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REPATRIATION OF GREEK CHILDREN

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Members of the General Assembly the fourth general report of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 517 (VI) of 2 February 1952.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Geneva, 1 October 1952

The Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Sir,

In anticipation of the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have the honour to communicate to you a fourth general report on their work in connexion with the repatriation of displaced Greek children.

In addition to describing the efforts of our two organizations during the past twelve months, this document reproduces the material data contained in our three earlier annual reports.

It should be recalled in this context that the ICRC and the League concluded their first general report, submitted as long ago as 2 October 1949, with an expression of regret that, despite their repeated efforts, it had not been possible up to that date to achieve a more impressive practical result in the matter of the repatriation of Greek children.

On 9 June 1950, our two organizations sent you a telegram stating that, in their opinion, only the governments concerned were in a position to make effective action by the Red Cross, and hence a swift solution of the problem, possible.

In their second general report, the International Committee and the League stated that they were unable, by themselves, to proceed any further in fulfilling their responsibilities and stressed that, unless the indispensable co-operation was forthcoming from all the countries concerned, they would be obliged to relinquish the mission which they had accepted from the United Nations. When it seemed that this co-operation was assured, the ICRC and the League continued their work.

On 3 August 1951, however, the International Committee and the League considered it necessary to acquaint the Members of the General Assembly, in a special memorandum, with the difficulties which had constantly hampered and which still hamper action by them.

This memorandum was included in the third general report of the two organizations. In a letter of 17 October 1951 accompanying this report, the Committee and the League pointed out, lastly, that, unless significant new developments supervened, they would have to reconsider whether, and under what conditions, they could agree to a renewal of the mission which they had accepted in 1949.

Under the present circumstances - as will be gathered from this fourth report - we can scarcely hope that the difficulties encountered in the past will be removed in such a way that continued action by the International Committee and the League will become immediately possible and useful.

Accordingly, considering that they have now exhausted every possible ways and means available to them in seeking a solution of the problem of the displaced Greek children (excepting the opportunities which may still occur of repatriating Greek children living in Yugoslavia), the International Committee and the League feel obliged, for the time being, to suspend their work in this direction. The International Committee and the League nevertheless remain ready to resume this work if and when the United Nations or the governments concerned succeed in establishing conditions, at the governmental level, which will make practical action by the Red Cross possible and useful. They also remain at the disposal of any of the governments concerned which may wish to apply for their assistance in preparing or carrying out repatriation.

We should be most grateful if you would be so kind as to bring this communication to the attention of the Members of the United Nations General Assembly simultaneously with our report.

We have the honour to be etc.

For the League of Red Cross Societies

For the International Committee of the
Red Cross

(Signed) Emil SANDSTROM, President.

(Signed) P. RUEGGER, President

FOURTH GENERAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS AND THE LEAGUE OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETIES

PART I

(November 1948 - September 1949)

1. On 27 November 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted the following resolution^{1/} recommending the return to Greece of the Greek children removed from their homes.

"The General Assembly

"Recommends the return to Greece of Greek children at present away from their homes when the children, their father or mother or, in his or her absence, their closest relative, express a wish to that effect;

"Invites all the Members of the United Nations and other States on whose territory these children are to be found to take the necessary measures for implementation of the present recommendation;

"Instructs the Secretary-General to request the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to organize and ensure liaison with the national Red Cross organizations of the States concerned with a view to empowering the national Red Cross organizations to adopt measures in the respective countries for implementing the present recommendation."

2. On 11 January 1949, the Secretary-General of the United Nations requested the ICRC and the League to establish the necessary contacts, on the one hand with the Greek Government and the Greek Red Cross, and on the other hand with the Governments and national Red Cross societies of the countries in which the Greek children were living, with a view to ascertaining the means by which effect might be given to that resolution.

3. The ICRC and the League agreed to carry out that task and immediately got into touch with the Red Cross societies and Governments concerned.

^{1/} Resolution 193 C(III).

I. GREECE

4. Upon receipt of the necessary authorizations from the Greek authorities, a joint mission of the International Committee and the League visited Greece from 10 February to 11 March 1949 in order to study the problem.

5. We give below the report, dated 18 March 1949, of our delegates on their mission:

"The delegates made repeated contact with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Social Security at Athens, with the Greek Red Cross and other organizations already sheltering refugee, evacuated or orphaned children, and with the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans.

"The delegates were also received by Their Majesties the King and Queen of the Hellenes who have this matter very much at heart.

"The Greek Red Cross has drawn up lists based on the applications received resulting from information published to the effect that the United Nations and the International Red Cross would undertake the repatriation of the Greek children.

"At the time of writing the present report, the delegates have received 3,445 applications from the Greek Red Cross.

"It must nevertheless be expected that, owing to the very rudimentary means of spreading information in the isolated villages and hamlets from which the great majority of these children come, many applications will continue to arrive after the writing of the present report.

"For this reason, therefore, it seems that too short a time-limit should not be fixed and that no date should be prescribed after which the presentation of applications for repatriation could be barred, and this regardless of the reason for the delay of the parents in presenting an application.

"The lists received give the names of the children claimed by their parents or near relatives. Each list is accompanied by photostat copies of the applications, the originals being held by the Greek Red Cross.

"These lists have been deposited by the delegates with the International Red Cross at Geneva, which possesses the necessary organization and specialized staff to make all requisite comparisons between the Greek lists and those furnished by the reception countries.

"In this connexion, the delegates consider it their duty to draw attention to the fact that, in the light of investigations made and information collected on the spot, i.e. in Greece itself, difficulties of identification may arise.

"Some of the evacuated children were very young when they were separated from their families. They probably do not know their family name or the first name of their father or mother whom they simply called "Daddy" or "Mummy", as children do throughout the world.

"Moreover, Greek language and writing, the basis of which is purely phonetic, easily lend themselves to the deformation of names. The use of the first name alone, often with the addition of the father's first name, makes the use of the family name less common in Greece than in the French or English-speaking western countries.

"Homonyms are also very frequent; many Greeks, for instance, have as their first name Helen or Constantine, the diminutives of which have infinite variations.

"Most of these children come from remote frontier villages and hamlets isolated in difficult mountainous country. Many of them may be illiterate, either because they are very young or because of their remoteness from any school.

"Some of these young children will not know their ages, or will perhaps not remember the fixed abode of their family, events in Greece having often led their parents to change their place of residence several times in succession.

"It would therefore appear desirable that, in addition to the technical checking of the lists submitted by either side, investigation and identification missions from the International Red Cross should go to the reception countries, accompanied by Greek interpreters chosen by the ICRC and the League, with a view to examining on the spot cases classed as "doubtful", with the co-operation of the national Red Cross societies of those countries.

"The delegates have received the formal written assurance of the Royal Greek Government, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that no discriminatory measure of any kind would be applied to repatriated children on account of their religious belief or ideology or those of their parents or for any other reason.

"The delegates received the formal assurances of the Greek Red Cross that it was perfectly capable of providing full shelter and maintenance for the repatriated children either directly or through already existing Greek organizations.

"In particular, refugee parents desiring to entrust the keeping and maintenance of their children to the specialized organizations would be completely free to do so, free of charge, since these organizations possess the necessary material and financial means. However, according to information in the hands of the Greek Red Cross, most of the repatriated children will be returned to their families direct.

"In the case of children to be entrusted to the care of the Greek Red Cross or other specialized organizations, the food they will receive will be equivalent to a minimum of 2,700 calories per day, as in the case of the children already accommodated by these organizations.

"For your information, the delegates visited various children's homes already operating under the control of the Greek Red Cross or other ad hoc organizations at Salonika, Lamis, Athens, Aghios, Andrea, Castri and Rhodes.

"Investigations on the spot indicated that all the children enjoy the fullest liberty, and are accommodated, clothed and fed satisfactorily. They are developing well both in height and weight, and receive constant medical inspections and the experienced care of nurses and specialized staff.

"Their studies are carried on under normal conditions and the adolescents receive vocational training, with practical courses (sewing, weaving, shoemaking, carpentry, mechanics, horticulture, agriculture).

"The parents of some of the children are thought to be in the ranks of the anti-Government groups or sentenced to internment or imprisonment. No differential treatment is applied to them and they are in no way singled out among their comrades.

"The children correspond regularly with their parents, who may visit them as often as they wish or withdraw their children from the homes at will.

"With a view to accommodating repatriates, it is planned to organize homes for children and adolescents on the island of Rhodes for about 4,000, on the island of Leros for about 5,000, in Crete for about 1,500, and to make use of various other existing children's homes for about 1,500, i.e., 12,000 children in all. In particular it is planned to set up a preventorium on the island of Santorini and if necessary a children's sanatorium. One of the delegates visited the buildings available in Rhodes and found them entirely satisfactory. These places were chosen either on account of the possibilities already existing for providing quarters or on account of the prevailing climate.

"In addition, the Greek Government and Red Cross from now on offer to all international Red Cross missions full facilities and freedom of movement to exercise a posteriori any inspections which may be desired concerning the conditions of the material and moral treatment of the repatriated children.

"Conclusions: Confining themselves strictly to the material point of view and taking into account their own investigations and the assurances and guarantees obtained on the spot, the delegates feel able to recommend the return to Greece of the Greek children at present accommodated abroad.

"In addition, the delegates consider it their duty to draw attention to the moral and affective consequences of the prolonged absence of these children.

"Whatever may have been the motives determining the evacuation of these children, whatever their living conditions in the reception countries may be, it nevertheless remains true that they are separated from their fathers and mothers and family homes, which nothing and no one can replace.

"The parents themselves suffer from the absence of the children and beg for their return."

6. Since that mission, applications for repatriation from parents in Greece have been collected and then addressed to our two organizations by the Greek Red Cross. We have requested the Greek Red Cross to send us not only the original letters of the parents but also in each case an index card giving the essential information for the identification of the children (names, first names, year of birth, last residence in Greece, etc.). With the help of these cards, our technical services in Geneva have established an alphabetical card index in which each case can be looked up very easily. The original applications are kept separate.
7. In the light of the experience gained during and after the war by the Central Agency for Prisoners of War, our two organizations thought it necessary to ask for the list of children accommodated in each reception country. In fact, with a few rare exceptions, the parents do not know in which country their children are to be found. With the aid of the above-mentioned card-index and if the names of all the children accommodated outside Greece could have been communicated to Geneva, the International Committee and the League would have been able to draw up lists for each reception country of the children claimed, by checking them with the particulars received from Greece.
8. As the present report indicates later, up to the present the lists of names requested from the reception countries have not yet been sent to us, with the exception of a list of 138 claimed children at present in Czechoslovakia and of lists of children who were in Yugoslavia and have for the most part been repatriated between 1950 and 1952. We have therefore been led to contemplate another parallel method. For this reason, in July and August 1949, we began to make complete lists of all the applications received from Greece and to send them to each of the countries accommodating children. A first list of 5,060 names was sent on 9 August 1949 to the Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies.

II. COUNTRIES OF RECEPTION OF GREEK CHILDREN

A. ALBANIA

9. On 28 January 1949, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies wrote to inform the Albanian Red Cross at Tirana of the requests they had just received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to announce the despatch to Albania of a joint commission of the two organizations, requesting it to approach the Albanian Authorities in order that the necessary visas might be granted. These visas were also requested direct from the Albanian Government through diplomatic channels. The request was confirmed by telegram on 12 February and by letter dated 15 February 1949, emphasizing the need, in order to make a preliminary study of the whole problem raised by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly dated 27 November 1948, of making personal contacts with the National Red Cross Societies of the countries concerned. In the absence of a reply from the Albanian Red Cross, we informed it by telegram on 18 March 1949 of our intention of presenting in April a first preliminary report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We therefore asked it, pending the sending of the joint mission which we had announced, to send us any information it might have together with its opinion on the problem of repatriation of the Greek children, to enable us to complete our first report. On 22 April 1949 we again informed it by telegram that we had already received several thousand applications from parents desiring the repatriation of their children and we asked it to send us the list of Greek children present in Albania in order that, by means of the information checking process mentioned above, we might draw up the list of those whose return was requested. At the same time we recalled our request concerning the dispatch of a joint mission of our two organizations.
10. In a letter dated 19 April which reached us in Geneva on 29 April 1949, the Albanian Red Cross informed us that the question of repatriation of Greek children which was the subject of the United Nations resolution no longer concerned Albania, in view of the fact that there were no longer any Greek children in that country; such children as had been in Albania had been transferred to other countries in Central and South East Europe who had shown themselves disposed to receive them.

11. On 25 August 1949, we informed the Albanian Red Cross that we had been requested to send the Secretary-General of the United Nations, before 20 September, a report on the whole problem, for consideration at the next session of the General Assembly at Lake Success. In order to be able to complete this report we asked them to be good enough to give us some information concerning the children who had been in Albania, in particular their names and allocation to the countries to which they had been transferred.

B. BULGARIA

12. A joint mission of the International Committee and the League was authorized to visit Bulgaria from 18 to 25 March in order to study the problem.

