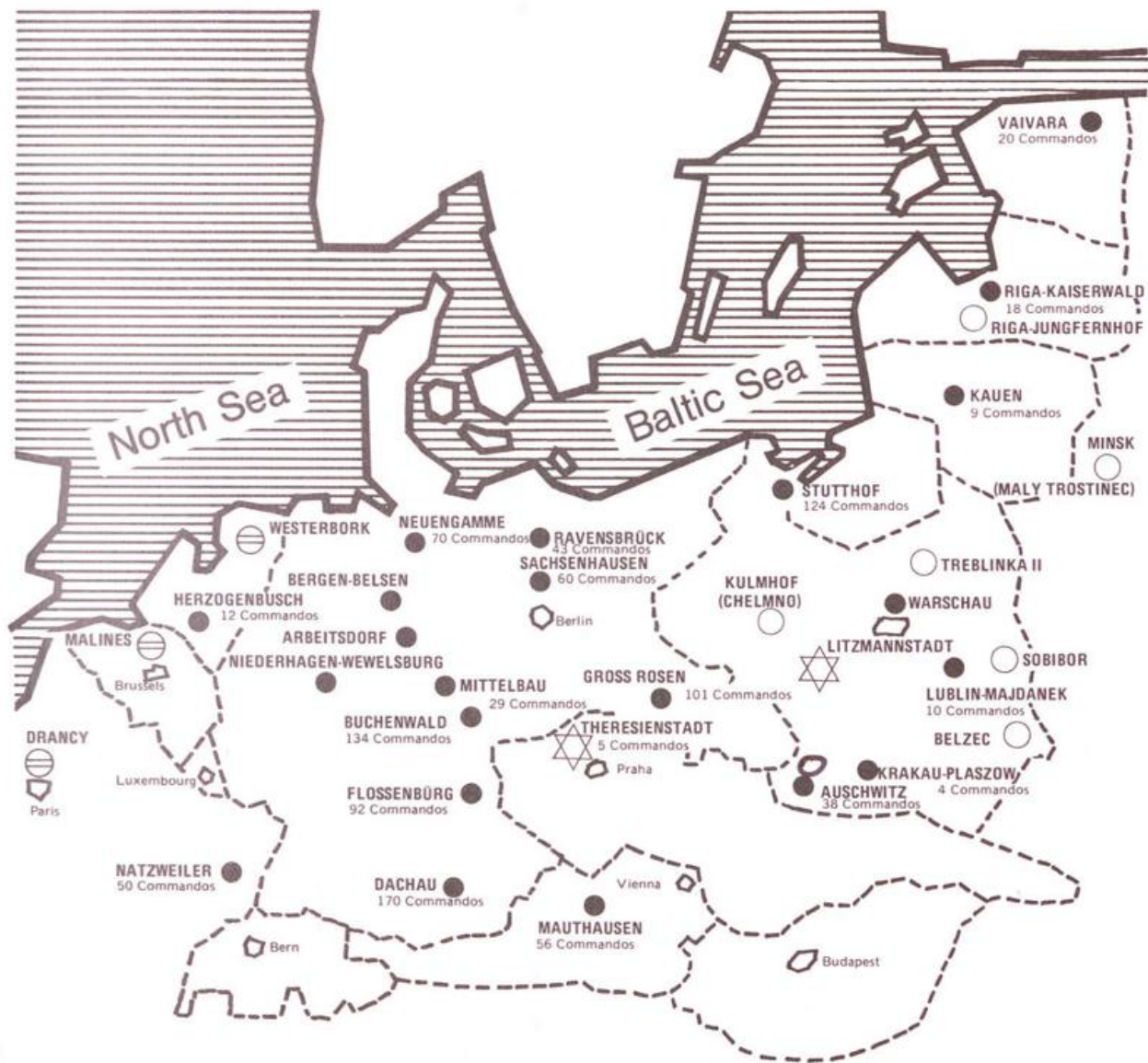
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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE  
INTERNATIONALES KOMITEE VOM ROTEN KREUZ



**ITS**  
Internationaler Suchdienst  
Bibliothek: *A71URK 92:A*

# Concentration Camps Extermination Camps and Ghettos 1939-1945



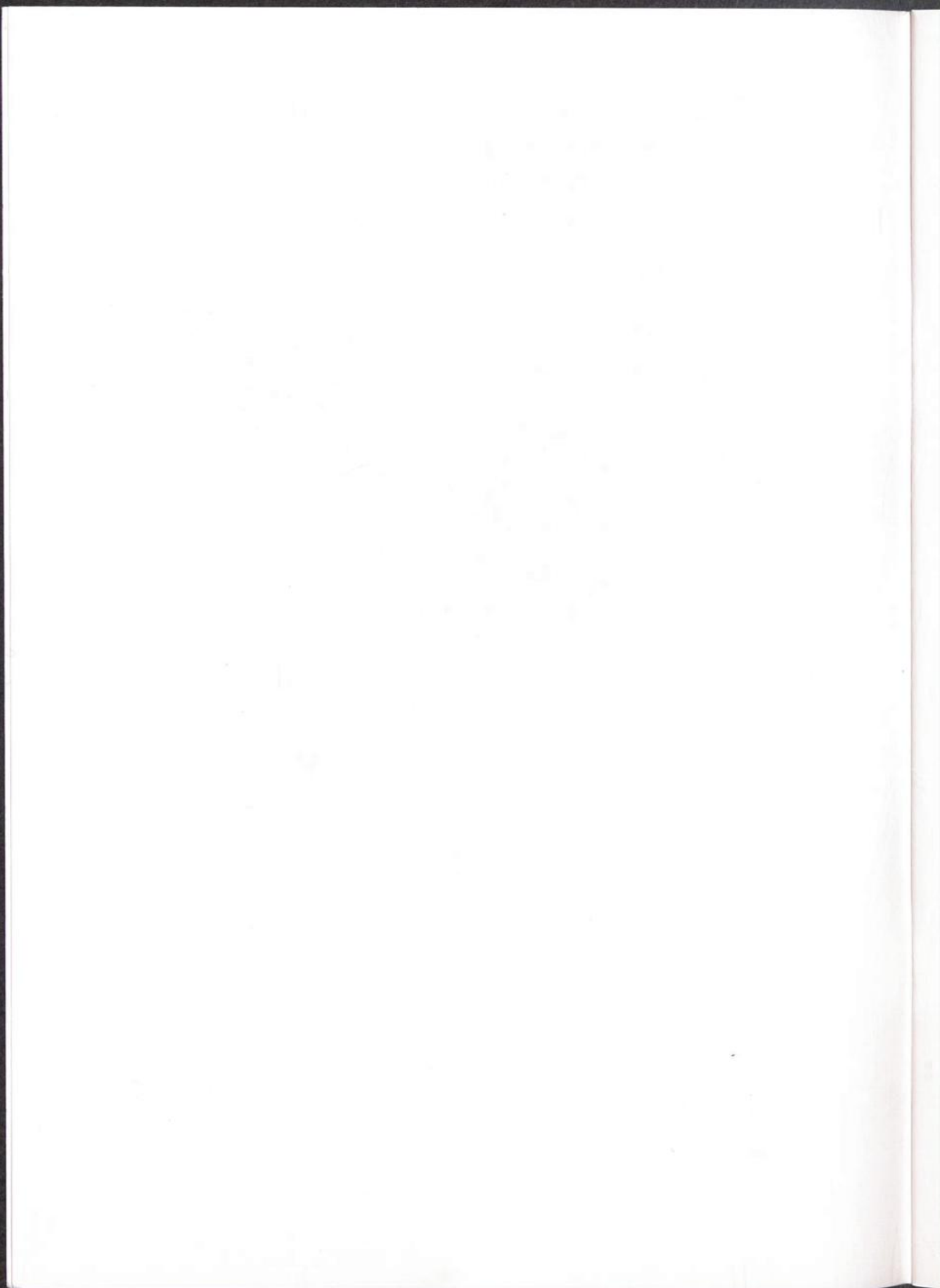
## Key to the symbols

⊖ TRANSIT CAMPS

○ EXTERMINATION CAMPS

● CONCENTRATION CAMPS

⬠ GHETTOS  
(ghettos existed in all the larger towns in the eastern occupied territories)



What for many of us is personal experience is often for the younger generation, in and outside the International Tracing Service (ITS), only so much history. But the employees of this institution, which was founded in London in 1943, see the effects of that history every day as they comb the ITS archives.

We have a duty to keep this history alive in order to ensure that now, more than 40 years on, the victims of National-Socialist persecution still obtain that to which they are entitled.

The ten member states of the International Commission for the International Tracing Service (IC/ITS) set the framework in which the ITS is to operate and see to it that this is properly adhered to. They thus guarantee that the work continues for the benefit of the former persecutees for whom the ITS was created to serve.

Under the Bonn Agreements of June 1955, between the Western Allies and the Federal Republic of Germany, the Federal Republic assumed responsibility for the finances of the International Tracing Service.

