

X. The International Refugee Organization(IRO)¹

On 15 December 1946, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved a Constitution² providing for the establishment of the International Refugee Organization (IRO). The Assembly also approved an Agreement on Interim Measures³ under which a Preparatory Commission for IRO (PCIRO) was to be established pending the entry into force of the Constitution.

The Preparatory Commission came into being on 31 December 1946, when the requisite eight Governments had signed the Constitution.

In accordance with the terms of the Agreement establishing it and in order to avoid any breach in the continuity of operations after 30 June 1947, when both UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees were to terminate their activities on behalf of refugees and displaced persons, PCIRO decided to assume, on 1 July 1947, operational responsibility for the refugees and displaced persons eligible for assistance under the terms of the IRO Constitution.

IRO itself was officially established on 20 August 1948, when fifteen States, with contributions amounting to 75 per cent of Part I of its operational budget, had become parties to the Constitution. Subsequently Denmark, Italy and Switzerland became members of the organization, bringing the total membership to eighteen States.

On 18 November 1948, the United Nations General Assembly approved an Agreement⁴ bringing IRO into relationship with the United Nations as a specialized agency.

When PCIRO assumed responsibility for refugees and displaced persons within its mandate, it took over the direct care and maintenance of a total of over 719,000 persons and responsibility for protecting the interests of approximately 900,000 others.

The care and maintenance programme comprised the whole field of assistance including housing, feeding, clothing, health services, employment and vocational training, education, child welfare services, etc. At the end of December 1949, the number of refugees and displaced persons receiving these services had declined to ap-

proximately 318,000 with a corresponding reduction in the number of IRO installations.

During the 30 months of operation from 1 July 1947 to 31 December 1949, a total of 68,778 persons had been repatriated to their former homelands and 688,284 refugees had been resettled in the following countries:

United States . .	149,971	Argentina . . .	28,045
Israel	116,580	Brazil	23,305
Australia	105,352	Belgium	22,183
United Kingdom .	82,474	Venezuela	13,276
Canada	77,500	Other countries	32,727
France	36,871		

For transportation of refugees resettling in overseas countries, IRO maintained a chartered fleet of approximately 36 vessels and, in addition, booked space on commercial vessels and aircraft, and operated a monthly average of 35 trains.

In order to assist in the re-establishment of refugees who, because of physical handicaps, could not be accepted under normal immigration regulations, the General Council set aside an amount of \$22,000,000 to provide for permanent care for this group.

In carrying out its functions of protecting the legal and political rights of refugees and displaced persons, the IRO collaborated with the Secretariat of the United Nations in the preparation of a Convention on the Status of Refugees⁵ and a draft Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons.⁶ Special attention was paid to securing widespread adoption of the system of travel documents issued under the London Agreement of 1946. By the end of 1949 eighteen Governments had acceded to this Agreement, two Governments had signed it ad referendum and nine further Governments had undertaken to recognize it.

As regards the situation of displaced persons

¹ For further information, see Y.U.N., 1946-47, pp. 805-20; 1947-48, pp. 955-68; 1948-49, pp. 1086-1102; reports of the Director-General of IRO to the General Council, and reports of the General Council.

² For text, see Y.U.N., 1946-47, pp. 810-19.

³ For text, see *ibid.*, pp. 819-20.

⁴ For text of this Agreement, see Y.U.N., 1948-49, pp. 1099-1102.

⁵ See pp. 579-80.

⁶ See pp. 880 ff.

and refugees in Germany, IRO co-operated closely with the Allied High Commission and assisted in the establishment of ordinances for the restitution of property and for indemnification for the loss of life, health, liberty and property. In other countries, IRO efforts were directed to the creation of a sufficient legal basis for the integration of refugees into the social and economic life of the country.

On 1 July 1947, PCIRO took over from UNRRA the work of the Central Tracing Bureau, which had been engaged in tracing the millions of persons who had disappeared during the Second World War. The operations of the UNRRA Tracing Bureau were limited to Germany. To replace this Bureau, PCIRO created an International Tracing Service (ITS) to operate on a world-wide scale and to co-ordinate the activities of national tracing bureaux. In May 1948, PCIRO added to the mandate of the ITS the task of searching for children kidnapped by

the Nazis in support of their Germanization programme. In October 1949, the General Council instructed the Director-General to negotiate for the transfer to Governments or to another international or intergovernmental organization of the functions of the ITS remaining after 30 June 1950, the date on which IRO was originally scheduled to terminate its activities.

When, in 1949, it appeared that IRO would be unable to accomplish its assigned task prior to 30 June 1950, the General Council, at its fourth session in October 1949, adopted a budget for a supplementary period of six to nine months. The General Council asked the United Nations to assume responsibility for refugees and displaced persons after IRO's termination and submitted a memorandum to the General Assembly suggesting that any machinery which the United Nations might decide to establish to deal with the problem of refugees and stateless persons should be established by 1 January 1951.

A. PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

In the preamble to the Constitution of IRO, the Governments accepting the Constitution recognize:

that as regards displaced persons, the main task to be performed is to encourage and assist in every way possible their early return to their country of origin; that genuine refugees and displaced persons should be assisted by international action either to return to their countries of nationality or former habitual residence, or to find new homes elsewhere, under the conditions provided for in this Constitution; or in the case of Spanish Republicans, to establish themselves temporarily in order to enable them to return to Spain when the present Falangist regime is succeeded by a democratic regime

According to article 2 of the IRO Constitution, the functions of IRO,

to be carried out in accordance with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, are the repatriation; the identification, registration and classification; the care and assistance; the legal and political protection; the transport; and the resettlement and re-establishment, in countries able and willing to receive them, of persons who are the concern of the Organization

These functions are to be exercised with a view to:

- (1) encouraging and assisting the repatriation of persons who are the concern of the organization, having regard to the principle that no person shall be compulsorily repatriated;
- (2) promoting repatriation by all possible means, espe-

cially by providing repatriated persons with adequate food for a period of three months, provided that they are returning to a country suffering as a result of enemy occupation during the war, and provided such food is distributed under the auspices of IRO;

(3) facilitating the re-establishment in new homelands of non-repatriated refugees and investigating, promoting or carrying out group resettlement or large-scale resettlement projects.

Part I of Annex I of the Constitution of IRO defines the categories of refugees for whom IRO will be responsible. These categories are as follows:

1. Any person outside his country of nationality or former habitual residence who has valid objections to returning to that country and has not acquired a new nationality, or been repatriated, or become firmly established, and who falls in one of the following categories:
 - (a) Victims of the Nazi or Fascist regime;
 - (b) Spanish Republicans;
 - (c) Persons who were considered refugees before the outbreak of the Second World War.
2. Persons who, as a result of events subsequent to the outbreak of the Second World War, are unwilling or unable to avail themselves of the protection of the Government of their country of nationality or former nationality.
3. Unaccompanied children who are orphans, or whose parents have disappeared, and who are outside their country of origin.
4. Displaced persons, i.e. persons who were deported from, or were obliged to leave, their country of nationality or former habitual residence, such as persons

who were compelled to undertake forced labour or were deported for racial, religious or political reasons.

5. Persons who resided in Germany or Austria and who were of Jewish origin, or foreigners, or stateless persons who were victims of the Nazi persecution and were detained in, or were obliged to flee from, one of these countries and who have not been firmly resettled therein.

All of the above categories of persons, with the exception of refugees from the Falangist regime, and those persons of Jewish origin or foreigners or stateless persons formerly resident in Germany or Austria, must give valid objections to returning to their country of habitual residence or former nationality, in accordance with section C of part I of Annex I of the Constitution, in

order to fall within the mandate of IRO.

Section D of part I of Annex I of the Constitution gives the circumstances in which refugees and displaced persons will cease to become the concern of IRO. Some of these circumstances are: when a person has returned to his country of nationality, when a refugee has acquired a new nationality, or when he has become firmly established.

Part II of Annex I of the Constitution states which persons will not be the concern of the organization. These include quislings, traitors, war criminals, persons who voluntarily assisted the enemy, Volksdeutsche and others.

B. ORGANIZATION

Under the terms of the Constitution, the principal organs of IRO are a General Council, an Executive Committee and a secretariat headed by a Director-General.

The General Council is the ultimate policy-making body of IRO. Each member Government of IRO has one vote in the General Council, which meets not less than twice a year. Decisions in the Council and in the Executive Committee are made by a majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided by the Constitution or the General Council. Adoption of an amendment to the Constitution, for example, requires a two-thirds vote of the General Council and ratification by two thirds of the members.

New members are admitted into the organization, if they are Members of the United Nations, by accepting the Constitution. Other States require in addition a two-thirds vote of the General Council, taken on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. On certain conditions, States may be admitted to membership without signing or depositing an instrument of acceptance of the Constitution.

The Executive Committee, composed of nine members of IRO elected by the General Council, meets as often as necessary. It performs the functions necessary to give effect to the policy decisions of the General Council, and has the power to make policy decisions of an emergency nature subject to reconsideration by the General Council. It may investigate situations in the field by visiting camps, hostels or assembly centres under the control of IRO, and give instructions to the Director-General on the basis of such investigations.

The Director-General, nominated by the Executive Committee and appointed by the General Council, is the chief administrative officer of IRO. He carries out the administrative and executive functions of IRO in accordance with decisions of the General Council and the Executive Committee, and is responsible for appointing the secretariat under regulations established by the General Council.