13. We give below the report, dated 30 March 1949, of our delegate on this mission:

"All the Greek children in Bulgaria have been placed in the hands of the Bulgarian Red Cross, which is responsible for lodging, feeding and clothing them, in other words for looking after their welfare. They are reported all to have crossed the Greco-Bulgarian frontier direct, either singly or in small groups, so that none of them was handed over to Bulgaria by a third Power. However, this immigration is said to have almost completely ceased several months ago.

"On 15 March the number of children was 1,972, and included only children between the ages of 2 and 16 years, a small number of whom had entered Bulgaria in the company of their mothers or of adults.

"These children have been distributed in Bulgaria as follows:

Sliven.....	270
Stara Zagora.....	136
Burgas.....	99
Botengrad.....	470
Karlovo.....	599
Gorno Panitscherea.....	313
Gora Zemen.....	80
Total	1,972

"As the Bulgarian authorities had immediately given the delegate full authority to visit all these reception centres, he selected the two largest, those of Botengrad and Karlovo, as he had not time to visit them all.

"1. Botengrad (visited on 20 March 1949) is situated approximately 70 kilometres from Sofia in the Balkan Mountains. It is a small country town of between 10 and 15 thousand inhabitants, and the former barracks on the outskirts of the town, almost in the open country, have been adapted since April 1948 for the reception of Greek children.

"The number of children, originally 150, has steadily increased and at the time of the visit there were 470 children between 7 and 16 years of age.

"The children are accommodated in large rooms, each containing about 100 iron beds with metal springs, mattresses, sheets and blankets. Meals, which seem to be ample, are served in a very roomy dining hall. The centre has a permanent medical officer, and according to his statements the state of health is excellent. Moreover, the children, who were all vaccinated against typhus, give an excellent impression of health, probably due in part to the very large open-air playgrounds which are provided for them.

"Their clothing is simple but adequate and only the problem of shoes seems to have been more difficult to solve, as a number of children wear rubber galoshes.

"A school with 8 classes has been set up. The staff consists of 9 men and women teachers who have also come from Greece, chiefly from Thrace. According to their statements, most of the children at the centre came from the zone occupied by the 'democratic armies' and their relatives who are still there - and who for the most part are themselves combatants - do not wish their children to be sent back yet.

"2. Karlowo (visited on 21 March 1949). This centre is situated at approximately 200 kilometres from Sofia. Here again former barracks have been used since September 1948 to shelter Greek children. At the time of the visit there were 687 children between 7 and 16 years of age in addition to 15 mothers and 12 men and women teachers who are responsible for their education.

"The remarks made in connexion with Botengrad also apply to this centre.

"As stated above, the delegate had insufficient time to visit the other reception centres but he has been assured that they are comparable to, if not better than, the above-mentioned centres.

"Conclusions: According to statements made to the delegate by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Sofia, the Bulgarian Red Cross has been instructed by the Bulgarian Government to implement the General Assembly's resolution of 27 November 1948 regarding the repatriation of Greek children.

"The list of all the children in Bulgaria, which will be forwarded by the Bulgarian Red Cross to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva at the earliest possible date (for the use of the International Red Cross), will so far as possible include:

- "(a) Name and first name of the child and his parents;
- "(b) Year of birth;
- "(c) Usual place of residence;
- "(d) Last place of residence (place from which child came);
- "(e) Child's present address (institution, orphanage);
- "(f) Present address of child's parents.

"In the case of children still unidentified, photographs will be taken and cards prepared on which will be noted their sex, approximate age and any other characteristic likely to facilitate identification (colour of hair and eyes, distinguishing marks, etc.)

"It will be possible to use this list, among other things, to reassure parents regarding the fate of their children and, where necessary, to establish contact between children and their parents, for example by family messages.

"It goes without saying that if Greek children on being consulted are unwilling to return to Greece, this will in no way limit the right of their parents (father and mother) or nearest relative to claim their repatriation."

* * *

14. On 10 June 1949, as the list of Greek children in Bulgaria promised by the Bulgarian Red Cross during this mission had not yet reached Geneva, the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies wrote to the Bulgarian Red Cross to ask whether sufficient progress had been made with the preparation of the list to enable it to say when it would be able to send it to us. On that occasion we informed the Bulgarian Red Cross that we had received a total of 4,706 requests from parents for the repatriation of their children, and recalled the technical procedure of comparison of particulars for drawing up the list of children claimed, classified by their host countries. During conversations which took place during the visit of the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies of Bulgaria in July 1949, the Bulgarian Red Cross confirmed that the list would be forwarded to Geneva. Difficulties had been encountered in compiling it, and it could not reach us before 15 September. On 9 August we informed the Bulgarian Red Cross that we had noted this statement and that, pending receipt of the names of Greek children in Bulgaria, we had sent it on that date the first list of 5,060 children for whom we had received requests at Geneva. The list had been drawn up, as indicated above, from the card index containing requests received from the Greek Red Cross. In transmitting the list we expressed the hope that the first general list would enable the Bulgarian Red Cross itself to draw up a list of children claimed who were in Bulgaria and that the repatriation of these children might thus be hastened.
15. We took the opportunity again to assure the Bulgarian Red Cross that we were ready to furnish our assistance in the work of repatriation. We also informed the Bulgarian Red Cross that we should have to submit a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations before 20 September 1949, in view of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, and that we should appreciate any information it could give us regarding the problem of Greek children which might be of assistance in drawing up our report.

16. On 26 August we asked the Bulgarian Red Cross, with reference to the despatch of the above-mentioned list, whether it was in a position to inform us of the results of its study of that document, and informed it that we were ready to send a qualified representative to Bulgaria to discuss with the Bulgarian Red Cross the measures to be taken to organize the repatriation of the children referred to in the resolution of 27 November 1948.
17. On 30 August the Bulgarian Red Cross, acknowledging receipt of the list forwarded on 9 August, informed us that it had initiated an enquiry to ascertain whether the list included the names of Greek children received in Bulgaria. It added that it would communicate the results of the enquiry to us at a later date.

C. HUNGARY

18. On 28 January 1949, the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies wrote to the Hungarian Red Cross in Budapest to inform it of the request they had just received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the problem of Greek children, and to request it to approach the Hungarian authorities to secure the necessary visas for a joint mission of the two international Red Cross organizations for the purpose of making contact with the Hungarian authorities and Red Cross. The Hungarian Government was also requested directly through the diplomatic channel to supply the visas. The request was confirmed to the Hungarian Red Cross on 12 February by telegram and on 15 February 1949 by letter, stressing the need for personal contact with the National Red Cross and the authorities of the countries concerned to carry out a preliminary study of the entire problem raised by the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 27 November 1948. In the meantime, the Hungarian Red Cross sent us a reply dated 10 February, received at Geneva on 23 February, informing us that the Hungarian Red Cross would be pleased to receive the delegation we proposed and that it had taken the necessary steps with its Government to secure the visas. On 2 March we thanked the Hungarian Red Cross and requested it to inform us by telegram as soon as the visas had been issued. On 18 March we informed the Hungarian Red Cross by telegram of our intention to submit a preliminary report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in April. We asked it, pending the arrival of the joint mission discussed in our preceding correspondence, to

communicate to us any information it might have and its opinion on the problem of the repatriation of Greek children in order to supplement the first report. On 29 March the Hungarian Red Cross replied that its Government had instructed it to prepare a report on the repatriation of the Greek children. It informed us that it had immediately begun this work and that it would do its best to ensure that the information prepared was ready as soon as possible. The Hungarian Red Cross added that it would not fail to transmit its report on this subject to us as soon as it was completed.

19. In a letter thanking the Hungarian Red Cross for its last communication, we informed it on 25 April that we had already received thousands of requests from parents seeking the repatriation of their children and we asked it to send to us a list, with all the technical information required, of the Greek children then in Hungary to enable us to draw up, by comparing the information, a list of those children who were claimed.

20. This request was confirmed in a letter dated 10 June 1949, in which we took the opportunity of informing the Hungarian Red Cross that our joint mission, of which we had informed it in January and February, had so far been able to visit Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. We asked it, with a view to completing the preliminary study requested by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whether it could again approach its Governments to enable our joint mission to also visit Hungary so as to make the necessary contacts for the study of the problem in that country.

21. On 9 August we informed the Hungarian Red Cross that we had at that date received approximately 5,600 requests from parents requesting the repatriation of their children and we forwarded a copy of the first list of 5,060 names of claimed children. In forwarding the list we expressed the hope that the general list would enable the Hungarian Red Cross itself to prepare a list of claimed children in Hungary and that the repatriation of the children would thus be hastened.

22. We took the opportunity again to assure the Hungarian Red Cross that we were ready to furnish our assistance in this repatriation. We further informed it that we would have to submit a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations before 20 September 1949 in view of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly and that we would appreciate any information it might be

able to furnish regarding the problem of the Greek children which might be of assistance to us in drawing up our report.

23. On 26 August, with reference to the despatch of the list mentioned above, we asked the Hungarian Red Cross whether it was in a position to inform us of the results of its study of the list and informed it that we were ready to send a qualified representative to Hungary to discuss with it the measures to be taken to organize the repatriation of the children to which the resolution of 27 November 1948 refers.

24. On 21 September the Hungarian Red Cross informed us that it had immediately proceeded to compare our list of 9 August with the list of Greek children in Hungary. It pointed out certain difficulties entailed in this operation due to the fact that the names of the children had been distorted when transliterated into Roman characters. This sometimes made it necessary to interview children on the spot in the various reception centres. The Hungarian Red Cross stated that it would communicate the results of this work as soon as it was completed. In the same letter the Hungarian Red Cross expressed certain reservations regarding the repatriation of the Greek children even when they were claimed. In its opinion, all the children left Greece at the request of their parents in order to be shielded from the events now taking place in Greece. The Hungarian Red Cross was of the opinion that it was contrary to the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross to have these children repatriated, since in many cases their homes were destroyed, the parents were engaged in fighting or were in prison, and their very lives were in jeopardy. The Hungarian Red Cross was therefore a little sceptical as to the authenticity of requests for repatriation and the freedom of decision of which they were allegedly the outcome. It begged us to send it some photostat copies of the original applications.

D. POLAND

25. On 8 September 1949 the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed us that he had addressed to the Polish Government a communication on the subject of Greek children who had arrived on its territory in particular as the result of the transfers of which our delegates were informed by the Yugoslav Red Cross and which will be mentioned later. We therefore immediately wrote to the

Polish Red Cross in Warsaw to inform it of the task which had been entrusted to us by the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the resolution of 27 November 1948. We pointed out that up to date we had received, in Geneva, 6,239 applications from parents claiming their children, and informed the Polish Red Cross of the procedure for comparing information from various sources that we had thought necessary to adopt for the purpose of drawing up the lists of children claimed, classified by receiving countries. Moreover, on the same date, we sent to the Polish Red Cross the first list of 5,060 names, expressing the hope that that document would enable it already to draw up independently the list of claimed children who were in Poland, and that thus it might be possible to arrange for their repatriation. Moreover, we pointed out to the Polish Red Cross that we would be glad if it would receive in Warsaw a joint mission of the International Committee and the League for a joint study of the various matters connected with the repatriation of the Greek children. Lastly, we informed the Polish Red Cross that we had to submit a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in time for the next session of the General Assembly, and that we should be glad to receive any information it could send us concerning the Greek children which we could usefully include in the report.

E. ROMANIA

26. On the same date, 28 January 1949, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies wrote to the Romanian Red Cross at Bucharest announcing the sending of a joint mission to make contact with it and the Romanian authorities, for the purpose of undertaking a preliminary study of the problem of the repatriation of the Greek children, as requested by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We begged the Romanian Red Cross to get in touch with the Romanian authorities in order to secure the issue of the necessary visas, which had also been requested directly through the diplomatic channel. That request was confirmed by telegram on 12 February and by a letter dated 15 February 1949, which stressed the need for personal contact for the purpose of conducting the preliminary study. A communication transmitted through the diplomatic channel and dated 17 February indicated that the Romanian authorities had stated that they were not in a position to issue

the visas required, since no communication on the subject of the repatriation of the Greek children had yet reached them from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

27. On 18 March, we despatched a telegram to the Romanian Red Cross stating our intention to submit a first report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in April. We therefore requested it, pending the arrival of the joint mission of which we had informed it, to be so good as to send us all the information it might have, together with its views, on the problem of the repatriation of Greek children, to assist us in completing our first report. On 30 March, the Romanian Red Cross informed us by telegram that it had answered the International Committee and the League in writing on 2 March. The letter unfortunately went astray and did not reach us. At our request, the Romanian Red Cross telegraphed its contents to us on 8 April. It requested us to send as soon as possible the lists of parents who desired the repatriation of their children in order that it might take the necessary steps in good time. In reply to that last communication, the International Committee and the League cabled the Romanian Red Cross on 22 April to inform it that it was unfortunately not possible for them to determine which of the applications received concerned Romania. We therefore informed it of the procedure we considered the most suitable for comparing information from various sources for the purpose of drawing up the list of children claimed, classified by receiving countries. Consequently, we begged the Romanian Red Cross to send us the complete list, including all the information necessary for identifying Greek children in Romania. We took that opportunity of reminding the Romanian Red Cross of the importance we attached to establishing direct contact with it and its Government by sending a joint mission from the International Committee and the League to Romania. The last part of the communication was confirmed in writing to the Romanian Red Cross on 10 June. We informed it that up to that time our joint mission had been able to visit three receiving countries: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. In the letter of 10 June we asked whether the Romanian Red Cross thought it was in a position to send us the list of children which we had mentioned in our telegram of 22 April.