In an exchange of notes concerning the manner in which the work of the ITS would be continued, the governments also agreed in June 1955 that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, in view of its neutral, impartial and humanitarian character, would be entrusted with the direction and administration of the ITS.



The International Commission for the International Tracing Service gave the International Tracing Service the mandate of

- assembling
- classifying
- preserving
- and evaluating

personal records on former persecutees of the National-Socialist Regime. The following activities result from that mandate:

The ITS provides documentary proof of persecution for civilians who were incarcerated or sent into forced labour under the Third Reich because of their race, religion, ethnic origin, creed or political leanings. This proof is furnished in the form of certificates and excerpts from documents which are the only legal instruments with which claims for compensation or old-age pensions can be substantiated. We still receive 30,000 to 40,000 inquiries each year from about 35 countries. The substantiation is given to the former persecutees themselves, their assigns or the compensation or pension authorities.

The following categories of personal records are used by the International Tracing Service to provide substantiation:

- Documents concerning Germans and non-Germans held in concentration camps, labour camps or prisons.



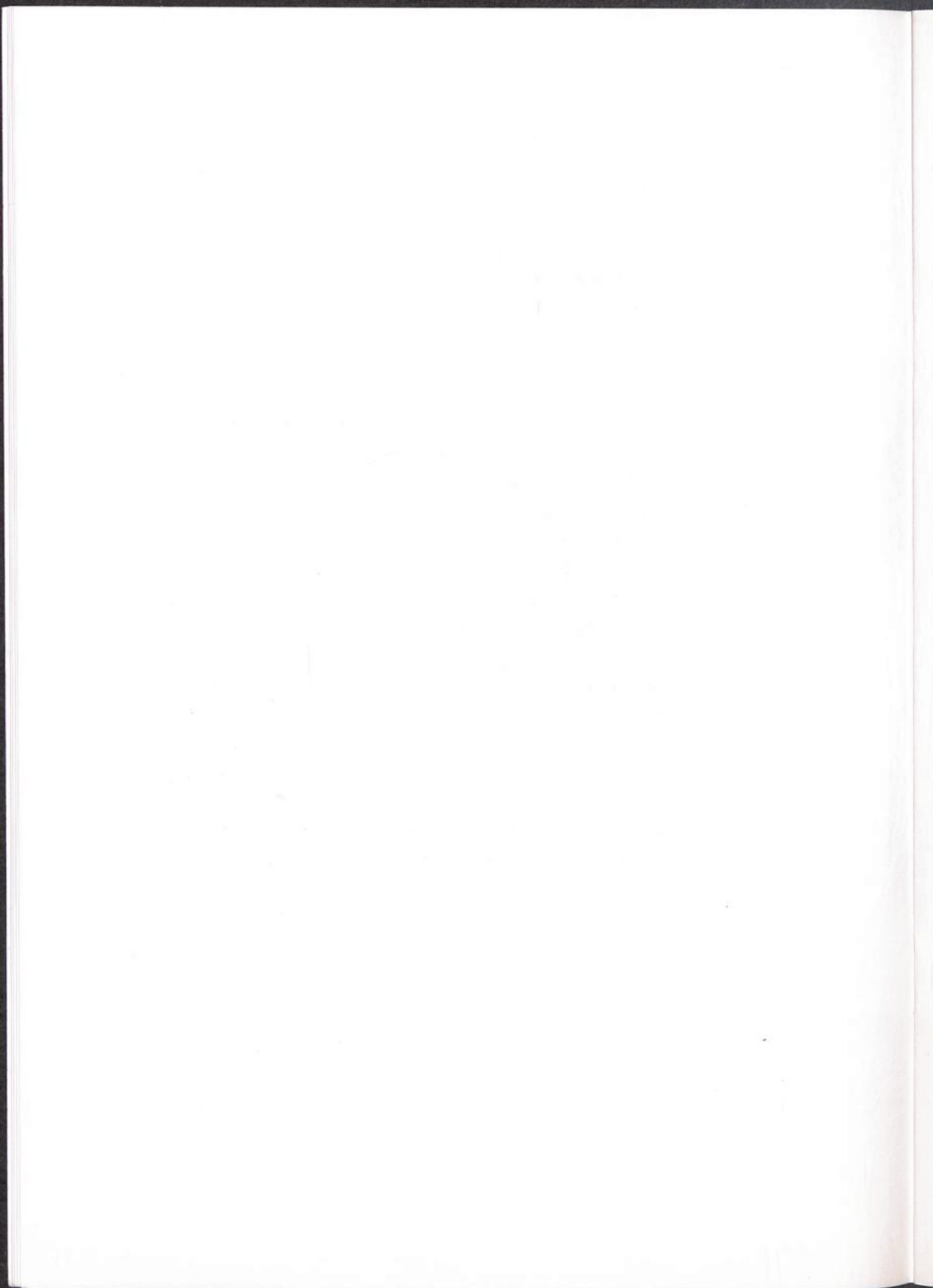
- Documents concerning non-Germans sent into forced labour on the territory of the Third Reich during the Second World War.
- Documents concerning displaced non-Germans who were given assistance by United Nations relief organizations following the War.

With the extensive archives (comprising a total of 20 separate archive-units) and great variety of documents preserved at the International Tracing Service, a special filing system has had to be developed. Since the registration of people of many different nationalities, which began during the War and went on until the late 40s, was intended for use by people of many different nationalities, an alphabetic/phonetic index of names had to be set up. With this filing system, it is not possible to extract information on single groups of persecutees or according to camps or geographical area. But it ensures that any and all records which we have on a given person are readily available for consultation and evaluation by our specialists. The International Tracing Service thus represents a very singular archive since, unlike other archives, in addition to assembling, classifying and preserving documents, it also gives special training to its personnel in the evaluation of those documents. In accordance with the Service's mandate, the information is then given only to those directly concerned.

Arolsen, Summer 1986



Ch.-Cl. Biedermann  
Director



## Organizations in charge of ITS

### Establishment of a Central Tracing Bureau in London in 1943



**SHAEF** = Supreme Headquarters  
Allied Expeditionary Forces  
1944 – 1945



**UNRRA** = United Nations Relief and  
Rehabilitation Administration  
1945 – 1947



**IRO** = International Refugee  
Organization  
1947 – 1951



**HICOG** = Allied High Commission  
for Germany  
1951 – 1955



**ICRC** = International Committee  
of the Red Cross  
1955 – to the present

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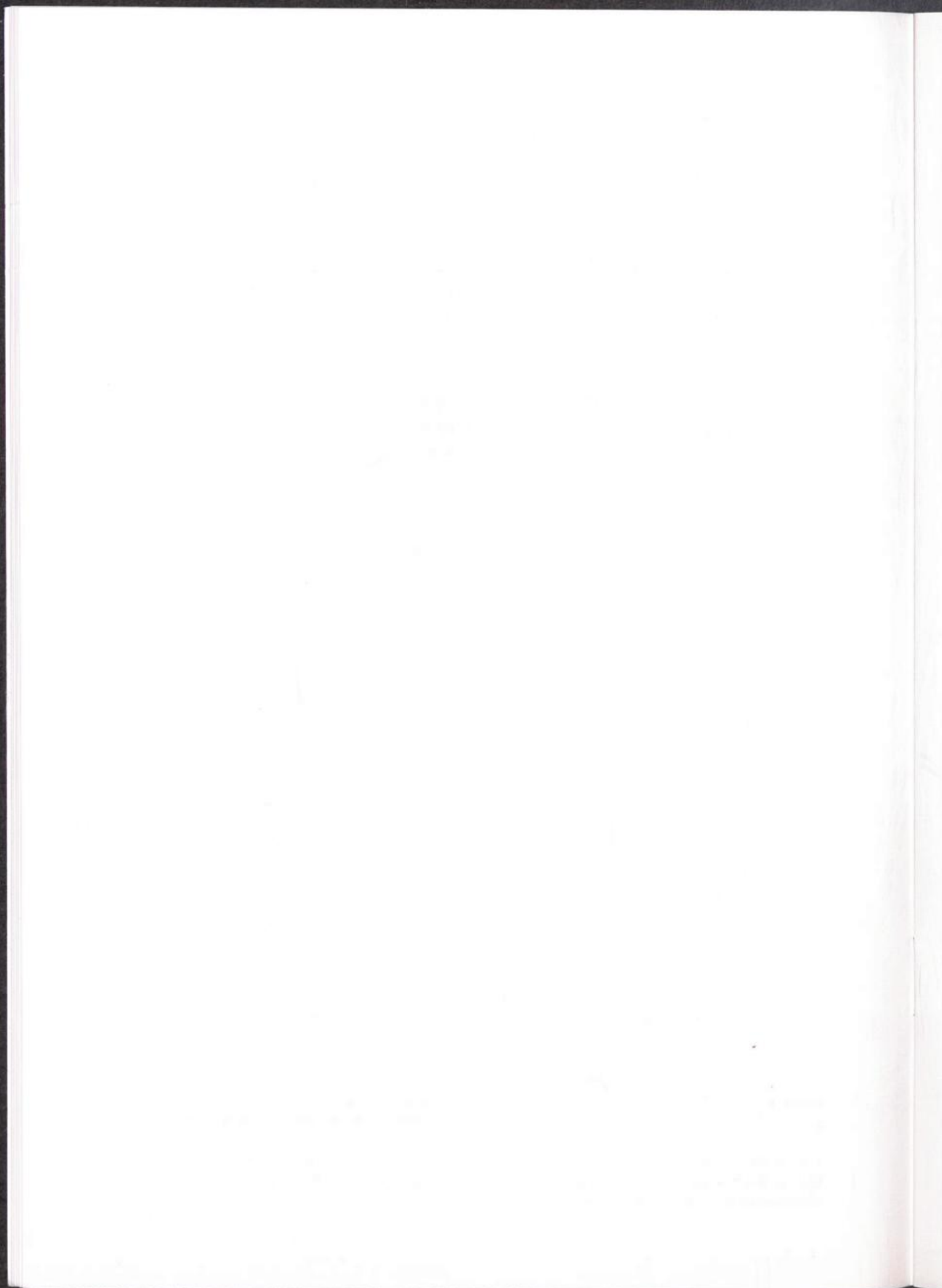
IC/ITS = International Commission for the International Tracing Service  
Ruling body/Supervision since 1955