A Review Board of Eligibility Appeals and an International Tracing Service also work within the framework of IRO. The Review Board is composed of a Chairman and four other persons appointed by the Director-General, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. It hears and determines individual appeals of eligibility decisions taken by IRO field officers, and advises the Director-General on any eligibility matter which he may refer to the Board.

The International Tracing Service (ITS), headed by a Director, has its central headquarters at Arolsen, in the United States Zone of Germany. The ITS seeks to determine the fate of all persons who disappeared between September 1939 and May 1945 and to assemble, at its central headquarters, all documents and other information concerning such persons. The ITS is also charged with tracing children kidnapped by the Nazis in support of their Germanization programme, determining their nationality and arranging for their return to their families, where possible.

In addition to its headquarters in Geneva, IRO maintains 28 principal offices and numerous sub-offices throughout Europe, the western hemisphere, the Middle and Far East areas.

C. ACTIVITIES DURING 1950

The fifth session of the General Council of IRO met at Geneva from 14 to 22 March 1950 and the sixth session from 9 to 13 October 1950.

Two notable events affecting the organization took place during the year. One was the implementation on 1 July of the resolution of the General Council of IRO by which responsibility for the care and maintenance of all refugees, except those in process of resettlement and those belonging to the "Institutional Hard Core" group, was transferred to the local authorities of the areas and countries in which the refugees lived. The other was the signing, in June 1950, by the President of the United States of an amendment to the Displaced Persons Act by which the stipulations of the Act were liberalized and it was made possible for an additional 108,000 IRO eligible refugees to obtain immigration visas, bringing the total admissible under the Act to 313,000.

During 1950, however, there occurred a marked reduction in the number of refugees repatriated and resettled as compared with the previous year. This was mainly due to technical difficulties in the implementation of the amendment to the United States Displaced Persons Act and to the fact that the Australian programme, which, by the end of the year, had absorbed a total of 170,543 refugees since the beginning of IRO operations, was almost completed.

Following the slow-down in resettlement movements, it was found that IRO still had sufficient resources to continue its activities without the need for additional contributions from member Governments. At its sixth session, therefore, the General Council resolved, on 12 October 1950, to authorize the Director-General to carry on the approved operational programmes of the organization, within the limits of existing resources, until 30 September 1951. (Originally IRO's existence had been limited to three years, but the General Council in October 1949 decided to extend the life of the organization to 31 March 1951.)

On 11 October 1950 the General Council authorized the Director-General to extend resettlement assistance to those refugees who arrived in areas of IRO operations in Europe and the Middle East before 1 October 1950, with the understanding that their resettlement be carried out within existing resources. Previously resettlement assistance had been given only to those refugees who

had arrived in IRO areas of operation prior to 15 October 1949.

The following is an outline of IRO operations during 1950.

1. Care and Maintenance

As a consequence of the decision taken by the General Council at its fifth session in March 1950 to transfer to the local authorities the responsibility for refugees who did not belong to the "Institutional Hard Core" group and who were not in the process of being re-established, the care and maintenance case-load of IRO declined from 318,323 on 1 January 1950 to 80,905 on 31 December. Over 111,000 refugees, on 1 July 1950, became the responsibility of the local authorities in Western Europe, in Germany and Austria.

During the year, 247 field installations were closed, reducing the number of such installations from 335 on 1 January 1950 to 88 on 31 December. Nevertheless, the health services were continued in all areas, and the general health of the refugees remained good. Dietary allowances in Germany and Italy remained at 2,350 calories per day, and in Austria these allowances, which had been at a lower standard, were raised to the same level. A baby feeding programme was instituted in all areas of operation, and special food was supplied for all children from birth to one year of age in IRO camps, and for children from birth to three years in transit centres and on board ship. Increased emphasis was placed upon the improvement of health conditions during both land and sea transit. Programmes for the control of tuberculosis and venereal diseases were continued, and statistics showed a steady diminution of tuberculosis. The programme of medical rehabilitation was also continued and was integrated into the programme of occupational therapy and vocational training. All three aspects of this programme are designed to assist those refugees who are handicapped by disease or physical disability to become self-supporting again. Throughout the year, the rehabilitation and training centres provided courses in 50 different subjects, including motor mechanics, machine-shop work, farming, needlework, bricklaying, carpentry and plumbing.

The IRO welfare services were faced with a particularly heavy task, since the proportion of "difficult" cases increased with the diminishing

size of the case load. The individual case work included the adjustment of problems which are a handicap to repatriation or resettlement, assistance to refugees in specialized IRO installations such as homes for the aged and the chronically ill, work in youth centres, assistance in problems of adoption and legal guardianship, the reuniting of families, and general counselling towards assisting individuals and families in planning for their ultimate re-establishment. Summary case histories were prepared for all persons for whom the local authorities had taken over the responsibility and these histories were made available to voluntary agencies which had undertaken to follow up on individual case work initiated by the IRO.

