

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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Ad Hoc Commission on  
Prisoners of War

INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BY GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING PRISONERS OF WAR

CORRIGENDUM

Page 4, paragraph 12, line 5 should read: "are known" instead of "are unknown."

Pages 53, 54, 55 and 56 are to be incorporated in the document and are attached hereto.

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39. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

4 June 1951

To the Secretary General  
of the United Nations  
New York

Sir,

In the name of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany I have the honour to inform you of the following:

It was with deep gratification that the Federal Government noted the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1950, concerning measures for the peaceful solution of the problem of prisoners of war (Document A/1749). By this resolution the General Assembly called upon all Governments still having control of prisoners of war to transmit to you, as Secretary-General, before 30 April 1951:

- a. the names of prisoners of war still held by them, the reasons for which they are still detained and the places in which they are detained;
- b. the names of prisoners of war who have died while under their control as well as the date and cause of death, and the manner and place of burial in each case.

The Federal Government takes a lively interest in the results of the inquiry initiated by this resolution, since unfortunately no essential changes have occurred with regard to the prisoner-of-war problem since the adoption of the resolution, and as it seems hardly possible to elucidate the fate of the prisoners of war and missing persons or to repatriate them without the information requested from the States having custody of them.

The Federal Government would therefore be grateful if it could be informed of the results of the inquiry, so far as it relates to German prisoners of war.

/Furthermore,

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Furthermore, the General Assembly, by its resolution, asked you to establish an Ad Hoc Commission, which is to convene after 30 April 1951, with instructions to settle the prisoner-of-war problem. In this connexion I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

Since 14 December 1950, the Federal Government has been continuing its efforts to obtain a clear idea of the number and fate of the German prisoners of war and missing persons. To a large extent, this work has been completed. The material compiled by the Federal Government and classified according to countries having custody consists, essentially, of the following:

a card index of the prisoners of war and interned persons whose names are known;

a card index of persons reported missing;

evidence in support of the correctness of foregoing particulars.

The material shows that most of the German prisoners of war are detained in the USSR. Accordingly the Federal Government is following the fate of these German prisoners of war with great concern.

In this connexion I would refer to the position taken by the Federal Government of Germany regarding the detention of German prisoners of war by the USSR (Document A/C.3/552). This statement contains, among other things, minimum figures of German prisoners of war detained in the USSR as established by German authorities on the basis of inquiries made by the Federal Government; at the time, these inquiries had not yet been concluded. In the meantime, through continued investigations, these figures have been added to considerably. But even these later figures represent only a minimum, as it is impossible to ascertain actual correct figures without the co-operation of the USSR. However, on the basis of the material compiled, the Federal Government is in a position to produce evidence to show that the USSR is holding a far greater number of German prisoners of war than was mentioned in the press release of the Government of the USSR dated 4 May 1950.

The material compiled by the Federal Government concerning German prisoners of war is open for inspection at any time by the Ad Hoc Commission of the United Nations. The accuracy of the particulars is proved by documents as well as by witnesses whose evidence can, at any time, be checked in personal hearings.

/I venture

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I venture to assume that it will not be without interest for the Ad Hoc Commission of the United Nations to inspect the German material and to compare it with the data received from Governments still holding German prisoners of war. It would, I feel, be of particular value to inspect the German material if the Ad Hoc Commission should reach the conclusion that the information received from particular Governments is insufficient or if information could not be elicited at all from one or more Governments.

I should, therefore, be greatly obliged if you would suggest to the Ad Hoc Commission that it should inspect the German material at an early opportunity and that it should for this purpose come to Germany. In view of the bulk of the material and the way it has to be handled it would not seem practical to send it. In addition, should it appear necessary to make sample tests to verify the accuracy of the German particulars, the necessary evidence could only be taken from witnesses in Germany.

I have the honour to be etc.

(signed) Adenauer

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40. AFGHANISTAN

Reference No. 433  
June 20, 1951

Afghanistan Permanent Delegation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his note No. SOA 417/5/02 dated 23 February 1951 relating to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1950 concerning measures for the peaceful solution of the problem of prisoners of war (Document A/1749).

This Delegation, in behalf of the Government of Afghanistan, wishes to inform His Excellency that the Government of Afghanistan maintained its neutrality throughout World War II and therefore has no problem concerning the prisoners of war.

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