28. On 9 August we informed the Romanian Red Cross that up to that time we had received about 6,239 applications from parents requesting the repatriation of their children, and we sent it a copy of the first list of 5,060 names of children claimed. In making that communication, we expressed the hope that that general list would enable the Romanian Red Cross itself to draw up the list of claimed children who were in Romania and that thus the repatriation of those children might be expedited.

29. We took the opportunity once again to assure the Romanian Red Cross that we were prepared to assist it in arranging for the repatriations. Moreover, we informed it that we would have to submit a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations before 20 September 1949 for the next session of the General Assembly, and that we should be glad to receive any information which it might be able to provide concerning the problem of the Greek children likely to assist us in drawing up our report.

30. Lastly, on 26 August, referring to the sending of the list mentioned above, we asked the Romanian Red Cross whether it was in a position to inform us of the result of its study of that document, and we stated that we were prepared to send a qualified representative to Romania to discuss with it the measures to be taken to organize the repatriation of the children referred to in the resolution of 27 November 1949.

F. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

31. A joint mission of the International Committee and the League visited Czechoslovakia from 20 to 29 March 1949. We give below the report compiled on 30 March 1949 by our representatives at the end of their mission:

"The question of the repatriation of the Greek children was discussed during three meetings held on 21, 23 and 26 March 1949 with the directors of the Czechoslovak Red Cross at Prague.

"Taking into account the fact that its Government voted in favour of the resolution on the repatriation of Greek children adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Czechoslovak Red Cross declared that it will comply with that resolution and will take measures for putting it into effect. Although not empowered to make an official declaration on this matter, it feels that it can state that the

Czechoslovak Government will also comply with the resolution which it approved.

"The Czechoslovak Red Cross undertakes to draw up lists containing the following particulars:

- "(a) Surnames and first names of the child and its parents;
- "(b) Year of birth;
- "(c) Usual permanent place of residence;
- "(d) Last place of residence (place from which child came);
- "(e) Child's present address (camp, home, orphanage);
- "(f) Present address of child's parents.

"The Greek children who have sought refuge in Czechoslovakia do not come under the Czechoslovak Red Cross, and consequently, the lists cannot be drawn up in sufficient time for submission to the delegates before their departure. They will be sent to the International Red Cross as soon as possible.

"As regards the drawing up of the lists, the Czechoslovak Red Cross assumes full responsibility for their greatest possible accuracy without distinction as to creed or political opinion.

"In drawing up those lists the Czechoslovak Red Cross will make all necessary arrangements so that the Greek children, when they alone make the decision, shall be in a position freely to express their wish to be repatriated.

"The Czechoslovak Red Cross, and through it the Czechoslovak Government, have been informed that the lists of Greek children which it had drawn up will be transmitted to the International Red Cross, which will compare them with those transmitted by the Greek Red Cross with a view to the establishment by the International Red Cross of final lists of repatriable children, classified by host countries.

"The delegates have stated, on behalf of the International Red Cross, that the repatriable Greek children will remain under the control of this institution until they have been returned to their families or to near relatives. The Greek Government and the Greek Red Cross have given full assurances in this connexion."

32. As the list of Greek children in Czechoslovakia issued by the Czechoslovak Red Cross during this mission had not reached Geneva by 10 June 1949, the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies wrote on that date to the Czechoslovak Red Cross to inquire whether the work of compiling that list was sufficiently advanced to enable it to state when it would be in a position to send the list to our two organizations. On that occasion we informed the Czechoslovak Red Cross that we had so far received 4,706 requests from parents for the repatriation of their children, and we reminded this Society of the technical procedure of comparing the information in order to draw up the list of children claimed, classified by host countries.

33. On 9 August we again wrote to the Czechoslovak Red Cross informing it that, pending receipt of the names of the Greek children in Czechoslovakia, we were sending the first list of 5,060 names of children in respect of whom we had received requests at Geneva. As has been stated above, this list had been drawn up from the index containing the requests received from the Greek Red Cross. In sending the list we expressed the hope that this general list would enable the Czechoslovak Red Cross to draw up itself the list of children claimed who were in Czechoslovakia and in that way accelerate the repatriation of those children.

34. We took that opportunity once again to assure the Czechoslovak Red Cross that we were ready to assist in this repatriation. In addition we informed the Society that we would have to submit a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations before 20 September 1949 for submission at the next session of the General Assembly, and that we would be glad to receive any information which it might be able to provide concerning this problem of the Greek children likely to assist us in drawing up our report.

35. On 26 August, we referred to the despatch of the above-mentioned list and asked the Czechoslovak Red Cross whether it would be in a position to inform us of the result of the study of that document. We also informed it that we were ready to send a qualified representative to Czechoslovakia to discuss the necessary measures for the organization of the repatriation of the children referred to in the resolution of 27 November 1948.

36. On 12 September, in reply to our letter of 9 August, the Czechoslovak Red Cross sent us the names of 138 children in Czechoslovakia which appeared in

our first list of 5,060 children claimed. We had previously been informed by telegram of the despatch of this list. The Czechoslovak Red Cross ended its letter by expressing the hope that this list of 138 names would contribute to the solution of the problem of Greek children in accordance with the terms of the General Assembly resolution of 27 November 1948.

37. We informed the Greek Red Cross in Athens by telegram of the receipt of these 138 names which we immediately communicated to the Greek Society. We asked it what arrangements it proposed to make to ensure the speediest possible repatriation of those children and if it desired our assistance for that purpose.

38. In acknowledging receipt of the Czechoslovak Red Cross communication of 12 September, we informed it that we had communicated the 138 names to the Greek Red Cross and that we were fully prepared to give our assistance in the repatriation of those children and of all repatriable Greek children who might subsequently be identified in Czechoslovakia.

G. YUGOSLAVIA

39. After the steps taken by the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies in January, February and March 1949 through the diplomatic channel and the approaches made to the Yugoslav Red Cross in Belgrade, this latter institution informed us on 15 April that the Yugoslav authorities were ready to receive our joint mission which had been instructed to examine conjointly with them and with the Yugoslav Red Cross Society the problem of repatriating the Greek children finding themselves in Yugoslavia. Accordingly, a joint mission of our two institutions visited that country from 2 to 12 May 1949.

40. The report drawn up by our delegates on 22 May 1949 on their return from their mission is given below:

I. Total number

"According to the information received from the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Red Cross, the total number of children received in Yugoslavia is as follows:

"(1) At the end of 1948:

"1,692 children were in the homes of the Yugoslav Red Cross;

"8,908 children were living either with their parents, or with families, refugees like themselves, and settled in the territory of the People's Republic of Macedonia.

"Since 1 January 1949, 1,561 children have been transferred from Yugoslavia to Czechoslovakia and Poland (the last of these movements took place at the end of April 1949). On the other hand, a further group of 153 children arrived in Yugoslavia on 23 April 1949.

"(2) At the end of April 1949:

"1,845 children were in the homes of the Yugoslav Red Cross;

"3,347 children were living with their parents or with Greek refugee families.

"(3) When certain homes of the Yugoslav Red Cross were visited by the delegates of the International Red Cross (4 to 9 May 1949), the total number of children in the eight homes established and managed by the Yugoslav Red Cross were as follows:

In Serbia	Boys	Girls	Total
Bela Creva	282	259	541
In Slovenia			
St. Gora	84	88	172
Dutovlje	67	64	131
St. Vid	56	42	98
Okroglo young children (2 to 10 years)			28
In Croatia			
Crikveniga	303	216	519
Malinska	113		113
Zagreb	76	76	152
			Total 1,754

"(4) Greek children who have passed in transit through Yugoslavia (approximate figures):

From April 1948 to March 1949:

In transit to

Czechoslovakia	3,550
Hungary	3,050
Romania	6,400
Poland	500
Total	13,500

II. Visits to homes

"The Yugoslav Red Cross spontaneously invited the delegates to visit all the above homes and they made the following visits:

"(1) Bela Creva: situated 110 km. east of Belgrade. At the time of the visit there were 543 children of 7 to 14 years and 40 mothers and children of over 14 years in this home. The home is installed in five buildings (formerly the Municipal Building, Court, Military Academy, a private house and two barracks). These are large renovated buildings whose size and layout allowed of rational use of the premises. Large gardens and parks available.

"(2) Crikveniga: situated 35 km. south of Fiume. The number of children is that indicated above. The home is installed in four villas, surrounded by gardens, of which two are by the seaside. Beach available.

"(3) Okroglo: Near Kranju: situated 26 km. north of Ljubljana. The home holds 28 sickly or pre-tuberculosis children aged 2 to 10 who are housed in a large villa situated on high ground. Land is attached to this home which in future will draw from it the agricultural and dairy products necessary for the feeding of the children and the administrative personnel.

"General observations: The three homes visited gave a clear impression of the effort made by the Yugoslav Red Cross to adapt the available premises for their present use. Large alterations had been carried out in order to ensure perfect sanitation and the most scrupulous cleanliness. Each child has a bed with first-rate bedding, and the

facilities for games enable them to pass a large part of the day in the open air. Plentiful food prepared in the well-installed kitchens is served to them in spacious dining-halls. Although their clothing is modest, the children have all the necessary clothes with the exception of footwear, which might be improved.

"The children's state of health is excellent in all respects and their vivacity is eloquent evidence of that fact. All the homes are directly administered by the Yugoslav Red Cross but it has entrusted the registration and education of the children to the Greek staff which, according to the statements made, accompanied the children when they left Greece.

III. Results of the meetings between the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies and the members of the Yugoslav Government and of the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Red Cross.

"Upon arrival in Belgrade the delegates of the International Red Cross were very cordially received by the members of the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Red Cross. It was suggested that they should make a tour of inspection of the homes for Greek children. As they were aware that everything had been done to ensure the best possible material conditions for the children, and in order to avoid loss of time, the delegates confined themselves to visits to the homes mentioned under II above.

"During these visits, the delegates of the International Red Cross were unable to obtain information on the manner in which the children had been registered. None of the homes visited was able to produce to them an admission register showing the surnames, first names, and origin of the children. All their requests for this information met with the reply that the chief official in charge of Greek children in Yugoslavia was responsible for the registration of the children, that they would have an opportunity of meeting him at the Crikveniga Home and that the Yugoslav Red Cross, which had had a standard card produced for the

registration of the children, had not yet received the lists of children from the homes. During the visit to Crikveniga, the chief official in charge of Greek children in Yugoslavia told the delegates of the International Red Cross that he had transmitted all the lists of children to the Greek Committee 'Help the Children', at Budapest, and stated that he was ready to have the proposed registration cards filled in for the Yugoslav Red Cross.

"After those visits, and upon their return to Belgrade, the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies held meetings with members of the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Red Cross and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Yugoslav Red Cross, with which the first conversations were held, stated that it was not able to carry out the requests made to it for the provision, as soon as they were in its possession, of the lists of Greek children in Yugoslavia. Furthermore, owing to the fact that the Greek Red Cross is in direct contact with the Yugoslav Red Cross, the latter organization expressed the view that action by the International Red Cross for the repatriation of the Greek children was not absolutely necessary. The Greek parents would be able to apply direct to the Yugoslav Red Cross which could undertake the repatriation of the children and could appeal to the International Red Cross, if for technical reasons, it was unable to act alone. The Yugoslav Red Cross is ready to meet the requests for repatriation already received by the International Red Cross provided that originals or photostats of such requests are transmitted to it.

"The Yugoslav Red Cross also stated that it would make itself responsible for the assembling, transportation, and maintenance of the children and would also provide the same facilities for children crossing Yugoslavia to return to Greece.

"The meetings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the point of view of the Yugoslav Red Cross regarding the lists of children. The Yugoslav Government also considered that communication of the lists might lead to complications of all kinds, for instance it might oblige

the Government to keep the International Red Cross informed of the movement of children to other countries and that might give rise to misunderstandings. According to the Ministry, another possible complication might arise if the names of the Greek children in Yugoslavia were divulged, as knowledge of such names might lead members of the families to claim children whose mothers and fathers were opposed to the Greek Government in Athens. Lastly, the Yugoslav Government considered that there was no reason why this first contact -- which had enabled the delegates of the International Red Cross to visit a certain number of homes -- should be pursued, as the International Red Cross had been able to convince itself of the welfare of the children and, consequently, would be well able to reassure the parents.

"In reply, the delegates of the International Red Cross particularly stressed the fact that the requests for the lists had already been made in a letter sent in January from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Yugoslav Government. Furthermore, the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies did not fail to stress the fact that the lists requested, on being compared with the requests received in Geneva, would facilitate the drawing up of the list of claimed children who were in Yugoslavia.

"In reply, it was stated that there was force in those arguments and that the problem would be reconsidered so as to submit a further report to the Yugoslav Government. However, the delegates of the International Red Cross did not secure any undertaking or definite assurance as regards further communications on this subject."