2. Repatriation and Resettlement

While 1949 had been a peak year in the repatriation and resettlement activities of IRO, 1950 brought a marked reduction in these movements: 2,917 displaced persons were repatriated to their countries of origin, and 191,119 were resettled in new homelands throughout the world. The monthly average of movements was 16,170 in 1950 as against 29,166 in 1949.

a. REPATRIATION

With the decline in the number of refugees repatriated, it became increasingly clear that the vast majority of those who wished to return to their countries of origin had done so before IRO began its operations or in the early years of the organization's activities.

In 1949 various Eastern European countries had closed their repatriation offices in IRO's major area of operation, and in February 1950 the IRO office in Prague was closed at the request of the Czechoslovak Government. The Czechoslovak Government also refused to accept certain categories of applicants seeking repatriation, and approaches made to the Hungarian and Romanian Governments to secure papers for groups of repatriation candidates remained without effect.

In view of the political situation in the Far East, the repatriation of overseas Chinese to Indonesia and Burma and other countries where they had formerly resided also declined considerably as compared with previous years.

Of the 2,917 persons repatriated during the year, 972 were Poles, 432 Yugoslavs, and 607 were overseas Chinese returning to Burma, Indonesia, Indochina and Singapore.

b. RESETTLEMENT

The resettlement of 191,119 refugees during 1950 brought the total of those resettled since 1 July 1947 to 879,403. The main countries of reception during 1950 were the following:

United States	88,035	Venezuela	2,719
Australia	65,191	Brazil	1,340
Canada	16,615	France	1,236
Israel	4,186	New Zealand	1,066
Argentina	2,926	Other countries	4,916
United Kingdom	2,889		
		TOTAL	191,119

By the end of 1950, the difficulties inherent in implementing the United States amended Displaced Persons Act were being overcome, but the interpretation of the new Security Act continued to prevent a marked increase in resettlement to the United States.

In the course of the year, the Canadian Government liberalized its immigration policy for refugees and the resulting increase, IRO anticipated, would help to offset the decline in movements to Australia. Shortly before the end of the year, the New Zealand Government, which had already accepted 1,000 refugees in 1949 and another 1,000 in 1950, announced that a further quota of 2,000 to 3,000 refugees would be admitted in 1951.

The movement to Israel, which had reached its peak in 1949, slowed down very considerably during 1950, since the vast majority of refugees who wanted to emigrate to Israel had already done so following the establishment of an independent State in 1948. A large proportion of the 4,186 refugees who entered Israel during 1950 belonged to the "Institutional Hard Core" group, since this country had agreed to accept all Jewish immigrants irrespective of their health or age.

Venezuela was the only Latin American country which maintained a Selection Mission in Europe throughout the year, and it accepted 2,719 immigrants. Although the other Latin American countries did not select refugees through the intermediary of Government missions, a steady flow of individual immigrants, on the basis of personal sponsorship or individual work contracts, brought the immigration figure for the other Latin American Republics to 6,900.

Among the Western European countries, the United Kingdom accepted some 2,000 refugees from the Lebanon and East Africa, bringing to 2,882 the total number of refugees accepted by the United Kingdom during the year. Individually nominated refugees, relatives and work contract

holders continued to be admitted to all Western European countries and all these countries made a combined effort to assist IRO in solving the problem of the aged and sick refugees who could not be admitted by overseas resettlement countries under existing immigration legislation.

With the co-operation of these Governments and of numerous individuals, voluntary societies and public and private organizations throughout the world, considerable progress was made towards the solution of the difficult problem of the "Institutional Hard Core". When the transfer of IRO responsibilities for care and maintenance of eligible refugees took place on 1 July 1950, the known number of "Institutional Hard Core" cases amounted to 15,319 individuals in need of permanent care, together with 7,509 members of their families. On 31 December the number had been reduced to 7,833 persons requiring permanent care and 3,469 family members. France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Luxembourg took over the responsibility for permanent care of 7,272 such persons and the same countries received 800 further persons in this category from Germany, Austria and Italy.

In addition to these, Norway accepted 34 blind refugees with their dependents, and Sweden accepted 148 refugees suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and their family members. To facilitate the provision of permanent care for the refugees belonging to the "Hard Core" group, a substantial part of the \$22,000,000 fund which the General Council had ear-marked for this purpose was used. Plans were being implemented during 1950 for the satisfactory settlement "sur place" of those "Institutional Hard Core" cases not wishing to leave their present countries of residence and those for whom immigration opportunities cannot be found.

c. TRANSPORTATION

Following the decline in resettlement to overseas countries, the IRO fleet, which had consisted of 36 vessels in the peak months of 1949, was reduced to 29 vessels in the beginning of 1950 and to 15 by the end of the year. However, the system of air-flights of large groups of refugees who, for health or other reasons, could not be transported by sea, was continued throughout the year, and a total of 5,336 refugees were thus transported by air. The air operations of the organization constituted the first experience in the mass transportation of civilians, including women and children, by air.

