

**THE ACTIVITY OF THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY IN 1961**

During the past year, the Central Tracing Agency dealt with 66,348 cases and opened 20,525 enquiries with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Government ministries, Registrar and Municipal offices, etc. The volume of work thus continues to be considerable.

The Central Agency has naturally had to deal with additional work as a result of the events in Algeria, the Congo, Tunis, Angola, Goa and Indonesia, which involved tracing military and civilian missing, as well as the transmission of family messages.

The Central Agency has also, however, had as in the past, to continue its activity deriving from the Second World War and from the conflicts and disturbances which have taken place since 1945. It has in particular involved discovering the fate of combatants missing on operations or of prisoners of war and civilian internees who have not returned to their own country, delivering certificates of captivity or of hospitalization to former prisoners making such requests, and to take steps to obtain records of decease.

Furthermore, the Central Agency continues to receive numerous requests from families whose members were separated during the second world conflict, in the immediate post-war period, the events in Hungary, etc. These cases require very thorough investigations, either in the country of origin or of emigration. The result of such enquiries enables the Agency, at the request of those concerned and provided they fulfil the necessary conditions, to undertake steps leading to their being reunited with their close relatives.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that, in the various sections of the Central Agency, the proportion of enquiries with positive results continues to increase. Thus, during 1961, about one third of the enquiries had fruitful results. This is most encouraging and illustrates how the National Societies and the various bodies, both official and unofficial, are co-operating ever more effectively with the ICRC in its work.