composed of government representatives of the ten Member States

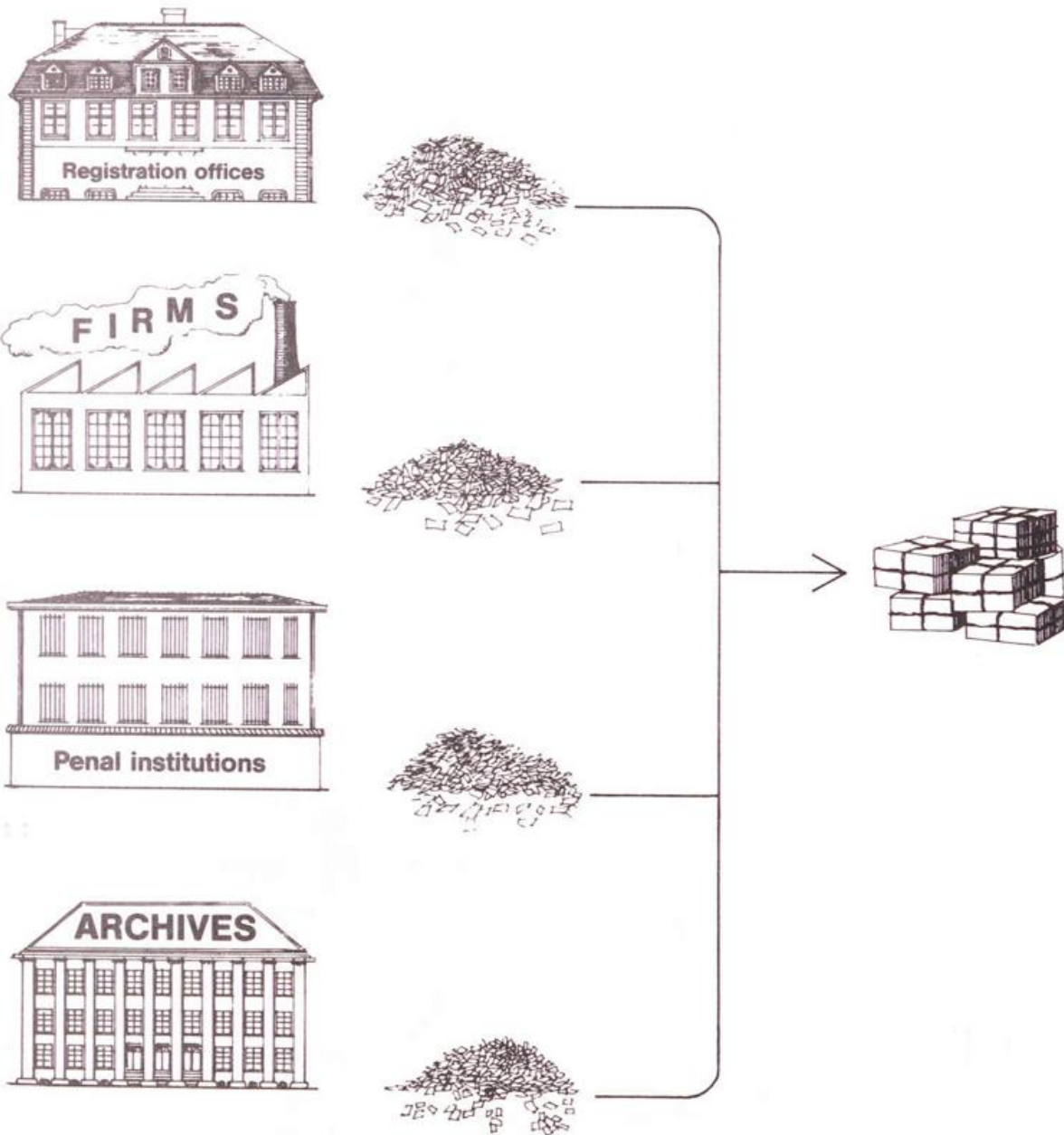
Belgium  
France  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Greece  
Israel

Italy  
Luxemburg  
Netherlands  
Great Britain  
United States of America

The task of the International Commission is to ensure co-ordination between the Governments represented on the Commission in matters relating to the International Tracing Service.



# MANDATE OF ASSEMBLING DOCUMENTATION



Thanks to the continued acquisition of new documentary material, the ITS succeeds in sending certificates or supplementary information to earlier applicants, to whom till now, negative or incomplete replies had to be dispatched.

STATE OF NEW YORK  
IN SENATE

January 10, 1907

REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

1906

ALBANY:

1907

Printed by the  
State Printing Office,  
Albany, N. Y.

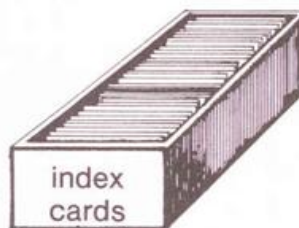
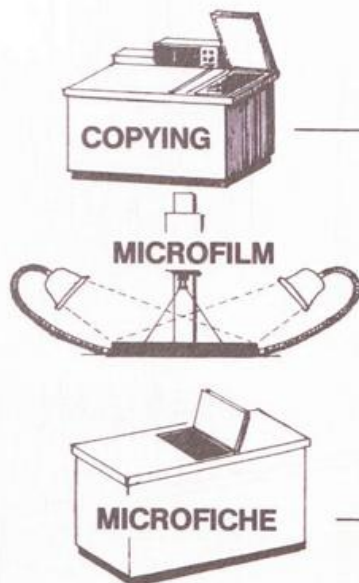
There is no other copy of this report in the State Library. It is the property of the State and is loaned to the Senate for its use. It is not to be distributed outside the Senate.

# MANDATE OF CLASSIFYING DOCUMENTATION

New documents from outside archives  
are added to ITS archives  
= new material



Rearrangement of documents  
already available  
= old material



To arrange according to  
the ITS archive system:

- **Registration:**  
Sorting, labelling and registration  
of documents in the inventory
- **Card-indexing:**  
Drawing up reference cards  
with names and indication of  
document location
- **Sorting in alphabetical-  
phonetical order:**  
Insertion of reference cards into  
the collecting point and sorting  
into the Central Index of Names
- **Insertion:**  
Incorporation of the new material  
into the archives