3. Local Settlement

IRO found during the year that an increasing number of refugees wished to remain permanently in countries where, earlier, they were considered to be residing provisionally or in transit. On the other hand, it appeared that, by the end of IRO operations, approximately 40,000 refugees, for whom no possibilities of emigration could be found, would have to remain in those countries in spite of their desire to move. IRO's efforts on behalf of "this group were therefore devoted to ensuring that the best conditions possible are established for them in the countries where they will remain. This includes the provision of legal and political protection, the establishment of suitable institutions for the aged, handicapped and chronically ill, and the provision, through the intermediary of voluntary societies or local authorities, of adequate welfare facilities for all.

In Germany, where the greatest difficulties were anticipated, both the Federal Government and the local authorities did their utmost to ensure the maintenance of an adequate standard of care for those who had now become their responsibility. In all areas, the main object was to provide the refugees with private accommodation. An instance of the success of these efforts was the undertaking by the German authorities to provide at their own expense individual housing for 1,000 refugee families comprising 4,500 persons in Land Nord-Rhein-Westfalen. Although work on this project was only begun in November, 140 houses were completed and occupied by the end of the year.

By the end of the year, legislation was about to be enacted in Germany, establishing the legal, political, social and economic status of refugees (see below).

4. Voluntary Societies

Throughout its existence, IRO has been assisted by voluntary agencies, and their work has assumed an increasing importance, as IRO winds up its operations.

In Germany and Austria, international voluntary agencies, through their local national counterparts, have progressively assumed responsibility for many basic services hitherto maintained by IRO. International or national agencies have, for example, taken over institutions for the aged,

children's and youth centres, vocational training and rehabilitation activities, trade testing, teaching of languages and welfare and counselling services.

Resettlement agencies have substantially assisted in procuring individual assurances for refugees emigrating to the United States, and they have been instrumental in initiating new resettlement projects for the "Institutional Hard Core" group and for persons and families with limited opportunities for resettlement.

In resettlement countries, the agencies have formed representative committees or councils to promote the successful integration of immigrant refugees. In some countries, refugee service committees have been formed in co-operation with voluntary agencies to deal with individual problems of refugee immigrants when IRO ceases, and to assist the refugees to adjust themselves to their new environment.

5. Eligibility and Review Board

The eligibility of a refugee for IRO assistance must be established in accordance with the definitions contained in Annex I of the IRO Constitution. A refugee judged ineligible may appeal for the reconsideration of the case to the Review Board provided for in the Constitution which may consider any additional evidence produced in support of the appeal. The decisions of the Board or of its representatives on any petition for review is final, so far as its immediate implementation is concerned. However, the Board is not precluded from rectifying errors, or from reopening cases when new evidence has been produced by appellants or when there has been a change in the organization's policy after appellants have been heard by the Board. Special machinery has been set up to deal with second appeals.

During 1950, the Board gave 12,175 decisions, 2,651 being reversals of previous decisions made by eligibility officers to the effect that the appellant was outside the mandate of IRO.

6. Legal and Political Protection

Under its Constitution, IRO gives legal and political protection to refugees to assist them in overcoming legal difficulties inherent in their status as people who are not protected by national Governments. Refugees are assisted to overcome legal difficulties in matters of resettlement and to obtain a firm civil status in their countries

of residence. Measures are also taken to protect them against economic or social discrimination, and to ensure their freedom of movement within and outside their country of residence.

During the year Denmark and Liberia signed the London Agreement of 1946 providing for the issue of the IRO Travel Document, and the Governments of Denmark, India and Pakistan had made arrangements for issuing it. The Federal Government of Western Germany was authorized to sign the London Agreement; in the meantime, however, documentation for refugees emigrating from Germany under IRO sponsorship continued to be provided, under existing arrangements, by the Combined Travel Board of the Allied High Commission. By the end of 1950 twenty Governments had acceded to the London Agreement, two had signed it *ad referendum* and twelve non-signatory Governments had officially undertaken to recognize the Travel Document *de facto*.

With the gradual transfer of responsibilities from the Allied High Commission to the German Federal Government, it was necessary to ensure that refugees and displaced persons be granted a satisfactory status by the German authorities. The Federal Government agreed to present to the Bundesrat and Bundestag a draft law on Homeless Aliens, to apply to all persons within the mandate of IRO who were in Germany on 1 July 1950. The law will give refugees the same rights as nationals in matters of social security, public assistance, education, and the right to work.

A large number of claims for refugees for indemnification and restitution were filed with the competent authorities on the basis of existing legislation of the German Länder. Negotiations were initiated by IRO to obtain the promulgation of a General Federal Claims Law valid in the whole territory of the Federal Republic.