41. On 10 June 1949 the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies wrote to the Yugoslav Red Cross informing it that, in addition to the information which had been given by our delegates, we had received by 10 June 1949 (at Geneva) 4,706 requests from parents desiring the repatriation of their children. We also explained the manner in which we proposed to draw up the lists of children claimed, classified according to the countries of reception by comparing all particulars with those available at Geneva. We asked the Yugoslav Red Cross whether the Yugoslav Government,

in accordance with the statements made to our delegates at Belgrade, had been able to reconsider the problem and whether our technical procedure met with its approval.

42. At the end of June 1949, the International Committee and the League informed the Greek authorities and the Greek Red Cross of the view of the Yugoslav authorities and Yugoslav Red Cross, namely, that it was not necessary for our two organizations to act as intermediaries between Yugoslavia and Greece and that the problem of the repatriation of Greek children in Yugoslavia could be dealt with directly between the Greek Red Cross and the Yugoslav Red Cross. On 3 August the Greek authorities suggested to us that this direct contact should take the form of a meeting at Geneva between the representatives of the Greek Red Cross and the Yugoslav Red Cross. We immediately transmitted this proposal to the Yugoslav Red Cross at Belgrade and, on 30 August 1949, it replied that it did not see the need for such a meeting, as by virtue of the obligations assumed by the Yugoslav Government towards the United Nations, the Yugoslav Red Cross had agreed to return the children claimed by their parents. It added that the Greek Red Cross could transmit to the Yugoslav Red Cross the parents' requests which had been addressed to it.

43. The contents of this last letter were transmitted to the Greek authorities and to the Greek Red Cross.

44. On 9 August we sent the first list of 5,060 names of Greek children for whom we had received requests at Geneva to the Yugoslav Red Cross and again assured it that we were entirely at its service if it considered that the assistance of our two organizations was necessary for the repatriation of the children.

45. On 29 August we referred to the despatch of the above-mentioned list and asked the Yugoslav Red Cross whether it was in a position to inform us of the results of their study of that document. We also informed it that we had written to the Red Cross Societies of the other countries of central and southeastern Europe, in which Greek children were also being kept, informing them that we were ready to send qualified representatives to discuss with them the necessary measures for the organization of the repatriation of the children referred to in the resolution of 27 November 1948. We assured the Yugoslav Red Cross that we were of course ready to send a delegate for this purpose

if the meetings with the Greek Red Cross (referred to above) were not to take place in the near future.

46. We also informed it that we would have to submit a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations before 20 September 1949 in time for the next session of the General Assembly and that we should be glad to receive any information which it could furnish concerning this problem of the Greek children which would be likely to assist us in drawing up our report.

47. On 9 September the Yugoslav Red Cross apologized for the delay in replying to our letters of 9 and 29 August and informed us that this was due to the fact that it was not in possession of the particulars concerning the Greek children in Yugoslavia, as the names were in the possession of the Greek teachers in charge of the children in the homes. It informed us that none of the names entered in the lists in those homes appeared in the list of 5,060 children which we had sent. The Yugoslav Red Cross pointed out further that some of the names seemed to be similar but that this could not be held to constitute definite identification.

PART II

(October 1949 - September 1950)

48. On 18 November 1949, the United Nations General Assembly, having regard among other things, to the abovementioned facts which constituted the essential features of the first general report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, adopted a new resolution^{2/} on the repatriation of displaced Greek children, reading as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting the report submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on the question of the repatriation of Greek children, and expressing warm appreciation of the efforts made by the two international Red Cross organizations to facilitate the implementation of General Assembly resolution 193 C (III),

"Noting that the Greek children have not as yet been returned to their homes in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly, and recognizing the necessity of further efforts for the full implementation of this resolution,

1. "Instructs the Secretary-General to request the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to continue their efforts in this humanitarian cause and to lend them all appropriate assistance in carrying out their task;
2. "Urges all the Members of the United Nations and other States harbouring the Greek children to make all necessary arrangements, in consultation and co-operation with the international Red Cross organizations, for the early return to their homes of the children in accordance with the aforementioned resolution;
3. "Invites the international Red Cross organizations to report to the Secretary-General, for the information of the Members of the United Nations, on the progress being made in the implementation of the present resolution".

^{2/} Resolution 288-B (IV).

49. At the end of 1949, more than a year after the United Nations General Assembly had adopted its first resolution on the repatriation of the displaced Greek children, none of the children had yet been returned to their families, in spite of all our efforts.

50. In view of this situation, we decided in January 1950 to invite representatives of the Greek Red Cross and the Red Cross Societies of the receiving countries to a meeting at Geneva to re-examine the whole problem. The invitations were sent out on 20 January for meetings to be held on 9 and 10 March. In view of its previous statements, the Albanian Red Cross was not invited. We did, however, ask the Polish Red Cross to participate, thinking that it might provide useful assistance in settling the matter.

51. None of the Red Cross Societies of the receiving countries sent representatives to the proposed conference.

52. The only Society to attend was therefore the Greek Red Cross, and the occasion thus assumed the nature of a meeting for exchange of information between that Society and the international Red Cross organizations.

53. Resolved, in spite of that failure, to continue our efforts, we again approached the Red Cross Societies of the receiving countries at the end of March. Two questions might be asked:

(a) Were those Red Cross Societies and the authorities of their countries still in favour of the principle of repatriation itself?

(b) If so, what conditions would they like to see fulfilled to enable repatriation to take place as rapidly as possible?

54. We did not wish to exclude the possibility of adapting our methods of work to the individual desires of each of the receiving countries, and we informed the Red Cross Societies concerned to that effect. We should say immediately that we addressed question (a) only to the Hungarian Red Cross, convinced that we were justified in doing so by the persistent silence it had maintained in face of all our requests. On the other hand, the replies received from other Red Cross Societies, and our relations with some of them, led us to the conclusion that they did not contest the principle of repatriation itself.

55. In practice, our appeals differed slightly according to the Red Cross Society to which they were addressed.

A. GREECE

56. The International Committee and the League continued to receive through the Greek Red Cross applications for repatriation submitted by parents in Greece. Early in 1950, after several of the receiving countries had indicated that it was very difficult for them to carry out the work of identification accurately on the basis of the lists hitherto drawn up in Latin characters, the Committee and the League requested the Greek Red Cross itself to draw up lists of the children claimed in Greek characters so as to facilitate the search for the children and to avoid the errors which arose when names were roughly transcribed, as sometimes was the case. Since then the Red Cross Societies of the receiving countries have received photostat copies of these Greek lists together with the lists in Latin characters which the International Committee and the League have continued to transmit to them.

B. ALBANIA

57. The previous statements of the Albanian Red Cross and the silence it had maintained since having made them induced us to refrain from inviting it to the March meeting and from sending it the letter which, after that meeting, we sent to the other Red Cross Societies.

C. BULGARIA

58. The Bulgarian Red Cross had declined our invitation on grounds which involved the Greek and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies. It had stated, however, that it was prepared to enter into direct negotiations with the League and the Committee.

59. In replying to the Bulgarian Red Cross, we said how much we regretted that it had considered itself bound to refrain from sending representatives to the conference of 9 and 10 March.

60. We noted its desire for direct collaboration and, on 26 April, we informed it of our intention to send a representative to Sofia to work together with it and the Bulgarian authorities in seeking a practical solution to the problem of the displaced Greek children in Bulgaria. We did not therefore address question (b) to the Bulgarian Red Cross, leaving it to our representative to do so in the course of conversations.

61. By cablegram of 30 June, the Bulgarian Red Cross informed us that our lists contained "innumerable errors and inaccuracies", that the work of checking the lists which it had begun would therefore take considerable time, and that consequently a visit from our representative would be premature.
62. In reply we said, also by cablegram, that we were extremely desirous of assisting the Bulgarian Red Cross in its work, and that it seemed to us that an early visit by our representative would be useful for that purpose.
63. At the same time we repeated our request for a Bulgarian visa already submitted in April.

D. HUNGARY

64. The Hungarian Red Cross had not replied to our invitation.
65. We sent both questions, (a) and (b), but received no reply.

E. POLAND

66. The Polish Red Cross had not replied to our invitation.
67. It seemed to us that, in view of its previous statements, there was no point in writing to it after the meeting.

F. ROMANIA

68. The Romanian Red Cross had pointed out that the inspection of the lists we had transmitted to it, which was being conducted by its officers, was not yet completed.
69. In the letter we addressed to it on 30 March we asked question (b) and at the same time offered to assist in the technical work of identification by sending a representative.
70. On 29 June, the Romanian Red Cross informed us that it had so far not found on our lists the name of any Greek child in Romania. On the other hand, it had observed that several of the requests for repatriation were not formulated in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly: in many cases, the closest relatives resided in the territory of one of the Eastern European people's republics and could not be the authors of the requests concerned.

71. Replying to our question (b), the Romanian Red Cross stated that, before any consideration of the problem of the repatriation of the displaced Greek children, it was in its opinion necessary to settle the future of the Greek refugees on whose behalf the International Committee had launched an appeal in September 1949, and that of the tens of thousands of children living in Greece without homes and without attention.

72. In our reply to this letter on 14 July, we recalled the formal assurances as to the conditions of reception of the repatriated children which had been received by the special mission we sent to Greece in February 1949. We also pointed out how we regarded the continuance of our efforts to secure early repatriation as justified by the hope and impatience displayed by most of the parents with whom the two members of our last special mission to Greece had been able to get in touch in May.

73. Noting with regret the difficulties encountered by the Romanian Red Cross in its work of identification, we repeated our offer of technical assistance by proposing to send a representative.

G. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

74. It will be remembered that, after having received from the Czechoslovak Red Cross a list of 138 Greek children identified in Czechoslovakia, the International Red Cross had requested authorization for one of its representatives to go to Prague to study the means of repatriation together with the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

75. During our representative's conversations with the Czechoslovak Red Cross at the end of February and the beginning of March 1950, the Czechoslovak Red Cross pointed out that the requests for repatriation had not been received directly by the two international Red Cross organizations, but merely transmitted by them, and that, consequently, before agreeing to consider the technical problem of repatriation, it had to request certain guarantees. It wished to receive:

- (i) For each child, an authentic document fully establishing identity;
- (ii) For relatives who signed a request for repatriation:
 - (a) An authentic or duly legalized document establishing their identity, their degree of relationship to the child or children claimed and, in the case of relatives not parents, giving the reasons for their action;

(b) A declaration by them certifying that they made their request freely and not under pressure of any threat or compulsion;

(iii) The assurance on our part that the repatriated Greek children and their relatives would not be subject of any proceedings whatsoever.

76. When we invited it to the meeting of 9 and 10 March, the Czechoslovak Red Cross replied that, so far as it was concerned, it did not consider it necessary to send a representative of the meeting, since it had had the opportunity of expressing its point of view to our representative. Anxious to do everything to secure the repatriation of the identified children as rapidly as possible, we communicated the conditions laid down by the Czechoslovak Red Cross to the Greek Red Cross, and came to an agreement with the latter that a special mission should be sent to Greece to obtain the documents requested. At the beginning of May, two representatives left Geneva for Athens. During several weeks' travelling in Greece they got in touch with the signatories of the requests for repatriation, and talked to most of them personally without the presence of any third party other than a Swiss interpreter. With the assistance of the local registration authorities they were able to obtain the certificates of identity and relationship requested by the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

77. As soon as our special mission returned, our staff worked at compiling individual dossiers based on the documents brought back from Greece.

78. On 26 June, we asked the Czechoslovak authorities for entry visas for two representatives whom we wished to send to Prague to examine these 138 dossiers with the Czechoslovak Red Cross and then to study the technical aspects of the repatriation of those children - the great majority - in connexion with whom no objection could in future be raised.^{3/}

^{3/} This paragraph, taken from the report submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 18 September 1950, gave rise to misunderstandings which the ICRC and the League wish to remove. By sending a mission to Greece in May 1950, the ICRC and the League exceeded the conditions laid down by the Czechoslovak Red Cross. The mission personally contacted the signatories of the applications for repatriation, whenever this was physically possible. In most cases the documents requested by the Czechoslovak Red Cross were obtained. The ICRC and the League accordingly expressed the view that the great majority of these 138 children were eligible for repatriation. Up to the present time they have received no precise information from the Czechoslovak Red Cross which would lead them to alter this view.

79. We informed the Czechoslovak Red Cross of our application for visas, and requested it to approach the Czechoslovak authorities in support. By a letter of 17 July, that Society informed us that it had taken the necessary steps. At the same time, it asked us to send it the 138 dossiers we had compiled so that it could examine them before our representatives arrived, considering that such previous study "would facilitate the proposed negotiations and at the same time simplify the work as a whole".

80. On 22 July, we replied by cablegram to the Czechoslovak Red Cross, saying in particular: "We thank you for your action. We consider that the oral commentaries of our representatives are absolutely necessary to facilitate and expedite the work of your staff in examining the documents collected relating to the 138 children". We also begged the Czechoslovak Red Cross again to support our applications for visas.