Concentration camp archive

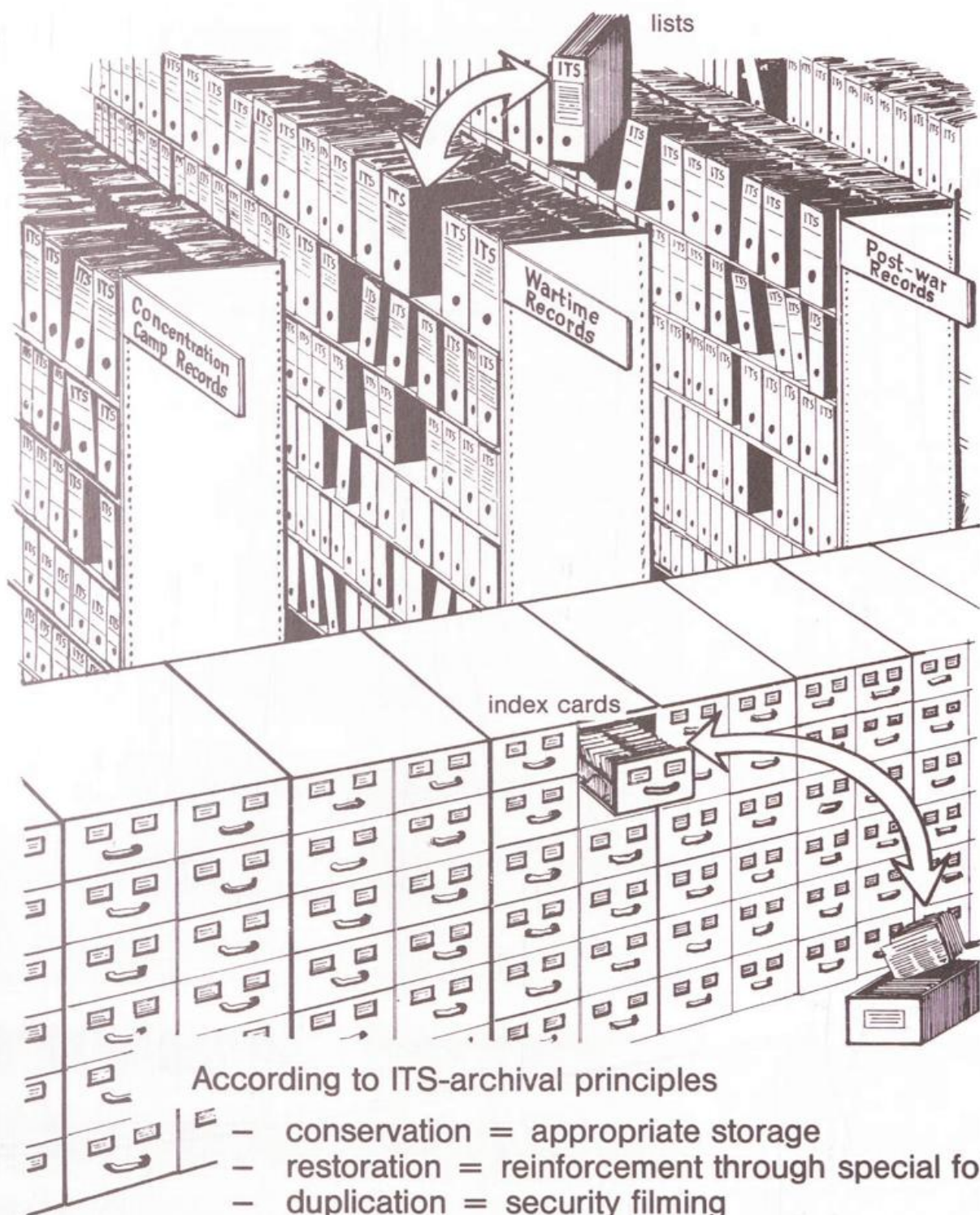
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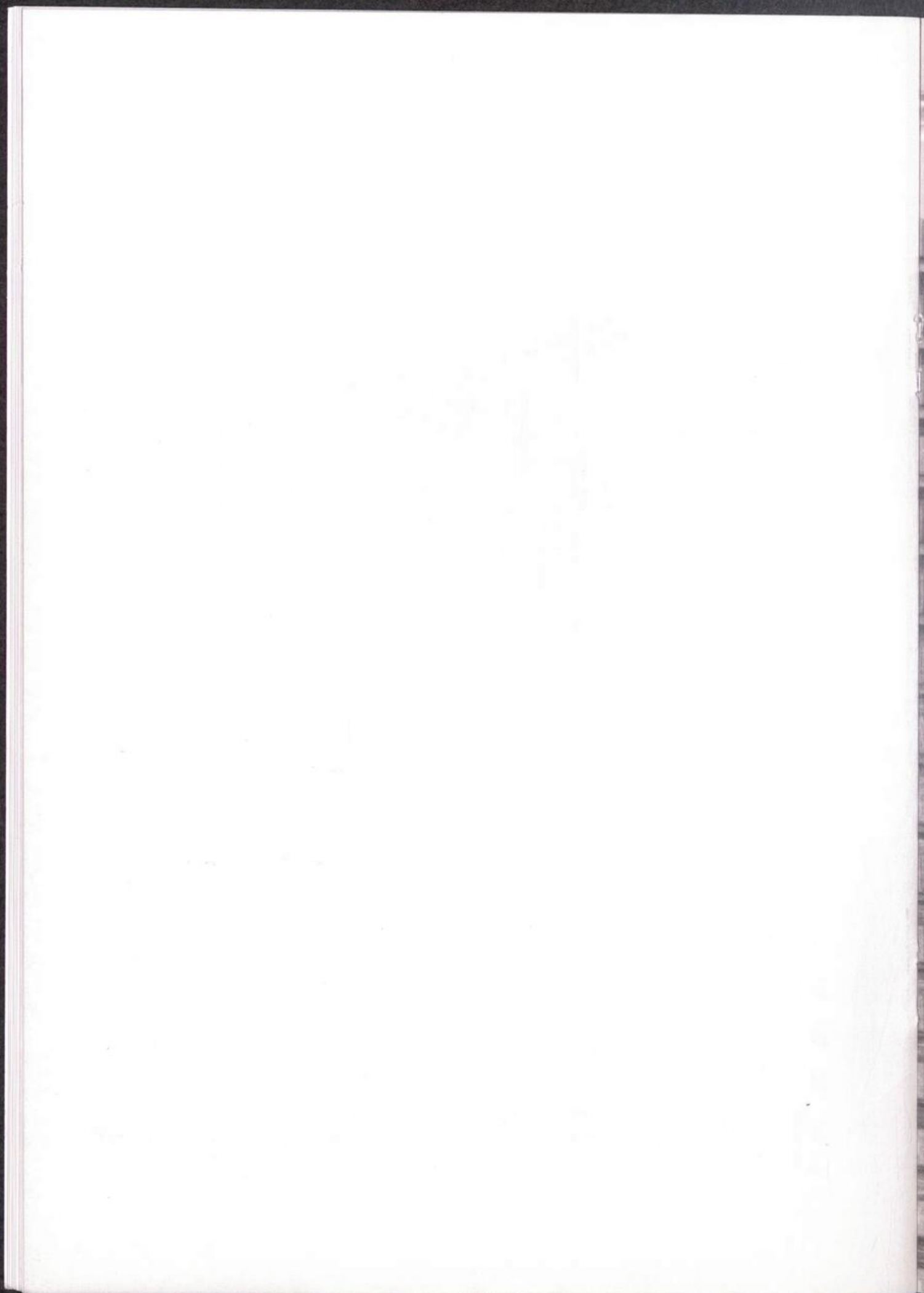
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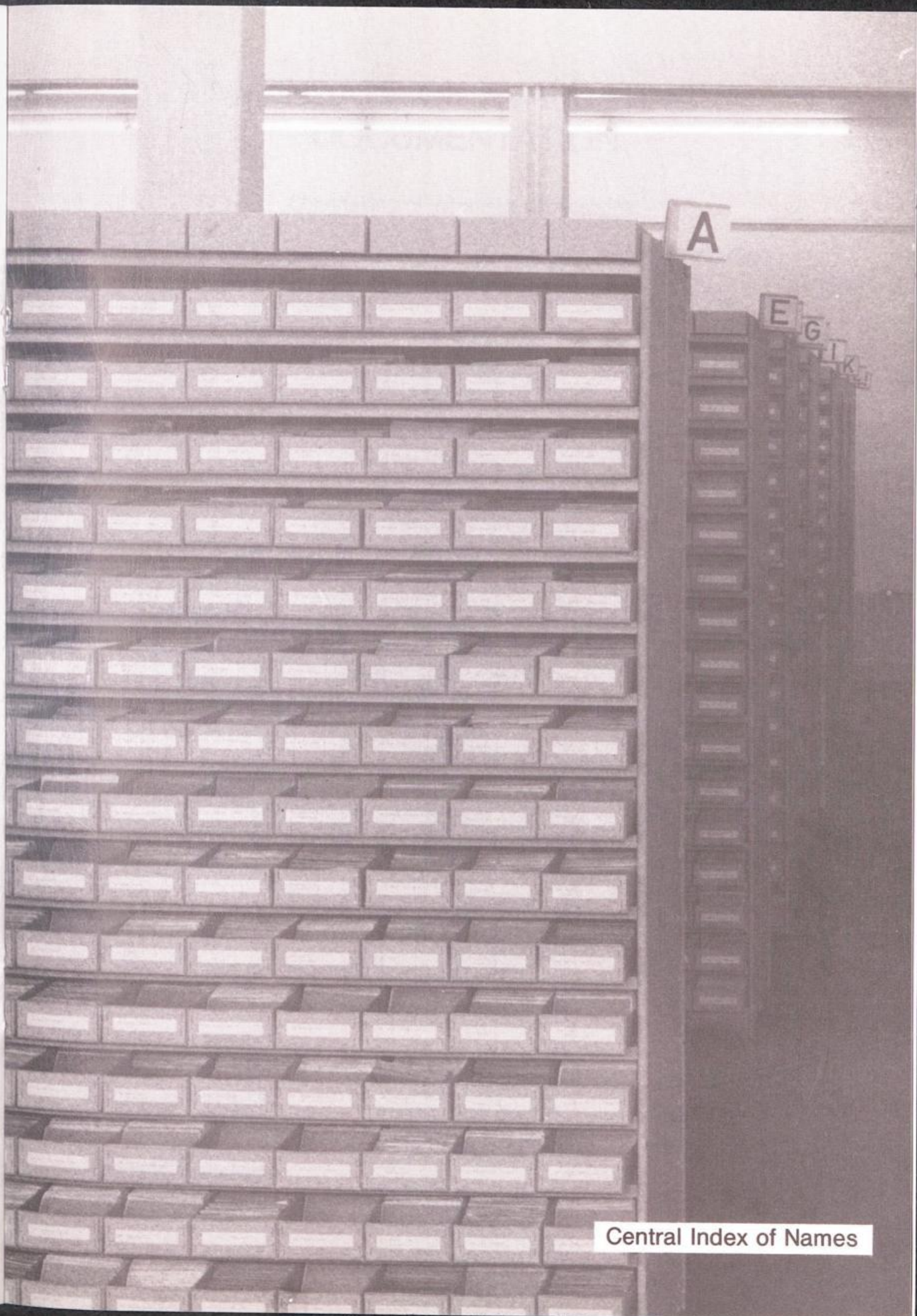
# MANDATE OF PRESERVING DOCUMENTATION