In Austria, IRO continued to assist individual refugees with their problems of admission, right of residence, civil status, social security, and expulsion.

In Italy, IRO was responsible for the issuing of an identity and protection document which assists the refugees to obtain any required documentation and certificates from the national authorities.

In France and in Belgium, IRO continued to provide refugees with certificates establishing their identity and status, enabling them to regularize their position with the authorities. During 1950, 64,000 documents were issued by the IRO Mission in France.

Late in 1950 the Greek Government agreed to integrate into the Greek economy all refugees in Greece whom IRQ could not resettle, by granting them residence and work permits and the benefits of national social insurance and welfare services.

7. Reparations

The Reparations Fund for the rehabilitation and resettlement of victims of Nazi persecution was established under article 8, part I, of the Final Act of the Paris Conference on Reparations adopted by 18 Allied Powers in December 1945, and under the Five Power Agreement of 14 June 1946, in which the five Powers (Czechoslovakia, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia) agreed on instructions for the administration of the fund. Responsibility for the administration of this fund was transferred in July 1947 from the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees to the Director-General of IRO.

As of 31 December 1950, the fund's total receipts from the sale of non-monetary gold amounted to the equivalent of \$2,963,858.46, after deduction of authorized liquidation expenses. As for the \$25,000,000 fund referred to in the Five Power Agreement, the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland had contributed, respectively, 50,000,000 kroner and 20,000,000 Swiss francs, representing a nominal dollar equivalent of \$18,540,051.67. The total income of the fund from all sources, i.e. proceeds from the sale of non-monetary gold and from German assets stood, on 31 December 1950, at \$21,505,496.69. By the same date, \$19,354,844.75 had been disbursed to the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and \$1,180,979.15 had been disbursed to non-Jewish agencies.

The following Agencies took an active part in the individual case work involving refugees entitled to benefits from the Reparations Fund: Jewish Agency for Palestine; American Joint Distribution Committee; Comité International d'Aide aux Intellectuels; International Rescue Committee; International Social Service; Lutheran World Federation; Vatican Migration Bureau; St. Raphaels Verein; Caritas; National Catholic Welfare Committee; Committee for the Care of European Children; World Council of Churches; American Friends Service Committee.

The Merchandising Advisory Committee, working on a voluntary basis under the Chairmanship of Colonel R. G. Kramer, completed the liquidation of large quantities of non-monetary gold of

a highly diversified character yielding net proceeds of \$1,636,688.97.

8. International Tracing Service

The International Tracing Service (ITS) was established by IRO to help reunite families by finding lost relatives, and to provide evidence of proof of death (a necessary requisite for legal purposes such as succession, indemnification, re-marriage and adoption).

At its fifth session, the General Council of IRO resolved that the ITS should gradually reduce its activities, and that negotiations should be initiated for the transfer of its operations and its master card index to the Allied High Commission by March 1951. The collection and processing of records was therefore accelerated so that this work, as well as the checking of graves, could be completed, as planned, by the end of March 1951. Registration of new cases by the Child Search Branch ceased on 1 April 1950, but work in connexion with the identification and documentation of children already found continued until 31 August. In September, the Child Search Headquarters at Esslingen, in the United States Zone of Germany, was closed, and the records transferred to the ITS Headquarters at Arolsen, where a small Child Tracing Unit was retained to handle incoming inquiries for missing children. The bulk photostatting of concentration camp records for distribution and preservation was completed. Of the 722,000 copies made; 261,660 were distributed to the five Western European countries.

The second volume of the Catalogue of Camps and Prisons in Germany and German-Occupied Territories, September 1939 to May 1945 was completed and a Supplement was prepared. This compilation contains information on hitherto undocumented camps, and involved a considerable amount of independent research into the subject of deportations and slave labour brought to Germany during the Second World War.

Certificates of incarceration and notifications of death continued to be issued, and the German Registry Office (Sonderstandesamt) was supplied with information to complete the records of death, on the basis of which 5,452 death certificates were prepared.

A total of over 4,000,000 new insertions was made in the master card index which, at the beginning of 1948 had contained 1,976,499 cards and by the end of 1950 contained 10,538,358

cards. Some 28,000 new cards were inserted daily. Nearly 81,000 tracing requests were received by ITS during 1950 from over 35 countries, the majority of inquiries coming from the Netherlands, Poland, Germany and the United States. ITS sent out nearly 64,000 positive replies during the year. Information was secured during the

latter half of the year on 9,363 persons, of whom 1,888 were living. Among the living, were number for whom emigration agencies held emigration assurances. The identification was established of 2,000 concentration camp prisoners who died during the 1945 death marches and who are buried in twenty cemeteries in Bavaria.