81. On 24 July, the Society replied to us as follows: "...we refer you once more to our letter No. 23998 of 17 July 1950, in which we asked you to send us the material relating to identification, the previous study of which would, we presume, facilitate the personal negotiations. We also draw your attention to the fact that all the responsible officials are at present on holiday, and the representatives of the League and the International Committee would have no opportunity of submitting their comments to the competent authorities".

82. On 1 August, we sent the following cablegram: "...since you assure us that would hasten the settlement of the problem, we have decided to send you, through the Czechoslovak Legation in Berne, the documents relating to the 138 Greek children for preliminary study by the Czechoslovak Red Cross, on which henceforth a positive and rapid solution of the case of these children will depend. We still regard the comments of our representatives as extremely desirable. We confirm that these representatives are prepared to go to Prague as soon as the visas we have requested are obtained".

83. On 5 August, therefore, we sent these documents to the Czechoslovak Red Cross through the Czechoslovak Legation at Berne.

H. YUGOSLAVIA

84. By cablegram of 28 February, the Yugoslav Red Cross, while accepting our invitation in principle, had expressed the wish that the conference should also include in its study the problem of reuniting children in other East European countries with their parents who were refugees in Yugoslavia and vice versa. We replied that the agenda could be extended to cover that problem.

85. Since, in the end, the Yugoslav Red Cross did not send a representative on 9 and 10 March, we wrote to it on 30 March expressing our regret and addressing to it question (b). At the same time, we enquired what results had so far been obtained from the direct liaison it had desired to form with the Greek Red Cross. We subsequently learned from the latter that no progress had been made in that direction.

86. On 23 June, referring to the statements made by its representative at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the League last May on the restoration to their parents of children who were parted from them, the Yugoslav Red Cross communicated to the League the conditions it wished to see fulfilled before proceeding to repatriate the sixty-three children whom it had identified, together with its suggestions with regard to the practical means of such repatriation.

"According to resolution 288 B (IV) of 18 November 1949 of the United Nations General Assembly, the repatriation of Greek refugee children should be effected through the League of Red Cross Societies and the Red Crescent.

"As a first condition the Yugoslav Red Cross requested that the League of Red Cross Societies should obtain the guarantee of the Greek Government that the children would be immediately and directly restored to their parents without being kept in camps, homes or other assembly centres.

"The Greek Red Cross should transmit the following documents through the League of Red Cross Societies to the Yugoslav Red Cross:

"(a) The written request of the parents, confirmed by the competent authorities, for restoration of the child to them through the Greek Red Cross.

"(b) The certificate of relationship, confirmed by the competent authorities.

"The reception and restitution of the children would be carried out at the Yugoslav-Greek frontier in the presence of representatives of the League, the Greek Red Cross and the Yugoslav Red Cross, and of a Greek doctor and a Yugoslav doctor.

"The record of reception and restitution would be signed on the spot by the members of the Commission.

"The statements by the parents that the children had been restored to them, duly corroborated by the competent Greek authorities, would be transmitted to the Yugoslav Red Cross through the League of Red Cross Societies as early as possible".

87. The Yugoslav Red Cross attached to its letter a list of the 63 identified children.

88. After reaching agreement on the matter with the International Committee, the League acknowledged the receipt of this letter to the Yugoslav Red Cross. It also informed the Greek Red Cross of the contents, pointing out that it had forwarded the proposals to the International Committee and requesting the Greek Red Cross to let us know as soon as possible what it thought of them.

89. On 19 August and 10 October the Greek Red Cross informed us that it accepted the conditions imposed by the Yugoslav Red Cross, which we immediately notified accordingly.

90. By a cablegram of 25 August, we requested the Greek Red Cross to send us as soon as possible the certificates of relationship requested by the Yugoslav Red Cross.

PART III
(October 1950 - October 1951)

91. On 1 December 1950, upon the conclusion of its debate on the repatriation of displaced Greek children, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a new resolution ^{4/} the text of which is as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting with great concern the reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and of the Secretary-General, and particularly the statement that 'not a single Greek child has yet been returned to his native land and, except for Yugoslavia, no country harbouring Greek children has taken definite action to comply with the resolutions unanimously adopted in two successive years by the General Assembly',

"Recognizing that every possible effort should be made to restore the children to their homes, in a humanitarian spirit detached from political or ideological considerations,

"Expressing its full appreciation of the efforts made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and by the Secretary-General to implement General Assembly resolutions 193 C (III) and 288 B (IV),

"1. Requests the Secretary-General and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to continue their efforts in accordance with the aforementioned resolutions;

"2. Urges all States harbouring the Greek children to make all the necessary arrangements, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the international Red Cross organizations, for the early return of the Greek children to their parents and, whenever necessary, to allow the international Red Cross organizations free access to their territories for this purpose;

"3. Establishes a Standing Committee, to be composed of the representatives of Peru, the Philippines and Sweden, to act in consultation with the Secretary-General, and to consult with the representatives of the States concerned, with a view to the early repatriation of the children;

"4. Requests the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to co-operate with the Standing Committee;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report from time to time to Member States on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, and requests the international Red Cross organizations and the Secretary-General to submit reports to the General Assembly at its sixth session."

92. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies had been informed on 10 November of the general tenor of the terms of the draft resolution which was to be submitted to the General Assembly. At that time, our two organizations did not know exactly what the sponsors of the draft resolution intended the functions of the proposed Standing Committee to be. The ICRC and the League duly informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations by cable that, while realizing that the object in establishing the new body appeared to be largely to give effect to the conclusions of their second general report of 18 September 1950, yet, in view of their special position and in the interests of their work, they considered it essential that they should consult with the Committee, as soon as it was established, with a view to reaching agreement on the division of their respective functions and responsibilities in order to avoid any confusion or overlapping.

93. By letter dated 21 November, the ICRC and the League were informed that the sponsors of the draft resolution had, indeed, proposed the establishment of the Standing Committee in order to provide our two organizations with the assistance requested by them in their last report. The intention was that the Committee would be essentially an advisory body at the disposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whose efforts it was to assist. We would, of course, be kept regularly informed of its activities and plans, and hence there was no reason to fear the confusion or overlapping we were anxious to avoid.

94. On 6 December 1950, the Secretary-General of the United Nations communicated to the Committee and the League, for their information, the text of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly.

95. On 12 and 16 January 1951, the Committee and the League informed the Secretary-General that they were prepared to continue to co-operate with a view to contributing to the solution of the problem of the displaced Greek children.

A. YUGOSLAVIA

96. It may be recalled that, in a letter dated 23 June 1950, the Yugoslav Red Cross, besides transmitting a list of sixty-three Greek children identified by it in Yugoslavia, informed us of the conditions which it felt ought to be fulfilled before proceeding with their repatriation.

97. On 6 October 1950 the Greek Red Cross, to which the list had been transmitted, forwarded to us the civil status documents asked for in respect of these sixty-three children.

98. After the Yugoslav Red Cross had, by telegram of 25 October, expressed the wish to repatriate the first party promptly, we acted upon its request and sent a representative to Athens who was able, early in November, in agreement with the Greek Red Cross, to make the necessary arrangements for the reception of the children and to make practical arrangements, in accordance with the instructions he had received, for supervising the return of the children to their families.

99. On 8 November 1950, the Yugoslav Red Cross sent us a second list of Greek children identified by it in Yugoslavia. The list contained 174 names, sixty three of which were already known to us.

100. We immediately transmitted the list to the Greek Red Cross to enable it to assemble the requisite civil status documents forthwith.

101. On 20 November 1950, the Yugoslav Red Cross informed us that an unspecified number of Greek children identified by it could be repatriated on Saturday, 25 November, at Termalna Banja, a place in Yugoslavia near the Greek frontier to which our representative and the Greek members of the repatriation committee would have access.

102. The practical arrangements having been completed both on the Greek and on the Yugoslav side, a first party of twenty-one children from Yugoslavia was thus able to return to Greece on the morning of 25 November.

103. A formal report concerning this operation was drawn up, bearing witness to the fact that on 25 November the members of the repatriation commission, consisting of the representative of the ICRC and of the League, representatives of the Yugoslav and Greek Red Cross Societies, and a Greek and a Yugoslav doctor, had effected the return and reception of twenty-one Greek children repatriated from Yugoslavia.

104. A list of the children, and also twenty-one individual certificates of repatriation prepared for each child after verification of identity and medical inspection, were annexed to this formal report.

105. On the same day, the children were taken to Salonika to be housed temporarily in a hostel prepared by the Greek Red Cross where, still under our representative's supervision, they awaited the arrival of their families.

106. On 29 November, the twenty-one repatriated children, who had in the meantime undergone further medical examination, were handed over to their parents in the presence of our representative. Each parent made a written statement declaring that his child had been returned and these twenty-one statements were authenticated by a competent official.

107. On 7 November, we were informed that, as a consequence of an agreement between the Greek and Yugoslav delegations to the United Nations General Assembly, the Swedish Red Cross was to be asked to set up a small commission to help the Yugoslav Red Cross in its task of identifying the Greek children in Yugoslavia with a view to the early repatriation of those who might finally be considered eligible.

108. On 8 November, we informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations by telegram that we were, of course, in agreement with this scheme and that we welcomed any proposal likely to hasten the settlement, even the partial settlement, of the problem of the displaced Greek children.

109. A few days later we received the text of the Secretary-General's statement on this subject, which read as follows:

"The Greek Government has on numerous occasions urged that the exact number of Greek children eligible, under the General Assembly resolutions, for repatriation to Greece from the various countries concerned should be determined on the spot with the assistance of the International Red Cross or other impartial authority. The Secretary-General has held a number of consultations on this matter and the Swedish Red Cross has now been invited by the Greek and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies to lend its assistance. Acting on this invitation, the Swedish Red Cross has agreed to assist the Yugoslav Red Cross in its task of identifying the Greek children in Yugoslavia and of returning them to their parents, and it proposes to send representatives to Belgrade for this purpose at an early date. This arrangement has been made in full agreement with the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross and is welcomed by the Greek and Yugoslav Governments."

110. The Swedish Red Cross set up its mission at once and a working team was quickly sent out as soon as the necessary arrangements had been made with the Yugoslav authorities and the Yugoslav Red Cross and agreement had been reached with them concerning the conditions on which any children thereafter located in Yugoslavia were eligible for repatriation. ^{2/}

111. As early as 28 January 1951, we received a list from Belgrade giving the names of 173 Greek children who were anxious to return to Greece and whose repatriation had been requested by their parents, and those of 187 children who also wished to return to Greece but who did not seem to have been included in the lists transmitted by us to all the host countries. Similar lists were subsequently communicated to us by the Swedish mission. All these have been transmitted by our services to the Greek Red Cross to enable it to assemble the civil status documents and certificates necessary for the repatriation of the children identified.

^{2/} This special mission of the Swedish Red Cross, together with the Yugoslav Red Cross, has been working hard for almost two years. It will in the near future submit a report on its work, which will also be transmitted to the United Nations.

112. On 13 February 1951, we were able to transmit to the Yugoslav Red Cross documents which had reached us from Greece concerning seventy Greek children living in Yugoslavia. On 28 February, the Yugoslav Red Cross told us that a further party of children for repatriation would leave Belgrade about 13 March and, on 6 March, it informed us that repatriation would take place on 14 March at Termalna Banja. Four days later, the Yugoslav Red Cross, in reply to our inquiry, informed us that this second party would consist of fifty-three children.

113. On 14 March, the representative of the Committee and the League supervised the repatriation operations which proceeded along the same lines as on 25 November 1950 (see page 45 above). Altogether fifty-four children returned to Greece on this occasion.

114. On 18 and 19 March, the repatriated children were returned to their families at Salonika, still under the supervision of our representative. Thirty of them were returned to their fathers, twenty-one to their mothers, two to uncles and one to a brother. One of these last three was returned to his uncle because his parents had shortly before left Greece for Canada, as officially noted in the formal report drawn up. In the case of the second child, the mother had died and the father was no longer in complete possession of his mental faculties. The uncle formally gave his undertaking to look after the child. In the case of the third child, the father was paralysed and the mother seriously ill, so that, according to evidence produced by the brother, they had been unable to travel to meet the child.

115. On 17 April, we sent to the Yugoslav Red Cross civil status documents in respect of eighty-two Greek children who had been located in Yugoslavia by the Yugoslav Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross mission.

116. On 4 May, we sent similar documents relating to 123 Greek children to be repatriated. By telegram of 9 May, the Yugoslav Red Cross informed us that there would probably be a further repatriation on 19 May.

117. Finally, on 24 May a third convoy of 214 Greek children left Yugoslavia and returned to Greece in the presence and under the supervision of the representative of the Committee and the League. On this occasion, the Joint Repatriation Committee had fulfilled the usual formalities on 21 and 22 May at Arandjelovac, a place in Yugoslav territory some 70 kilometres south of Belgrade, where the children had been assembled by the Yugoslav Red Cross.