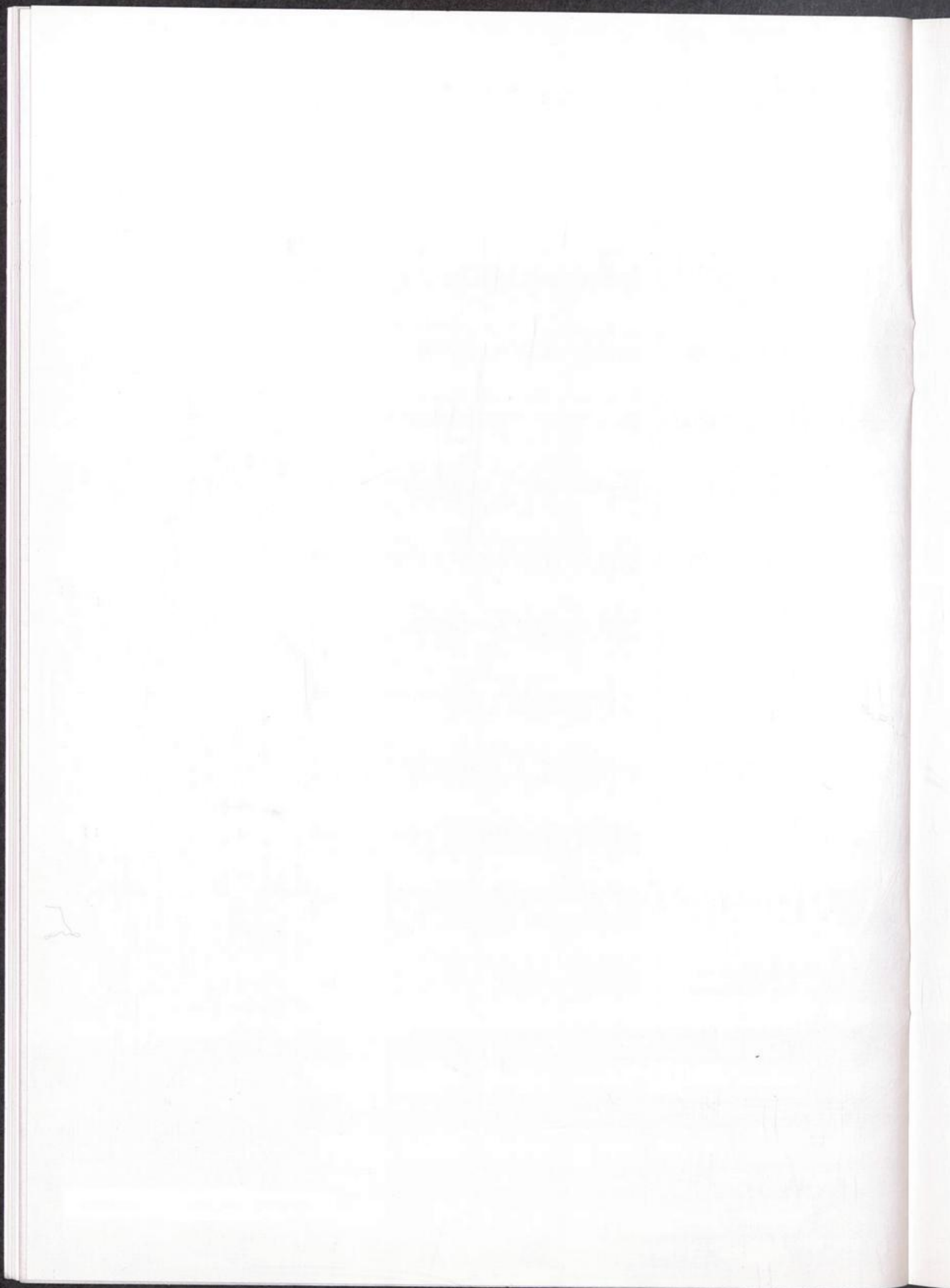
According to ITS-archival principles

- conservation = appropriate storage
- restoration = reinforcement through special foil
- duplication = security filming