D. BUDGET

As of 31 December 1950, all contributions for the fiscal year 1947/48 had been received; for the fiscal year 1948/49 an amount of \$2,821,156 was still outstanding; and for the fiscal year 1949/50 the balance of outstanding contributions was \$6,635,083. The total budget for 1949/50 was \$145,432,118.

Contributions in the amount of \$43,672,717 were due for the supplementary period beginning 1 July 1950 toward an anticipated budget of \$100,356,962, the balance to be met by other assets. The unpaid balance of the contribution due from the Nationalist Government of China, which was not in a position to contribute to IRO since 1948/49, totalled \$8,210,469, including its assessment for the supplementary period beginning 1 July 1950, as shown in the table of contributions below. Although included in the contribution figures, this assessment was not included by IRO in its calculations of resources available for expenditure subsequent to 1948/49.

The estimated value of equipment of supplies on hand as of 31 December 1950 was \$4,651,284. Donations to other United Nations agencies of surplus supplies and equipment totalled \$1,075,136 and sales under sealed tender of surplus supplies and equipment amounted to \$2,729,446.

Details of the plan of expenditures adopted by the General Council for the period beginning 1 July 1950 are given in the table in the next column.

The percentages of contributions to meet the organization's expenses are set forth for 54 anticipated member States in Annex II of the Constitution of IRO. Contributions due from actual members of IRO toward the administrative and operational budgets for the supplementary period beginning 1 July 1950 are given in the second table in the next column.

BUDGET (1950/51)	
ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$ 5,028,503
OPERATIONAL BUDGET—PART I:	
Section I. Personnel and establishment	12,192,063
Section II. Maintenance of vehicles . . .	875,000
Section III. Health, care and maintenance :	
Direct care and related costs	\$11,413,474
Medical care	1,216,000
Employment programme	75,000
Rehabilitation training.	135,000
Reimbursements to Governments	3,710,025
Voluntary society special projects	841,095
Care of residual cases . . .	19,435,082
	<hr/>
	36,825,678
Section IV. Repatriation	112,500
Section V. Resettlement:	
Transportation	40,776,800
Other resettlement costs	2,100,060
Migration to Israel . . .	696,360
Special projects	300,000
	<hr/>
	43,873,220
Section VI. Contingency reserve:	
Losses on exchange	150,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET—PART I	94,028,459
TOTAL	99,056,962
CLOSURE BUDGET	1,300,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$100,356,962

CONTRIBUTIONS DUE (1950/51)

Member	Administrative	Operation
Australia	\$ 49,386	\$ 923,278
Belgium	33,843	524,590
Canada	80,221	1,836,066
China	150,414	1,311,475
Denmark	19,804	356,721
Dominican Republic	1,253	20,984
France	150,414	2,150,819
Guatemala	1,253	20,984

Member	Administrative	Operational	Member	Administrative	Operational
Iceland	1,003	\$ 10,492	Switzerland	\$ 32,590	\$ 577,049
Italy	60,165	1,190,820	United Kingdom	287,791	7,737,704
Luxembourg	1,253	20,984	United States	1,000,000	24,000,000
Netherlands	35,097	472,131	Venezuela	6,769	120,656
New Zealand	12,534	230,820			
Norway	12,534	230,820	TOTAL	\$1,936,324	\$41,736,393

ANNEX I. MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND HEADQUARTERS

(As of 31 December 1950)

A. MEMBERS OF IRO

Australia	France	New Zealand
Belgium	Guatemala	Norway
Canada	Iceland	Switzerland
China	Italy	United Kingdom
Denmark	Luxembourg	United States
Dominican Republic	Netherlands	Venezuela

B. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Australia	France	United Kingdom
Belgium	Italy	United States
Canada	Norway	Venezuela

C. OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE⁷

Chairman:

Rolf Andersen (Norway)

Vice-Chairman:

Victor Montoya (Venezuela)

D. OFFICERS OF THE SECRETARIAT

Director-General:

J. Donald Kingsley⁸ (United States)

Deputy Director-General:

Sir Arthur Rucker⁹ (United Kingdom)

Assistant Director-General (Health, Care and Main-

Myer Cohen¹⁰ (United States)

Assistant Director-General (Operations):

Pierre Jacobsen (France)

Assistant Director-General (Finance and Administrative Services):

P. N. M. Koolen¹¹ (Netherlands)

Director, Office of Protection:

G. G. Kullmann¹² (Switzerland)

Counsellor:

Henri Ponsot (France)

General Counsel:

L. C. Stephens (United States)

Comptroller:

Gen. G. L. Hyssong¹³ (United States)

Director, International Tracing Service:

Maurice Thudichum¹⁴ (Switzerland)

Chairman, Review Board for Eligibility Appeals:

Marcel de Baer (Belgium)

E. HEADQUARTERS

Address: International Refugee Organization
Palais Wilson, rue des Paquis
Geneva, Switzerland

Telephone: 2.65.08

Cable Address: INOREFUG GENEVA

F. OTHER OFFICES

Australia and New Zealand: 3 Wilmot Crescent, Forrest, Canberra, Australia

Austria: Office of Chief of Mission: Stalinplatz 11, Vienna. Other offices, depts. etc.: Lehen Kaserne, Salzburg.