118. As in the past, the children were returned to their families at Salonika, under our representative's supervision. Of these children, 117 were returned to their mothers, eighty-four to their fathers and thirteen to close relatives acting as guardians or duly authorized by a father or mother who had been prevented from travelling to Salonika. In the case of 143 children, both parents were in Greece; thirty-six had one parent in Greece and the other in a country in Eastern Europe other than Yugoslavia; six had one parent in Greece and the other in Yugoslavia; ten, one parent in Greece and the other overseas; nine, one parent in Greece, the whereabouts of the other being unknown; eight had returned from Yugoslavia with their mothers; the parents of one child were dead and the whereabouts of those of another were unknown.

119. These repatriations and the work done in Yugoslavia by the special mission of the Swedish Red Cross have given rise to some misunderstandings and attacks - often sharp attacks - against our two organizations, and in some cases an echo of these criticisms has reached the General Assembly of the United Nations.

120. We shall not recapitulate these misunderstandings and attacks. We would, however, for the sake of clarity, mention at this point that we thought it advisable at the time to prepare, chiefly for circulation to all the national societies of the Red Cross, a short account of the efforts made by our two organizations over the last two years to find, in agreement with all the parties concerned, an equitable solution to the problem of the repatriation of the displaced Greek children. This document, which was published on 15 February 1951, was communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his information and was annexed to our third general report. As has been seen, that document first recapitulates in broad outline the further proposals and suggestions made by us to the harbouring countries, with a view to studying the problem as a whole with them and subsequently drawing up, with their active assistance, lists of Greek children who could be repatriated. We also said in that circular that, faithful to the principles by which the work of the Red Cross is guided, we were ready to take steps to facilitate the return to their families of all Greek children at present separated from them, wherever the actual place of residence of those children or of their parents might be, provided, of course, that all the parties concerned agreed to give us the necessary facilities for checking and supervision.

121. We should like at this point to refer to one part of our work which was not mentioned in our earlier report because, strictly speaking, it exceeds the scope of the General Assembly resolutions.

122. On 7 June 1950, the Greek Children's Aid Committee (EVOP) at Budapest forwarded to us the text of a letter which it had that day addressed to the Yugoslav Red Cross and in which it requested that a number of Greek children living in Yugoslavia should be returned to their parents, then living in Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

123. The Greek Children's Aid Committee asked us to support its initiative.

124. We replied that we were perfectly ready to act in the particular case in question on the lines adopted by us for dealing with requests from parents living in Greece. We therefore suggested that the Red Cross societies of the countries in which the parents of the Greek children in Yugoslavia were living should communicate to us the original requests made by those parents. On the basis of those documents, we would draw up lists which we would send to the Yugoslav Red Cross.

125. We added that if it were necessary, and if it would help in the speedy return of those children to their families, we were ready to send one of our representatives to verify on the spot the applications submitted in this way through us to the Yugoslav Red Cross.

126. On 25 July 1950, the Yugoslav Red Cross told us that it had received this letter, of which we already had a copy, from the Greek Children's Aid Committee together with a list of the names of 149 Greek children claimed. It was willing to allow the return of those children to their parents on the same conditions as those stipulated in the case of the repatriation of Greek children in Yugoslavia claimed by their parents in Greece (see above, paragraphs 84 - 90).

127. On 4 November, when the Greek Children's Aid Committee had still not replied to our offer, the Yugoslav Red Cross, referring to its letter of 25 July 1950, sent us a telegram asking us to send it as promptly as possible the documents it had requested as a prior condition for the return of these 149 children to their parents.

128. By letter dated 14 November 1950, we informed the Yugoslav Red Cross of the offer we had made to the Greek Committee at Budapest, and also pointed out that if it insisted on stipulating the same conditions for the return of these children as in the case of the repatriation of the children claimed in Greece, it would be necessary for the Red Cross societies of the various harbouring countries to send it, through us, a number of documents the most important of which could be obtained only in Greece itself, a condition which was bound to raise a fresh practical problem.

129. On the same date we informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations of our correspondence on this novel aspect of the question of the displaced Greek children.

130. At the end of December we received from the Czechoslovak Red Cross the original of a letter dated 28 December 1950 addressed to the Yugoslav Red Cross in which it drew attention to the case of the Greek children resident in Yugoslavia, but having their relatives in Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak Red Cross enclosed with this letter a first list containing the names of 257 Greek children in this category, and requested the Yugoslav Red Cross to arrange for the conveyance of these children as far as the Hungarian-Yugoslav frontier, at which point it proposed to take charge of them.

131. The list included the children's first names and surnames, the dates of birth of fifty-one of them and, in every case, their place of birth and the first name of the applicant (relationship not being stated). The Czechoslovak Red Cross added that it was authorized to state that it could also take over children resident in Yugoslavia whose relatives were in Eastern European countries other than Czechoslovakia.

132. We transmitted this letter to the addressee.

133. On 10 February 1951, the Yugoslav Red Cross sent us the original of a letter in similar terms, also dated 28 December 1950, addressed to the International Committee, which had by mistake been sent to it by the Czechoslovak Red Cross. On the same date the Bulgarian Red Cross transmitted to us a memorandum from a group of relatives living in Bulgaria which contained the names of fifteen Greek children living in Yugoslavia who were claimed by them.

134. On 5 April we sent this list and, for the second time, the list sent to us by the Czechoslovak Red Cross with its letter of 28 December 1950, to the Yugoslav Red Cross, pointing out that, if it wished to have our assistance in connexion with the return of children to their families, our services were at its disposal.
135. On 18 June, the Czechoslovak Red Cross communicated to us by letter 104 applications submitted to it by Greek nationals who were living in Czechoslovakia and who were claiming their children then in Yugoslavia (ninety-five of these 104 names had also been included in the list of 28 December).
136. We then received from the Romanian Red Cross a list, dated 20 June, of thirty-one children also in Yugoslavia whose relatives wished them to rejoin their families in Romania.
137. By letter of 20 July, we transmitted these various applications to the Yugoslav Red Cross in the form of a list, and asked the Society to inform us exactly what conditions it required to be fulfilled before returning to their families any of these children identified in Yugoslavia. We referred to our letter of 14 November emphasizing our desire for an early reunion of the Greek families still separated, irrespective of the place of residence of the relatives and children, and again offering the assistance of our two organizations. We further informed the Yugoslav Red Cross that according to checks made by our experts, the repatriation of twenty-eight of the children claimed through the Czechoslovak Red Cross had previously been applied for by families in Greece. A list of these twenty-eight children was attached to our communication.
138. On 19 and 20 July, we replied to the Romanian and Czechoslovak Red Cross Societies and communicated to them the essential points of our letter to the Yugoslav Red Cross.
139. On 3 September 1951, we transmitted to the Yugoslav Red Cross four new lists of a similar nature; based on applications which had reached us from relatives resident in Poland and from the Czechoslovak and Bulgarian Red Cross Societies. These lists contained in all the names of forty children and fifteen adults.

140. On 12 September 1951, the Hungarian Red Cross transmitted to us thirty-eight applications from Greek families at present in Hungary asking for the return of their children, now in Yugoslavia. We transmitted the list of children claimed, and photostat copies of the original applications, to the Yugoslav Red Cross by letter dated 2 October 1951.

141. To date no Greek children resident in Yugoslavia have yet been returned to their families in other countries of Eastern Europe.

142. Furthermore, it is relevant to note that in September 1950 the Yugoslav Red Cross sent us seven lists comprising the names of 2,512 Greek children in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Poland, who were being claimed by their families in Yugoslavia. As requested by the Yugoslav Red Cross, we forwarded these lists to the Red Cross Societies in the harbouring countries.

143. On 17 September 1951, the Yugoslav Red Cross inquired what action had been taken by the countries in which these 2,512 children are now resident on the applications submitted by their families. We replied on 5 October 1951 that the Red Cross Societies of these countries had not advised us of their intentions. At the time of preparing this report, the Red Cross Societies have not yet informed us of their views (see supplementary note, Annex No. 3).

B. BULGARIA

144. On 9 March 1951, we again communicated with the Bulgarian Red Cross, proposing that conversations should be arranged at an early date with a view to studying in all its aspects the question of the repatriation of the displaced Greek children. We referred to the circumstances in which and the reasons for which the General Assembly of the United Nations had asked for the co-operation of our two organizations, and again pointed out that the practical results achieved to date were very fragmentary and covered only a very small number of children. We again added that in conformity with their guiding principles our two organizations would be prepared to lend their services to facilitate the return of all Greek children separated from their families, whatever the present place of residence of the children or their families.

145. We also pointed out that much of the delay which had occurred in overcoming the problem of the Greek children was due to the fact that we had not yet been able to study it jointly in all its aspects. To remedy this state of affairs we therefore proposed that conversations should be held at the earliest possible date between the Bulgarian Red Cross and our two organizations, and for this purpose suggested that representatives of the Committee and the League might be sent to Sofia, or that representatives of the Bulgarian Red Cross might come to Geneva, or even that more general conversations might be held in a place to be agreed upon, when representatives of the national societies of a number of harbouring countries might exchange views with our representatives. We asked whether any of these methods met with the approval of the Bulgarian Red Cross or whether it had any other solution in mind. We informed the Bulgarian Red Cross that we were sending similar letters by the same post to the Red Cross societies of Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia, and that the final position of our two organizations would be defined in accordance with the replies received from the Bulgarian Red Cross and the other three Societies. The Bulgarian Red Cross has not so far replied to this letter.

C. HUNGARY

146. On 9 March 1951 we also sent the Hungarian Red Cross a letter identical with that sent to the Bulgarian Red Cross the same day. There has been no reply from the Hungarian Red Cross.

D. ROMANIA

147. The Romanian Red Cross, to which a similar letter was sent on the same date, replied on 28 May.

148. The Romanian Red Cross stated that since we had proposed taking as basis for discussion in the proposed conversations the lists communicated since 1949 to the harbouring countries, and since these lists were not only false but prepared in bad faith - referring in this connexion to the partial study of these lists made by the Greek Children's Aid Committee at Budapest (EVOP), the results of which were published in a brochure entitled "The truth about the requests for repatriation submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross" - therefore the proposed conversations could take place only if the basis for discussion offered the fullest guarantee of the correctness of the position stated and of the accuracy of the data.

149. On 15 June we cabled to the Romanian Red Cross that we were in full agreement with the proposal it had made in the final part of its reply, and that we should be glad to meet its representatives either at Geneva or at Bucharest.
150. On 20 June we confirmed this telegram by letter, stating once again that it had never been our intention to proceed solely on the basis of the lists of children claimed that had been transmitted to the harbouring countries. On the contrary, it was precisely in order to obtain all the necessary information and ensure all the essential guarantees that we had on repeated occasions proposed holding informal conversations. We had always considered that our task could not be effectively discharged unless all the parties interested in the problem of the displaced Greek children - both Red Cross societies and official authorities - lent us their active co-operation, and provided us with all the information in their possession likely to be of use in the solution of this problem.
151. We concluded by saying that we were at all times ready to study, in conversations with the Romanian Red Cross, a practical solution on the lines indicated by it in its letter of 28 May. We were anxious that such conversations, whatever form they took, should be held at an early date.
152. The Romanian Red Cross has not replied to this letter.

E. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

153. A letter, identical in terms with that sent to the Bulgarian, Hungarian and Romanian Red Cross Societies, was sent to the Czechoslovak Red Cross; no reply has been received.

F. ALBANIA AND POLAND

154. In view of their earlier statements, we have made no new approaches to the Red Cross societies of these two countries.

PART FOUR

(November 1951 to October 1952)

155. On 8 February 1952, the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies the resolution concerning the repatriation of Greek children which, by 51 votes with 5 abstentions, was adopted by the General Assembly on 2 February 1952.^{6/}

"The General Assembly,

"Viewing with concern the reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and of the Secretary-General, and in particular the fact that, with the exception of Yugoslavia, none of the countries harbouring Greek children has yet taken the necessary steps to enable those children to return to their homes, as provided for in resolution 193 C (III) of 27 November 1948 and the subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly on the matter,

"Recognizing that the United Nations must continue its efforts, from a humanitarian point of view, to enable the Greek children to return to their homes,

"Noting the report of the Standing Committee on the Repatriation of Greek Children that, of the Governments invited to send representatives to enter into consultations with the Standing Committee on the problem during the present session of the General Assembly, only one has actually participated in the consultations,

1. Thanks the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, the Standing Committee on the Repatriation of Greek Children and the Secretary-General for their efforts to give effect to General Assembly resolutions 193 C (III), 288 B (IV) and 382 C (V);
2. Notes with satisfaction that a further group of Greek children has been repatriated from Yugoslavia;
3. Expresses the hope that it will be possible to make rapid progress with the repatriation of the Greek children in Czechoslovakia;

4. Deeply regrets that all the other States harbouring Greek children have declined to enter into consultations with the Standing Committee with a view to giving effect to the resolutions of the General Assembly on the matter;
5. Considers that the technical and other grounds advanced by those countries harbouring Greek children which have declined to co-operate fully in the solution of the problem are not insurmountable or such as to constitute a reason for further delay in permitting the return of the children in respect of whom requests for repatriation have been submitted and verified by the international Red Cross organizations;
6. Urges all countries harbouring Greek children to take steps to facilitate the early return of the children to their homes;
7. Decides to continue the Standing Committee with the terms of reference previously laid down;
8. Requests the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to continue their work for this humanitarian purpose;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to report from time to time to Member States on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, and requests the international Red Cross organizations and the Secretary-General to submit reports on the progress achieved before the seventh regular session of the General Assembly is convened."