Central Index of Names

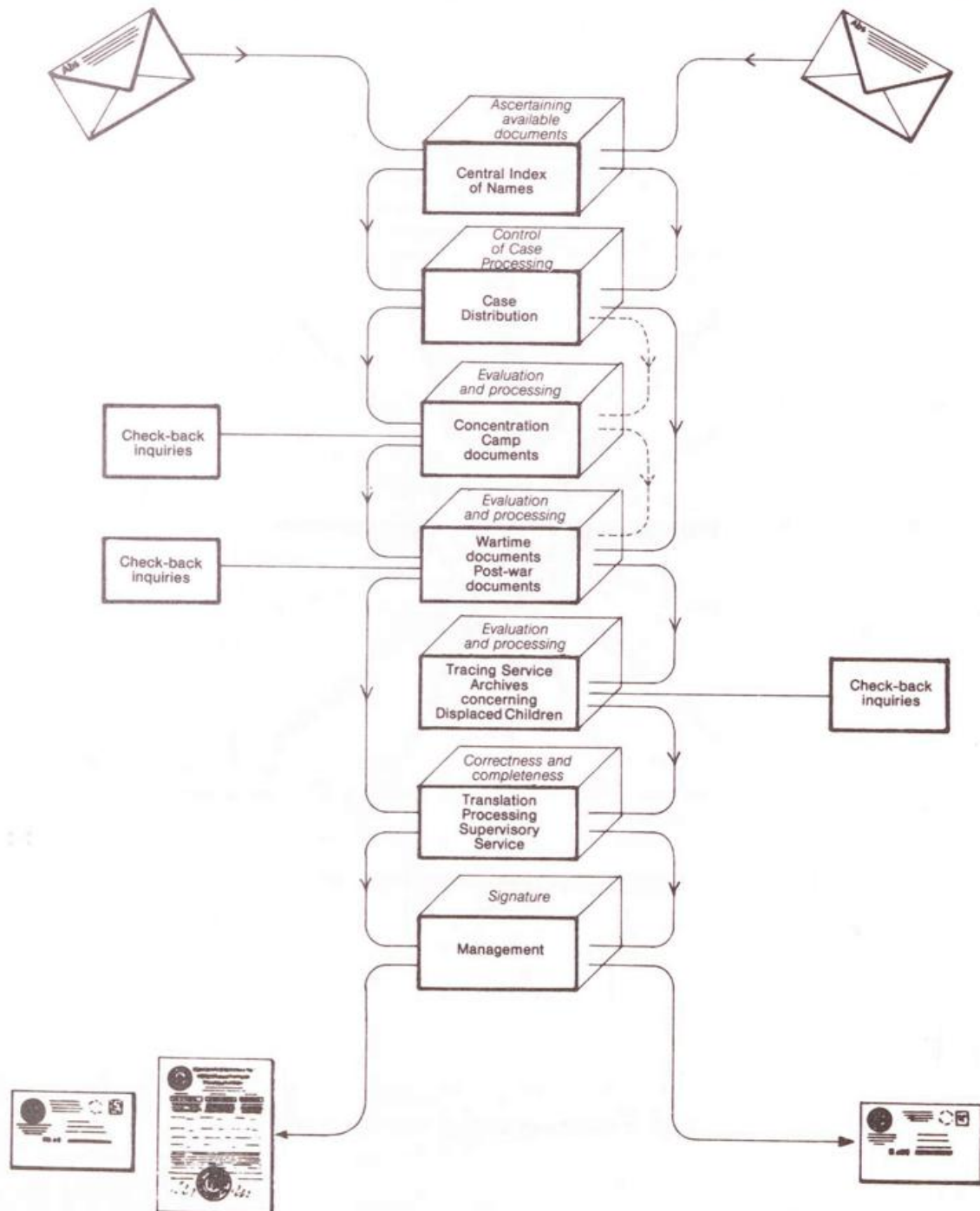


# MANDATE OF EVALUATING DOCUMENTATION

## Channelling of incoming applications

confirmation of detention

search for relatives

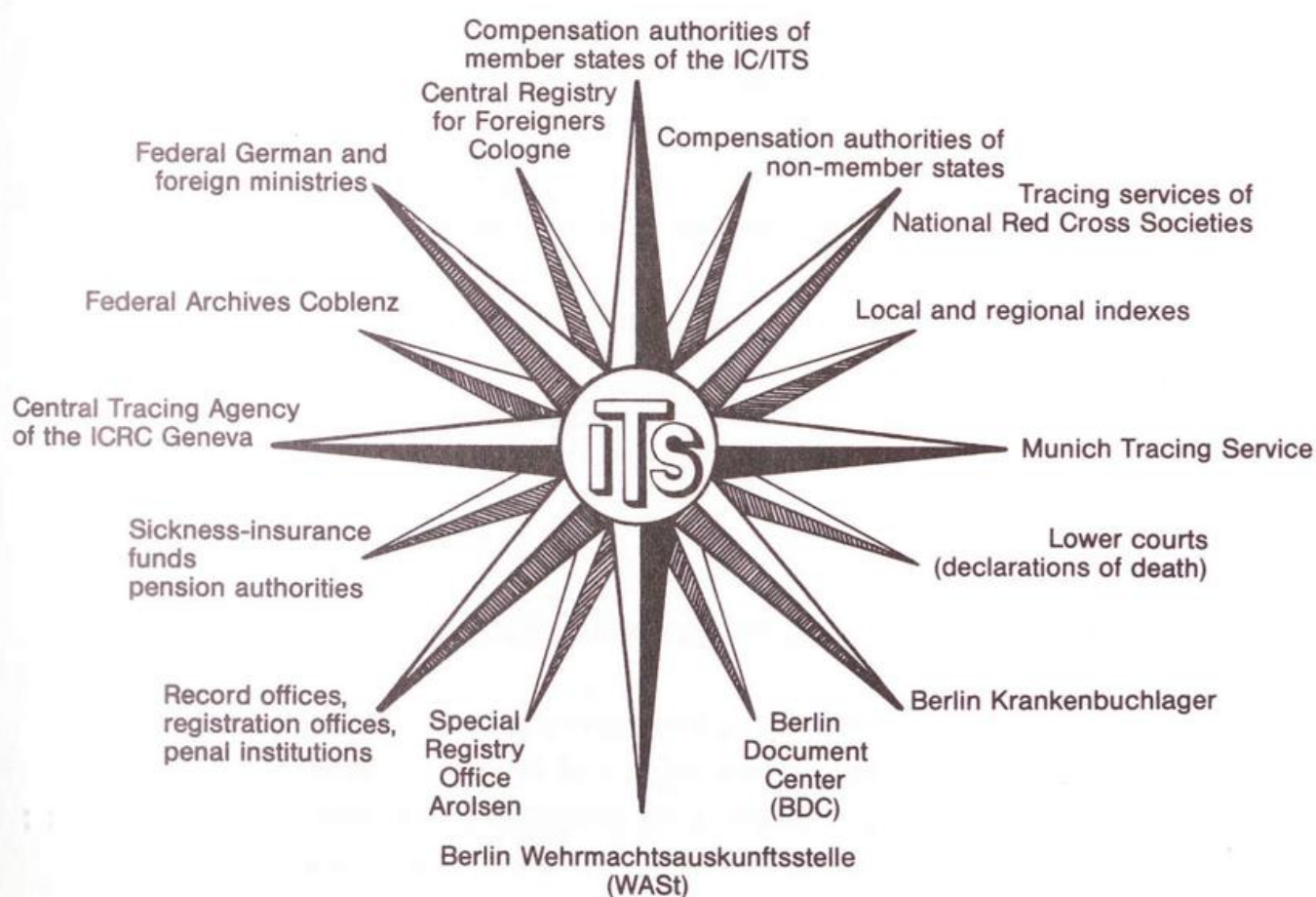


### Steps in processing

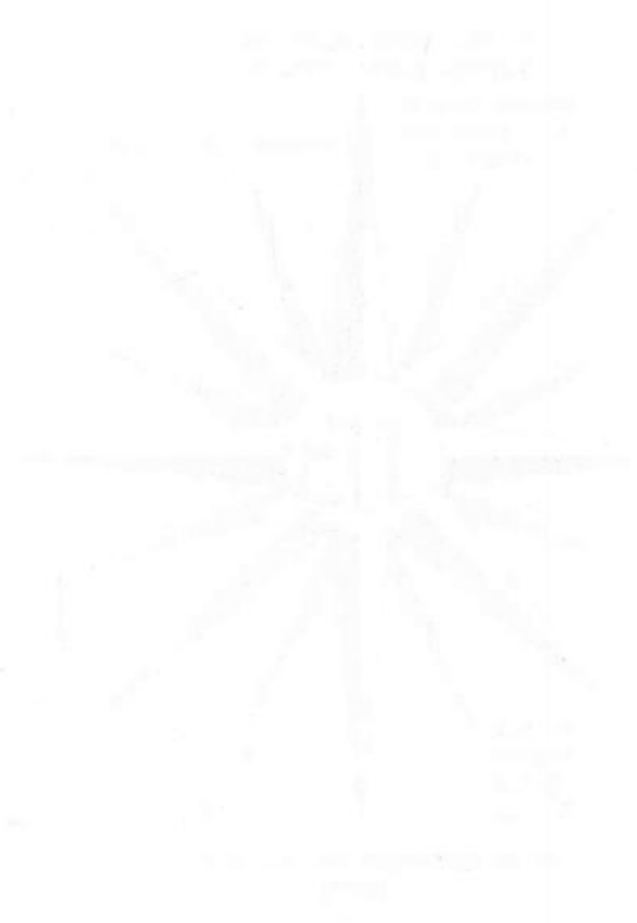
— must  
 - - - - - may



# National and international co-operation



and numerous further institutions, firms etc



The records of the International Tracing Service contain information on an estimated 13.5 million former persecutees of the National-Socialist Regime. Since there may be several sources of information on a single person, the index contains 43 million cards.

## The International Tracing Service

– in 1986 had

= 17,118 linear metres of documents

= 90,450 metres of microfilm

= 31,300 microfiches

– Since 1943, it has

= dispatched 6.5 million reports for which

= 1.6 million individual personal files were opened, to which – should new inquiries be made, additional information be acquired or a tracing request be made – immediate access may be obtained.

At present, with a total of 212.5 permanent posts, 244 persons are employed to carry out the evaluation and classification of the documents. In addition, eight trainees are employed at the International Tracing Service.