Belgium: 32 avenue des Arts, Brussels

Brazil: Edificio Delamare, Avenida Presidente Vargas 446, Caixa Postal 5427, Rio de Janeiro

Canada: 143 Main Street, Hull, Quebec

Colombia: Carrera 6, No. 14-82, Bogota

Denmark: Fredriksgate 9, Copenhagen K.

Ethiopia:¹⁵ c/o Dept. of Labour and Employment, Addis Ababa

Far East: Bank of East Asia Bldg., Des Voeux Road, Hong Kong

France: 7 rue Copernic, Paris 16^e

Germany, U.S. Zone: APO 407, Munich. British Zone: 400 IRO HQ BAOR, Hamburg. French Zone: IRO HQ, Neuenburg, Württemberg

Greece: 35 Churchill Street, Athens

Guatemala: Despacho 5, 15P.C.Num.8-Altos, Guatemala City

Ireland: 3, Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin¹⁶

Italy: Via S. Nicolo da Tolentino 78, Rome

Lebanon¹⁷ P.O. Box 1221, rue de l'Armee 77, Beirut

Luxembourg: 16 rue de l'Eau, Luxembourg-Ville

Mexico:¹⁷ Tiber 110, Mexico, D.F.

Netherlands: 't Hoenstraat 1, The Hague

Norway: Fillipstadveien No.1, Post Box 2422, Oslo

Paraguay:¹⁸ Casilla Postal 415, Asuncion

⁷ Victor Montoya (Venezuela) was elected Chairman and Franz Leemans (Belgium) Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee in Apr. 1951.

⁸ Mr. Kingsley was appointed Agent-General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) in Feb. 1951.

⁹ Sir Arthur Rucker was appointed Deputy Director-General of UNKRA in Apr. 1951.

¹⁰ Mr. Cohen was appointed Assistant Director-General of Budget and Administration in Feb. 1951.

¹¹ Dr. Koolen was appointed Assistant Director-General of Finance in Feb. 1951.

¹² Dr. Kullmann was appointed Chief Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner for Refugees in Mar. 1951.

¹³ Gen. Hyssong was appointed Comptroller of UNKRA in Apr. 1951.

¹⁴ Mr. Thudichum was transferred to the Allied High Commissioner's Office.

¹⁵ IRO office closed in Apr. 1951.

¹⁶ IRO office closed in Jan. 1951.

¹⁷ IRO office closed in Mar. 1951.

¹⁸ IRO office closed in May 1951.

Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador:^{18a} Edificio Boza, Oficina,
No. 308, Carabaya 831, Lima

Philippines: Hotel Manila, Manila

Spain and Portugal: Eduardo Dato 20, Madrid

Switzerland: Palais Wilson, rue des Paquis, Geneva

Turkey:¹⁷ P.O. Box 1733, Galata, Istanbul

United Kingdom: 31, Dunraven Street, London, W.1.

United States: 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Room 819,
Washington 6. Public Information: 6214 Empire
State Bldg., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York

Uruguay, Argentina and Chile: Calle Colon 1379,
Montevideo

Venezuela: 4 Piso, Edificio "Pas de Calais", Veroes a
Jezuitas No.26, Caracas

ANNEX II. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WORKING INTERNATIONALLY WITH IRO BY AGREEMENT¹⁹

American Committee for the Resettlement of Polish
Displaced Persons

American Federation of International Institutes

American Friends Service Committee

American Fund for Czechoslovakian Refugees

American Joint Distribution Committee

American National Committee for Aid to Homeless
Armenians

American Polish War Relief

Baptist World Alliance

Catholic Immigrant Aid Society

Guide International Service

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

International Rescue Committee

International Social Service

Jewish Agency for Palestine

Lutheran World Federation

Mennonite Central Committee

National Catholic Welfare Conference—War Relief
Services

Polish Red Cross

Tolstoy Foundation

Unitarian Service Committee

United States Committee for the Care of European
Children

United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America

United Ukrainian American Relief Committee

Ukrainian Canadian Relief Fund

World Council of Churches

World ORT Union

World's YMCA

World's YWCA

World University Service (formerly World Student
Relief)

^{18a} IRO office closed in Mar. 1951.

¹⁹ In addition to agencies listed, many national organizations assist IRO missions within their respective countries; and, both internationally and locally, IRO has less formal co-operative relations with numerous other organizations.