A. YUGOSLAVIA

156. A fourth repatriation of Greek children harboured in Yugoslavia took place between 30 October and 3 November 1951. On this occasion, the delegation of the Yugoslav Red Cross, in response to the invitation of the Greek Red Cross, accompanied the repatriated children as far as Salonica. The delegate of the Committee and the League supervised the arrangements for this further repatriation, which were put into effect at Salonica in accordance with the procedure followed previously. Ninety-six children were restored to their families. Twenty-eight were received by their fathers, sixty-five by their mothers and three by close relatives. This party was composed of forty-nine boys

and forty-seven girls. Their ages were as follows: four children under six, seventy-four between ten and fifteen, eleven between sixteen and eighteen and seven over eighteen.

157. A fifth repatriation took place between 13 and 21 March 1952. A Greek Red Cross delegation went to Belgrade, where the first stage was completed. From there, the children were conveyed to Salonica, where they were handed over to their parents. The delegate of the Committee and the League was present both in Yugoslavia and in Greece during the various stages of this repatriation, which involved eighty-four children, five of whom were under nine, thirty-three between nine and fourteen, fourteen between fourteen and sixteen and thirty-two over sixteen. Thirty-nine children were returned to their fathers, twenty-nine to their mothers and sixteen to some other relative.

158. As on previous occasions, the delegation of the Swedish Red Cross in Yugoslavia gave valuable assistance in connexion with these fourth and fifth repatriations. On 30 September 1952, the number of Greek children who had been repatriated from Yugoslavia to Greece amounted to four hundred and sixty-nine.

159. A sixth repatriation has been announced for the beginning of October 1952.

160. On 19 November 1951, the Yugoslav Red Cross acknowledged the receipt of a letter in which, on 2 October, we had transmitted to it photographic copies of thirty-eight requests from Greek parents in Hungary desiring to have their children -- harboured in Yugoslavia -- restored to them. After pointing out that it had been able to give consideration to only twenty-nine of those requests, seven concerning children who had already come of age and two being duplicates, the Yugoslav Red Cross stated in its reply that all those documents were in the same handwriting and bore the same signature, that none of them was certified by the authorities and that they contained no conclusive evidence of the relationship between the persons submitting the requests and the children claimed. In conclusion, the Yugoslav Red Cross informed us that it had so far identified fifteen of those children whom it could restore to their parents as soon as it had received for each of them the necessary documents, that is to say -- as it explained in reply to our request -- the following:

- (1) An original request for repatriation signed by one of the parents and certified as genuine by the authorities at the place of residence of the persons submitting the request;
- (2) An affidavit of relationship certified as authentic by the said authorities.

161. On 20 December, we brought this information to the knowledge of the Hungarian Red Cross and asked the Yugoslav Red Cross to make us a list of the fifteen children identified so as to enable the documents needed for the reunion of those children with their parents to be prepared in Hungary.

162. On 17 January 1952, the Yugoslav Red Cross informed us that it had received eighty-three similar requests, this time from parents in Czechoslovakia and concerning one hundred and twenty-three children. Of those one hundred and twenty-three children, it had been able to find fifty-seven in institutions under its own management. It would be prepared to permit the reunion of those children with their parents as soon as it had received for each the above-mentioned certified documents.

163. On 6 February 1952, we transmitted this information to the Czechoslovak Red Cross and requested the Yugoslav Red Cross to send us a list of the fifty-seven children identified, while at the same time calling attention to our letter of 20 December 1951.

164. On 3 June, the Yugoslav Red Cross requested us to inform the Czechoslovak Red Cross that it had identified twelve Greek children whose parents were resident in Czechoslovakia and had requested that the children be allowed to rejoin them in that country. As the requests relating to those children were drawn up in due form and accompanied by affidavits of relationship, the Yugoslav Red Cross was of the opinion that the conditions it had laid down for the return of children to their parents had been fulfilled. It instructed us to inform the Czechoslovak Red Cross that it was prepared to organize the reunion of those children with their parents.

165. We transmitted this information to the Czechoslovak Red Cross, together with a request for proposals regarding the transport of this party. We also informed it that on the occasion of this transfer, we proposed to proceed in the same way as in the case of the repatriation of Greek children from

Yugoslavia to Greece, and that a representative of the ICRC and the League would be present at the operations connected with this transfer and would accompany the party until the children were returned to their parents. We also requested the Czechoslovak Red Cross to obtain from the authorities in its country a guarantee - such as had been requested and obtained from the Greek authorities - that the children transferred to Czechoslovakia would be immediately returned to their parents, with whom they would in future live.

166. The Czechoslovak Red Cross has so far not replied to our letter.

167. On 4 and 6 June 1952, the Yugoslav Red Cross also transmitted to us two lists of Greek children whom it had identified in Yugoslavia, but for whom the documents received did not satisfy the conditions laid down by it for the return of children. One of the lists contained the names of fifty-nine children claimed by parents living in Czechoslovakia, and the other the names of twenty-four children claimed by parents resident in Hungary. We communicated these lists to the Hungarian and Czechoslovak Red Cross societies, at whose disposal we placed ourselves for the purposes of the transmission to the Yugoslav Red Cross of such documents as, in accordance with the conditions laid down, they might prepare for the children named in the lists. No reply has been received to this proposal.

B. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

168. At the end of November 1951, pursuant to a resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Governments of the principal countries in which Greek children were harboured were requested by the United Nations to appoint representatives to exchange views in Paris with the Standing Committees on the Repatriation of Greek Children for the purpose of finding a solution for the problem of the children's repatriation.

169. Only the Czechoslovak Government accepted that invitation. On 22 January 1952, at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies attended a meeting of the above-mentioned Standing Committee, at which the representative of Czechoslovakia stated that, in the opinion of his government, the question of the Greek children in Czechoslovakia, which was essentially the question of the one hundred and thirty-eight children already identified in that country, should be re-examined at Prague in the course of conversations between, on the one hand, the Committee and League, and on the other hand, the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

170. The International Committee and the League immediately decided to take action on the suggestion made by the Czechoslovak authorities and, as early as the end of January they applied to those authorities for visas for three delegates. The visas were granted at the end of March.

171. At the request of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies did not go to Prague until 8 April.

172. The Czechoslovak Red Cross immediately informed our delegates that it desired the conversations to be based on the following agenda which it had prepared:

"(a) Discussion of basic problems raised by the question of the repatriation of the one hundred and thirty-eight children.

"(b) Forgery of documents sent to the Red Cross societies of the people's democracies by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League.

"(c) Study of individual official papers prepared for the one hundred and thirty-eight children."

173. Desiring to afford the Czechoslovak Red Cross an opportunity to give them its views on the problem of the Greek children as a whole, the delegates of the International Committee and the League accepted that plan of work, while pointing out that the essential purpose of their mission was consideration of item (c).

174. The Czechoslovak Red Cross then made a general statement in the course of which it addressed to the delegates of the ICRC and the League four questions relating to items (a) and (b) of the agenda, the text of which is to be found in the final protocol drafted at the conclusion of the conversations (see annex 1).

175. This final protocol gives the substance of the discussions which arose out of question (3) raised by the Czechoslovak Red Cross, the question about the situation of children in Greece itself. The delegates of the ICRC and the League stated that that question was outside their competence and could not, in their opinion, be linked with the question of the fate of repatriated Greek children, since the Greek Government had given formal assurances to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies

that these repatriates would not be the object of any legal proceedings or of any discriminatory political measure on their return to Greece.

176. Since the Czechoslovak Red Cross considered that it was unable to regard that statement as satisfactory, our delegates were obliged to confer with their organizations, and two of them returned to Geneva to report before continuing the conversations at Prague.

177. The note verbale (see annex 2) drawn up in connexion with that report by the International Committee and the League for the Czechoslovak Red Cross, reiterated in substance the declarations already made at Prague by our joint delegation in reply to questions (1) and (3), and included in addition a reply to question (4) (see annex 2). It asked that the main subject of the discussions should immediately be dealt with, that is to say, the examination of the cases of the one hundred and thirty-eight Greek children identified in Czechoslovakia.

178. The Czechoslovak Red Cross informed the delegates of the International Committee and the League that it considered these explanations unsatisfactory, particularly as regards the situation of children in Greece and that in those circumstances it was not prepared to discuss item (c) of the agenda.

179. As the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies had nothing to add to the text of the note verbale, discussions had to be broken off on 23 April.

C. THE STEPS TAKEN TO APPROACH THE GREEK CHILDREN'S AID COMMITTEE AT BUDAPEST

180. The Greek Children's Aid Committee at Budapest has sent to the Committee and the League two volumes in which are published the results of the study of the lists of displaced Greek children for whom requests for repatriation have been submitted from Greece by their parents. In acknowledging the receipt of that communication, on 20 November 1951, we reminded the Committee of the numerous attempts we had made to arrange for broad exchanges of views - through the medium of direct negotiations with the authorities and organizations concerned - on the general problem of reuniting with their parents Greek children at present separated from them. We pointed out that, while desirous of taking into account all such information as might be supplied to us in so far as it was likely to help

in reaching a solution of the problem, we thought that only direct contacts could enable such information to be usefully considered. We ended our letter by expressing the hope of receiving in the near future constructive proposals both from the Greek Children's Aid Committee and from the Red Cross societies concerned. This letter has so far remained unanswered, in spite of our reminders of 21 December 1951 and 28 March 1952.

D. LISTS OF REQUESTS

181. In conclusion, it may be mentioned that we have so far received from Greece through the Greek Red Cross 12,661 requests from parents for the repatriation of their children at present separated from them.

182. These requests were published by our two organizations in the form of lists on the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of Volumes</u>	<u>Lists</u>	<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>No. of Names</u>
July 1949	3	1st	Latin	5,061
December 1949	1	2nd	Latin	1,788
January 1950	1	1st	Greek	3,753
February 1950	1	2nd	Greek	3,327
March 1950	1	3rd	Greek	1,994
May 1950	1 mixed	4th	Latin	441
		4th	Greek	439
September 1950	1 mixed	5th	Latin	323
		5th	Greek	325
October 1951	1	6th prov.	Greek	2,155
December 1951	1	6th prov.	Latin	1,986

183. A further volume containing requests received since December 1951 is to be sent in the near future to the Red Cross societies of the harbouring countries.

ANNEX No. 1

FINAL PROTOCOL

relating to the discussions which took place between the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies and the representatives of the Czechoslovak Red Cross in Prague.

Discussions connected with the repatriation of Greek children harboured in Czechoslovakia took place from 9-23 April 1952 at the Headquarters of the Czechoslovak Red Cross in Prague between the representatives of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.

The following delegates took part in these discussions:

Mr. F. HORNEFFER - for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva

Colonel de MEYER
Mr H. BEER

Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross;
these two delegates represented the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.

The following officials of the Czechoslovak Red Cross took part in the discussions:

Mrs. P. KOPRIVOVA Acting Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross

Dr. K. BLAHA Head of the Foreign Affairs Section of the Czechoslovak Red Cross

Dr. F. VAVRICKA Vice-Chairman of the Social Commission of the Czechoslovak Red Cross

Mr. J. SVOBODA Czechoslovak Red Cross Official.

Mrs. Koprivova, Acting Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, opened the discussion on 9 April 1952 by welcoming the delegation of the International Red Cross organizations.

After the agenda had been settled, Mrs. P. Koprivova made a speech in the name of the Czechoslovak Red Cross expressing the basic ideas of her Society in respect of the problem of the repatriation of Greek children harboured in Czechoslovakia.

In this speech four questions were put to the delegates of the International Red Cross organizations. These questions, to which the Czechoslovak Red Cross requested clear and unequivocal replies were as follows:

- (1) Why did not the international Red Cross organizations reveal to the general public the forgeries among the requests for repatriation sent in by the Greek Red Cross and their political background?
- (2) Why did not the international Red Cross organizations refuse to act as intermediaries in forwarding such grave forgeries?
- (3) Are there not children in Greece who are imprisoned, in concentration camps or agricultural labour colonies, and who die as a result of political discrimination?
- (4) Why did the international Red Cross organizations approve and carry out the repatriation from Yugoslavia to Greece of the following four children whose parents are living in one of the people's democracies:

Tryfonidis Germanos
Tryfonidis Simos
Markopoulo Evangelia
Dimou Christos?

In the course of the discussion, question 3 was taken up in detail, and the Czechoslovak delegation added the following additional question:

"Do or do not the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies know whether such conditions exist or do not exist in Greece?"

The Czechoslovak Red Cross delegation considered it indispensable to receive a full reply to questions 3 (a) and 3 (b). The delegation of the International Red Cross organizations declared for its part that it was not competent to reply and asked for permission to consult its organizations at Geneva. The Czechoslovak Red Cross delegation agreed and on 15 April 1952 two members of the Geneva delegation, Messrs. F. Horneffer and H. Beer, left for that city. After consulting their organizations they returned to Prague on 19 April 1952 to continue the discussions.