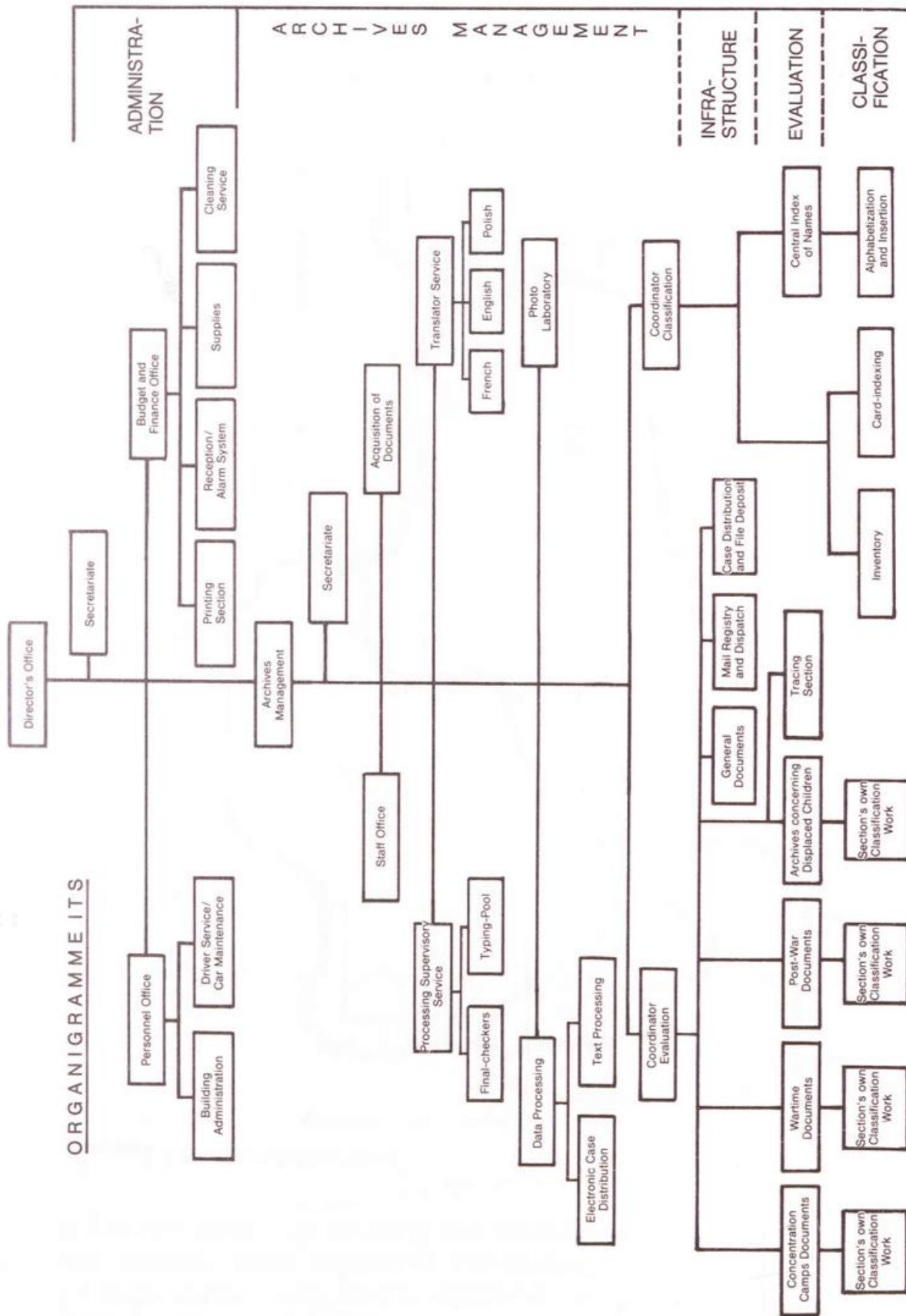




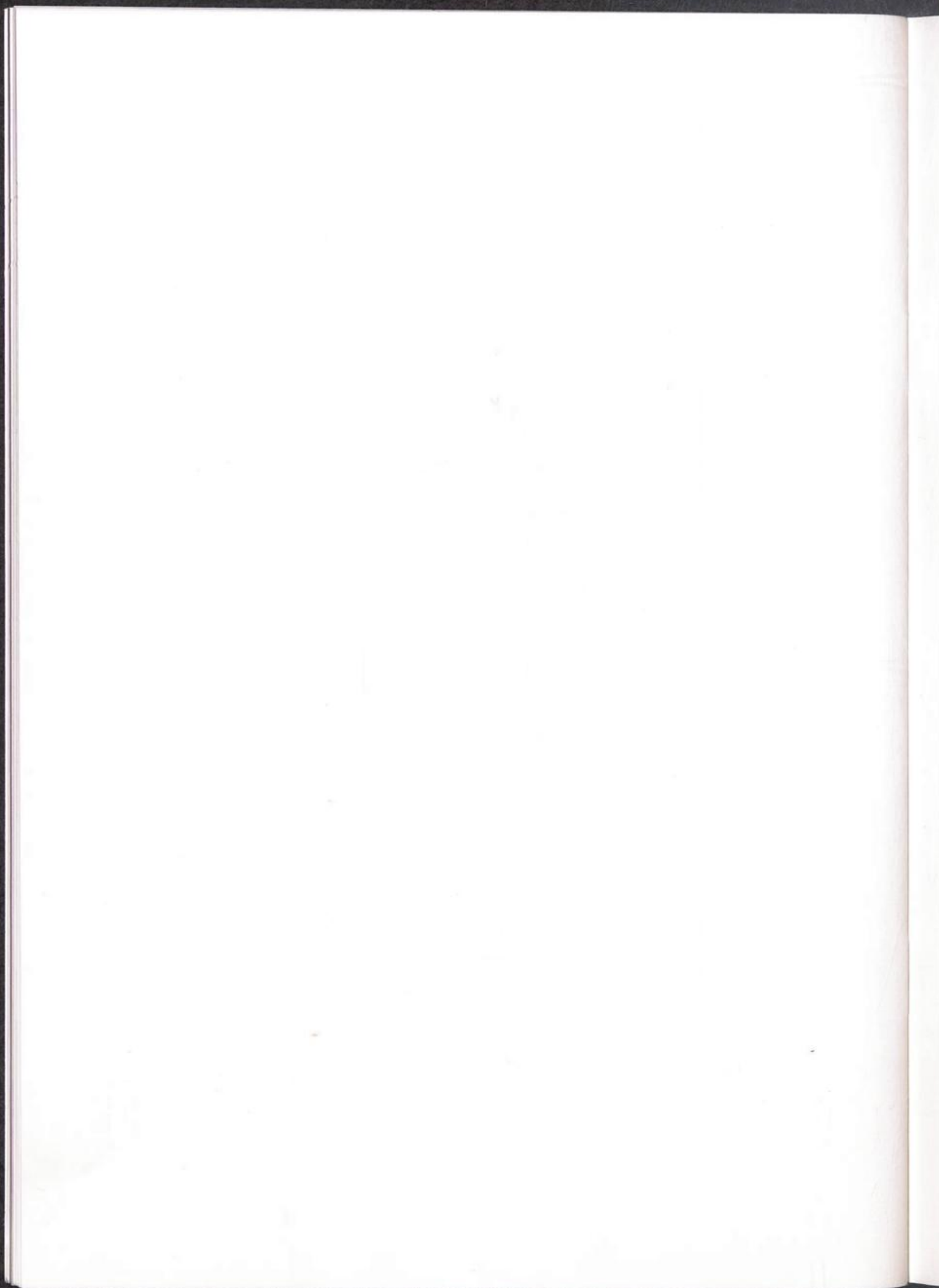
Storage Place - Final Deposit  
of processed inquiries



