

## INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE (AROLSEN)

### Director retires

The Director of the International Tracing Service (ITS), Mr. Albert de Cocatrix, retired on 31 December 1977.

Mr. de Cocatrix joined the ICRC in September 1944 and was sent as a delegate to Germany, then to the Middle East. In 1951 he became head of the Middle East Service of the ICRC at Geneva. During this period he carried out several missions for the ICRC in various countries. In 1955, the ICRC appointed him assistant director of the ITS at Arolsen, and in 1970, he became its director. In that capacity, he was the sole ICRC representative at the head of the service administering the records of the concentration camps and he directed with competence a vast and complex organization. He succeeded in keeping up and developing relations of trust with the countries concerned in the work of the ITS and it was due to him that it has acquired a reputation for thoroughness and efficiency. The ICRC is greatly indebted to Mr. de Cocatrix for the esteem in which the Arolsen institution is held.

### New director

The ICRC has appointed Mr. Philippe Züger to succeed Mr. de Cocatrix as director of the International Tracing Service. Mr. Züger, a Swiss citizen, was born in Zug in 1923. He obtained a doctorate in law at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

After some years in international trade, followed by service with WHO and the United Nations in Africa, Mr. Züger joined the ICRC as delegate and undertook a number of missions in Africa, Asia and the Middle East before being posted to the ICRC delegation at the United Nations in New York. Since the beginning of 1977, he has been assistant director of the ITS at Arolsen.

### An ITS publication

#### *Register of places of detention*

Before retiring, Mr. A. de Cocatrix wrote a foreword for a register of places of detention in Germany, in the occupied territories and in the lands under German control, during the years 1933 to 1945.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Register of Places of Detention under the *Reichsführer-SS*": International Tracing Service, Arolsen, November 1977, 878 pp.

This is a thick volume in three languages (German, French and English), prepared by the ITS under Mr. de Cocatrix. It supplements two earlier similar compilations: a "Catalogue of Camps and Prisons in Germany and German-occupied Territories", which appeared in three volumes between 1949 and 1951; and a "Recueil provisoire des camps de concentration" (1969).

The systematic examination of a vast amount of documentary material, gathered by the ITS during the last few years, and the co-operation of several records offices, authorities, institutions and private persons, enabled the ITS to augment to a remarkable extent its knowledge of the places of detention set up during and before the Second World War.<sup>1</sup> The new catalogue lists 618 places of detention not previously indicated, together with a large collection of unpublished or additional information, including a number of changes on previously catalogued places of detention, the different categories to which they belonged, the labour squads attached to them, their administration, penitentiary organization, etc. Even so, as mentioned in the foreword, notwithstanding all the additional documents that have been examined, it cannot be claimed that the catalogue is exhaustive.

This work constitutes a contribution to historical research. It is first of all a humanitarian instrument in the service of those who have languished in concentration camps and who need proof of the years of suffering which they have endured, in order to obtain the compensation to which they are entitled.

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<sup>1</sup> For a vivid and up-to-date account of the ITS's work, readers may refer to Marc Hillel's book "Les Archives de l'Espoir", Ed. Fayard, Paris 1977, 257 pp.