During the meeting held on 23 April 1952, the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies read the text of a note verbale expressing their organizations' point of view on the four questions which had been put to them.

The Czechoslovak Red Cross delegation rejected the contents of this note verbale as, from its standpoint, unsatisfactory, inaccurate and unilateral.

Question (3), which the Czechoslovak Red Cross delegation considered as essential, was as follows:

- (3) (a) Are there not children in Greece who are imprisoned, in concentration camps or agricultural labour colonies, and who die as a result of political discrimination?
- (3) (b) Do or do not the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies know whether such conditions exist or do not exist in Greece?

I. Position of the International Committee and the League.

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies submitted their organizations' point of view as follows (extract from the note verbale of 18 April 1952):

"The ICRC and the League, to meet the wish expressed by the Czechoslovak authorities, have sent a mission to Prague whose task is to proceed with the Czechoslovak Red Cross to the examination of the files of the 138 Greek children identified in Czechoslovakia more than two years ago and to establish which of them may be considered as eligible for repatriation.

Furthermore, in accordance with condition 3 laid down in March 1950 by the Czechoslovak Red Cross for the repatriation of Greek children in Czechoslovakia, the ICRC and the League secured renewed assurances from the Greek Government that Greek children repatriated to Greece would immediately be reunited with their parents and that neither they nor their parents would be the object of any legal proceedings or of any measure of political discrimination.

Consequently the question raised by the Czechoslovak Red Cross has no relation to the future fate of the displaced Greek children who would be repatriated from Czechoslovakia and is outside the sphere of the general problem of displaced Greek children.

Question (3) (b) raised by the Czechoslovak Red Cross likewise has no relation to the future fate of the displaced Greek children who might be repatriated from Czechoslovakia and is outside the general problem of displaced Greek children."

II. Position of the Czechoslovak Red Cross concerning questions (3) (a) and (3) (b)

The Czechoslovak Red Cross delegation stated that, so far as concerned the contents of the note verbale, questions (3) and (3) (b), did not constitute a reply, and that it could only interpret the point of view expressed by concluding that the two international Red Cross organizations refused in point of fact to reply to direct questions. The Czechoslovak Red Cross delegation added that it was a matter of replying to questions on which not only the fate but the lives of children in Greece depended.

Furthermore, by refusing to reply to those questions, the international Red Cross organizations prevented a continuation of the discussions on the problem of the repatriation of Greek children harboured in Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak Red Cross delegation further pointed out that it was in possession of a document drafted by the International Committee of the Red Cross which confirmed that in Greece there were children who were imprisoned, in concentration camps, or in agricultural labour camps. The fact that the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies who were present endeavoured to deny that fact proved that they were in no way guided by humanitarian aims but that their acts were based on political considerations and that they were not behaving as delegates of neutral international organizations.

As the Czechoslovak Red Cross could not consider the text of the note verbale, especially the part relating to questions (3) (a) and (3) (b), as a direct reply to the questions put, it felt it could not continue the discussion before having received a clear and concrete reply to its definite questions.

The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the League of Red Cross Societies requested that, in accordance with the conclusions of the note verbale, the meeting should proceed immediately with the examination of the individual files, and at the same time confirmed that their organizations had nothing to add to the text of the note.

In those circumstances, the two delegations broke off their discussions.

For the International Committee of the Red Cross	For the League of Red Cross Societies	For the Czechoslovak Red Cross
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F. Horneffer

Colonel de Meyer
H. Beer

P. Koprivova
Dr. H. Blaha
Dr. F. Vavricka
J. Svoboda

Done at Prague, 24 April 1952.

ANNEX 2

Geneva, 18 April 1952.

NOTE VERBALE

The International Committee and the League have heard the report presented by their delegates on the three discussions they have so far had with the Czechoslovak Red Cross in Prague. They have noted the four questions put to their delegates by the Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross in the course of a preliminary statement made at the first meeting. The ICRC and the League desire to make the following remarks in regard to these four questions.

The ICRC and the League first of all emphasize that no questions concerning the displaced Greek children could officially be put to the ICRC alone, since the two institutions have been dealing jointly with this problem for over three years.

As the Czechoslovak Red Cross attaches especial importance to question (3), the ICRC and the League will take it first here:

Question (3): "Are there not children in Greece who are imprisoned, in concentration camps, or agricultural labour colonies, and who die as a result of political discrimination?"

The ICRC and the League, to meet the wish expressed by the Czechoslovak authorities, have sent a mission to Prague whose task is to proceed with the Czechoslovak Red Cross to the examination of the files of the 138 Greek children identified in Czechoslovakia more than two years ago and to establish which of them may be considered as eligible for repatriation.

Furthermore, in accordance with condition 3 laid down in March 1950 by the Czechoslovak Red Cross for the repatriation of Greek children in Czechoslovakia, the ICRC and the League secured renewed assurances from the Greek Government that Greek children repatriated to Greece would immediately be reunited with their parents and that neither they nor their parents would be the object of any legal proceedings or of any measures of political discrimination.

Consequently the question raised by the Czechoslovak Red Cross has no relation to the future fate of the displaced Greek children who would be repatriated from Czechoslovakia and is outside the sphere of the general problem of displaced Greek children.

Question (3) (b) raised by the Czechoslovak Red Cross likewise has no relation to the future fate of the displaced Greek children who might be repatriated from Czechoslovakia and is outside the general problem of displaced Greek children.

Question (4): "Why did the international Red Cross organizations approve and carry out the repatriation from Yugoslavia to Greece of the following four children whose parents are living in one of the peoples democracies:

Tryfonidis Germanos
Tryfonidis Simos
Markopoulo Evangelis
Dimou Christos?"

The data on these four children supplied by the Czechoslovak Red Cross is so brief that they do not permit certain identification. A study of the files, however, enables the ICRC and the League to give the following information:

(1) TRYFONIDIS Germanos

A child named Trifonidis Germanos, born in 1938 at Lemos was claimed by his father Trifonidis Ioannis at Lemos. This child's name is in our first list in Latin characters under the number 4209 and on page 106 of our first list in Greek characters. These lists were sent to the harbouring countries on 9 August 1949 and 31 January 1950 respectively. The child was repatriated from Yugoslavia to Greece on 25 November 1950 and handed over to his father at Salonika on 29 November 1950 in the presence of a delegate of the ICRC and the League.

In their archives the ICRC and the League have a declaration signed by the father to the effect that he has duly received his child. Furthermore, in the

critical study of our lists dated 8 October 1950 prepared by the Greek Children's Aid Committee in Budapest, this child's name appears on page 133 with the comment, "unknown" in the peoples' democracies.

Our files contain no other original claim for Tryfonidis Germanos than that of the father and no other child of this name has been repatriated from Yugoslavia to Greece.

(2) TRYFONIDIS Simos

A child named Trifonidis Simos, brother of the first child, born in 1943 at Lemos, was claimed by his father Trifonidis Ioannis at Lemos. This child's name is in our first list in Latin characters under the number 4208 and on page 106 of our first list in Greek characters. The lists were sent to the harbouring countries on 9 August 1949 and 31 January 1950. The child in question was repatriated from Yugoslavia to Greece on 14 March 1951 and handed over to his father in Salonika on 18 March 1951 in the presence of a delegate of the ICRC and the League.

Our files contain no other original claim for Trifonidis Simos than that of the father and no other child of this name has been repatriated from Yugoslavia to Greece.

(3) MARKOPOULO Evangelis

A child called Markopoulou Evangelis, born in 1943 at Lemos, was claimed by her father Markopoulos Dimitrios at Lemos. This child's name is on our first list in Latin characters under number 2490 and on our first list in Greek characters on page 89. The lists were sent to the harbouring countries on 9 August 1949 and 31 January 1950 respectively. The child was repatriated to Greece from Yugoslavia on 25 November 1950 and handed over to her father in Salonika on 29 November 1950 in the presence of a delegate of the ICRC and the League.

The ICRC and the League have in their archives a declaration signed by the father to the effect that he has duly received his child. The ICRC and the League pointed out that the first list of the Greek Children's Aid Committee of 8 October 1950 mentioned the name of Markopoulo Evangelis on page 10 and indicated that her mother was in one of the people's democracies.

Our files contain no other original claim for Markopoulo Evangelis than that of the father and no other child of this name has been repatriated from Yugoslavia to Greece.

(4) DIMOU Hrestos

A child named Dimopoulos Christos, born in 1942 at Milliona, was claimed by his father Dimopoulos Dimitrios at Milliona. This child's name is on our third list in Latin characters under number 303 and on page 322 of our third list in Greek characters. These lists were sent to the harbouring countries on 28 April 1950 and 22 March 1950 respectively. The child was repatriated from Yugoslavia to Greece on 14 March 1951 and handed over to his father in Salonika on 18 March 1951 in the presence of a delegate of the ICRC and the League.

The ICRC and the League have in their archives a declaration signed by the father to the effect that he has duly received his child.

On 24 May 1951 two Greek nationals in Hungary, Alexandros Dimopoulos and Velika Dimopoulou, telegraphed to the ICRC and the League to protest against the repatriation of their son, Dimopoulos Christos, aged 4 years, born in the village of Milliona, and who, according to them, had been repatriated from Yugoslavia on 14 March 1951. We have no information on the repatriation from Yugoslavia to Greece of a child of this name and whose parents' first names are Alexandros and Velika. There has surely been confusion with the child of the same name mentioned above.

As we were not in possession of the address of Mr. Alexandros Dimopoulos and Mme. Velika Dimopoulou, we forwarded all the above information to the Hungarian Red Cross in Budapest on 1 June 1951, asking it to endeavour to discover this address and to inform these parents.

The delegates of the ICRC and the League have informed our two organizations of the replies already given orally to questions (1) and (2) raised by the Czechoslovak Red Cross. The International Committee and the League are in complete agreement with these replies and have nothing to add to them but consider it well to state clearly the main points.

Question (1): "Why did not the international Red Cross organizations reveal to the general public the forgeries among the requests for repatriation sent in by the Greek Red Cross and their political background?"

N.B. The ICRC and the League understand that this refers to "forgeries" committed in completing the requests for repatriation collected in Greece.

Question (2): "Why did not the international Red Cross organizations refuse to act as intermediaries in forwarding such grave forgeries?"

As long ago as the beginning of 1949, the ICRC and the League, with a view to ascertaining the whereabouts of each of the children claimed, asked the harbouring countries for a list of Greek children living on their territory with a view to determining the names of the claimed children in each of the reception countries. This would have subsequently enabled the international Red Cross organizations, together with the National Red Cross Societies of the States concerned, to determine by individual consideration of each case which of these children were really eligible for repatriation.

No practical action on this proposal has been taken by the harbouring countries.

In the absence of any information about names from the Red Cross societies of the harbouring countries, the ICRC and the League forwarded to them for study the lists of claimed children, established on the basis of requests forwarded to them from Greece through the intermediary of the Greek Red Cross. They at the same time requested these Red Cross Societies to indicate which of the children were living in their country.

Subsequently the ICRC and the League made repeated requests to the harbouring countries to submit their observations on each case mentioned in the lists and to proceed to a comparative study of the original documents in the possession of the ICRC and the League and those collected by the Red Cross societies in the harbouring countries. In this way a list of children considered by all those concerned as eligible for repatriation could have been established.

The ICRC and the League, to which the members of the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously appealed in November 1948 to act as intermediaries,

have obviously no other way of discovering with certainty, any errors these lists may contain, than by securing the co-operation of the Red Cross societies of the harbouring countries.

It is only today, more than three years after the ICRC and the League first took action, that our two organizations are to have the opportunity of conducting a detailed examination of cases, though only of the cases of the 138 children whose presence on Czechoslovak soil was admitted by the Czechoslovak Red Cross as long ago as the autumn of 1949, and of obtaining the observations of that Society on each case.

The ICRC and the League cannot therefore accept the terms of the first two questions put to their delegates, since the lack of co-operation from the Red Cross Societies of the harbouring countries has made it impossible for them to verify the requests for repatriation which they receive.

The International Committee and the League have thus given the Czechoslovak Red Cross all the necessary explanations on the general questions it has raised. The time has come to proceed without further delay to the study of the purpose of the joint mission, i.e. the examination, case by case, of the 138 files relating to the Greek children identified in Czechoslovakia by the Czechoslovak Red Cross in 1949.

ANNEX 3

NOTE ADDITIONAL TO PART THREE OF THE REPORT

Case of the Greek children in Yugoslavia whose parents
are in other countries of Eastern Europe

On this subject the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies would like further to add that, in addition to the steps they themselves have taken together (see pages 41, 43 - 44) Mr. Emil Sandström, President of the League of Red Cross Societies and President of the Swedish Red Cross, frequently informed the Red Cross societies of the people's democracies that the Yugoslav Red Cross was prepared to collaborate in reuniting Greek children in Yugoslavia with their parents resident in those countries; all that was needed was to agree on the procedure to be adopted and the guarantees to be given, guarantees of the same kind as those requested for the repatriations to Greece. The desired result has not been obtained.