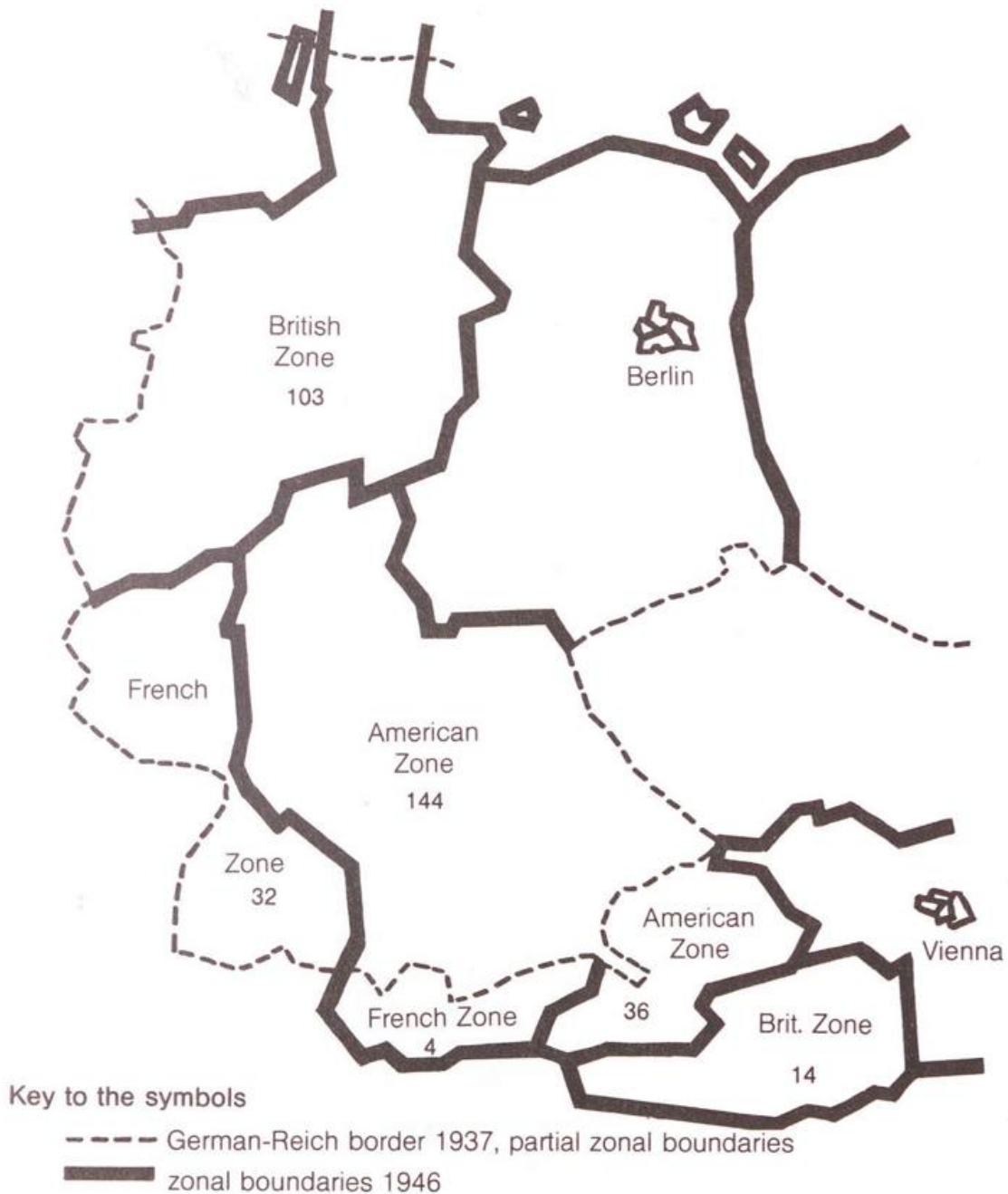
ORGANIGRAMME ITS



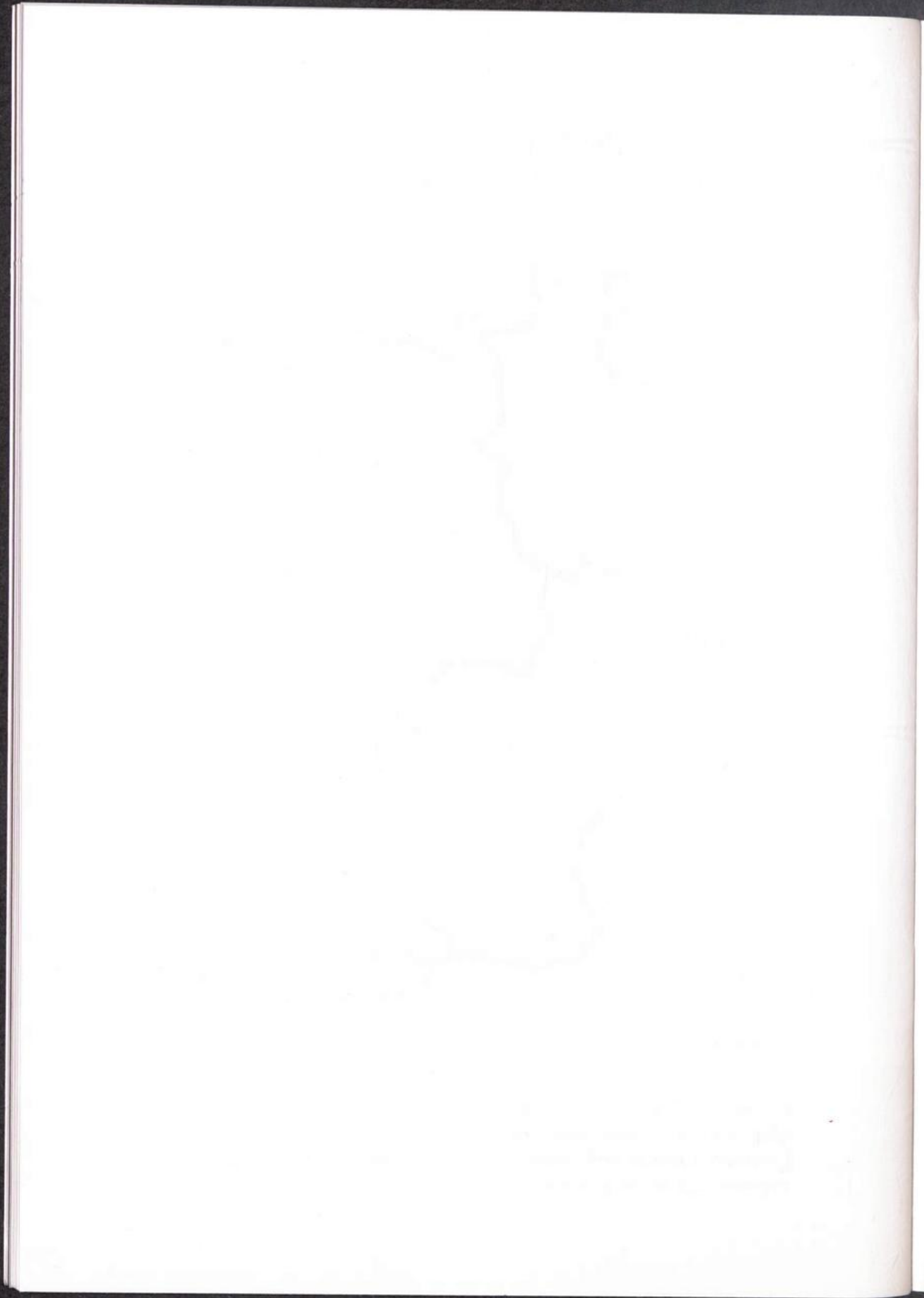
Some member states on the IC/ITS maintain liaison missions at the ITS.

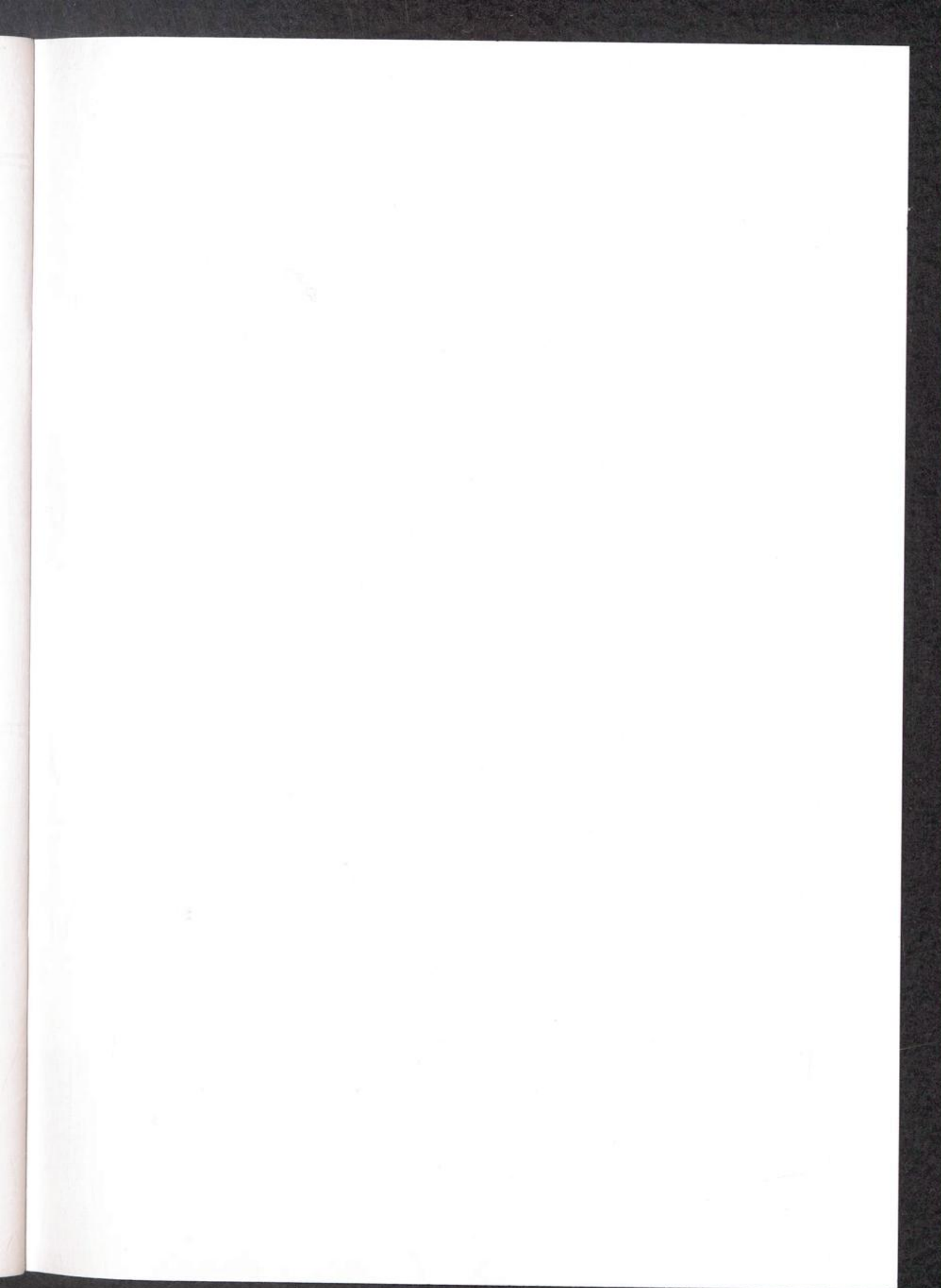


## DP-CAMPS (Displaced Persons) May 1946



In May of 1946, not counting the Western sectors of Berlin and Vienna, there were 333 DP-camps, that is "Teams" (= main camps with several attached camps) in the three Western zones and Austria.







Main Building  
Bâtiment principal  
Hauptgebäude - Große Allee



2nd Building  
Annexé  
Nebengebäude - Haus am Park

*Heusdel &*

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