

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1975)

Rubrik: International Tracing Service

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About 750 investigations were undertaken concerning internees and other civilians in the occupied territories.

At the end of the year, the Agency had filed the names of all the internees reported by the Detaining Power and visited by ICRC delegates.

Chile

The Central Tracing Agency bureau, whose work was started at the same time as the other ICRC activities in Chile, carried on its action in close co-operation with the delegates and received about 30 inquiries a day from people seeking news of their relatives. It also received many requests for information from different countries and from ICRC headquarters in Geneva. Most of these sought information about missing persons or asked for transmission of family messages.

The Agency bureau continued to list the names of the detainees visited and kept up to date a substantial card index with all the relevant details obtainable. List of missing persons were submitted to the authorities and in about half of the cases positive replies could be given to the families within about one month. Renewed efforts were made to trace those still reported as missing.

The Agency also gave travel documents to 121 refugees who had been granted asylum in various embassies in Santiago.

Cyprus

The local branch of the Agency which opened shortly after the outbreak of the conflict in 1974 was closed on 31 August 1975 but its work was carried on by the Cyprus Red Cross in co-operation with the Agency in Geneva.

The most tragic problem remaining at the end of 1975 was that many persons were still missing. All available information about them was turned over by the Agency to the Cyprus Red Cross and the ad hoc inter-communal commission, pursuant to an agreement between the ICRC and the National Society and the decisions reached by the parties to the inter-communal talks in Vienna.

Since postal relations between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot zones had not been restored, exchanges of family messages continued to be a major activity, with an average of 40,000 messages each month. This work also was taken over by the Cyprus Red Cross and the authorities, but the ICRC delegates continued to provide for transmission of messages from one zone to the other.

By the end of 1975, more than 1,100,000 family messages had been handled since the beginning of the conflict.

Asian sub-continent

While the conflict in Bangladesh may now seem remote and although the repatriation operations were finished in 1974, Agency work resulting from the conflict continued both in Geneva and in the field.

The volume of correspondence passing through Geneva was considerable, consisting of nearly 5,000 items; the index-card system for *INPAK* contained more than 800,000 cards at the end of the year.

In the field, Agency activity was mainly carried out through the regional delegation in Delhi and the delegation in Dacca, dealing with a continued flow of inquiries about missing Pakistani soldiers.

In Dacca, the Agency received and transmitted 41,200 family messages, an 84% reduction as compared to the previous year.

Major Agency activity continued in 1975 on behalf of non-local minorities in Bangladesh seeking to emigrate to Pakistan. Appeals by these persons against initial refusals continued to be accepted by the Dacca delegation until the end of March and were sent to the Islamabad delegation for submission to the Pakistani authorities. By the end of the year, favourable action had been taken on more than 5,000 of these appeals (see also page 18).

The Agency-connected activities of the Dacca delegation were taken over by the Bangladesh Red Cross on 15 December 1975.

Earlier conflicts

Activities relating to earlier conflicts, especially World War II, continued to be carried out by the Agency, with requests coming from many places, but mainly from persons in the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the Benelux countries, Spain, Italy and Poland.

Requests from Poland—amounting to 7,765 during the year—were mainly for certificates of captivity and tended to increase in frequency toward the end of the year. This was due to a new law taking effect on January 6, providing for increased pensions and other benefits for former war prisoners.

It should also be mentioned that the Agency was still drawing up certificates of captivity during 1975 in connection with World War I.

Finally, it must be noted that the 49 million cards in the files at the end of 1975 exhausted the space available in the existing quarters of the Agency.

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The International Tracing Service (ITS) at Arolsen (Federal Republic of Germany), administered by the ICRC since 1955, celebrated a double anniversary in 1975. This unique international organisation had been in existence for 30 years, and the ICRC had been at Arolsen for 20 years.

In 1975, the ITS received 207,809 inquiries from 45 countries and provided 225,559 replies, which break down as follows:

- 114,896 items of information to authors of works in memory of the victims of deportation;
- 28,952 items of information to attorneys general;
- 26,175 incarceration certificates;
- 12,324 personal searches;
- 7,565 items of information for record offices or relating to publications;
- 6,191 work certificates;
- 5,397 photocopies;
- 5,386 residence certificates;
- 3,690 death certificates;
- 2,631 medical documents;
- 1,183 items of information of a historical or statistical nature.
- 11,169 miscellaneous.

In 1975, 1,918,531 new reference cards were made out. By the end of the year, therefore, the Central File—which is an alphabetical index as well as the key to each of the documents—contained a total of 41,600,000 entries.

As in previous years, the ITS managed to acquire a mass of documentation during 1975. This concerned mainly the concentration camps and contained information of considerable importance to victims and their families. These accumulated acquisitions have made Arolsen the most important centre of documentation dealing with the concentration camp period despite the fact that this documentation is still fragmentary, with many gaps.

Most of this documentation has been used to augment a *Catalogue of Places of Detention*, adding seven camps for the first period (1933-39), as well as 73 outside work squads and 8 work squads from concentration camps in the war years.

A new, revised edition of this *Catalogue* was to have appeared in 1975, but publication was delayed by the need to include in it all the information contained in the documents recently acquired. The ITS expects to publish the revised *Catalogue* in 1976.

Scrutiny of the new documentation has brought to light another 2,518 deaths. These were notified to the Special Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths, to be officially registered.

Since its creation, the ITS has received more than 4 million inquiries and has provided 5.6 million replies, the difference between these two figures being explained by the fact that replies to certain inquiries are sent to several services.

III. DEPARTMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND LAW

The activities of the Department of Principles and Law do not often feature in news of current events. During the past several years there has been an exception, constituted by the *Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts*. The ICRC takes part in this Conference as a privileged expert and as author of the texts under discussion.

An account of the second session of the Diplomatic Conference and a general outline of other work done by the Department in 1975 is given below.

The Department is composed of three Divisions:

- Legal
- National Societies and Principles
- Documentation and Dissemination

These Divisions have been working in ever-closer co-operation with the Operations Department, as suggested by the Tansley Report. The main objective of both Departments in this respect is to harmonize their respective activities, so that legal and doctrinal considerations may benefit from practical experience and that activities may be guided by principles and law.

REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

Diplomatic Conference— second session

The second session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts took place in Geneva from 3 February to 18 April 1975.

Readers wishing to study the proceedings of the Conference in detail are referred to the text published in July 1975 by the *International Review of the Red Cross* (No. 172, pages 323-358), so that we need not go into details here, but merely cover the essentials of this great undertaking, which is a special concern of the Legal Division.