



Summary of AG-018-007 International Refugee Organization (IRO)

Title

International Refugee Organization (IRO)

Active Dates

1945-1952

Administrative History

The IRO was a non-permanent UN specialized agency established following an Economic and Social Council resolution of 16 February 1946 to solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons created by the Second World War and its immediate aftermath. Its constitution was drawn up by a special committee of the Council (see E/REF documents) and approved by the General Assembly in December 1946. A Preparatory Commission which was constituted on 31 December 1946, met in Geneva in February 1947, and began its interim work on 1 July by taking over some of the functions and some of the staff of the UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (IGCR).

Note: This Committee was organized in London in August 1938 as a result of the Evian Conference of July 1938 which had been called by President Roosevelt. Its main purpose was to assist in the resettlement of refugees from European countries allowing permanent immigration. In 1943, the Committee's mandate and structure was extended to longer-term problems of the postwar period. A representative of the Committee in Washington maintained liaison with government agencies and private individuals and organizations cooperating with the Committee in its relief activities. It ceased to exist in 1947 and its functions and records were transferred to the International Refugee Organization of the United Nations. The IRO itself was not officially established until 20 August 1948 when fifteen States, whose contributions totaled 75 per cent of IRO's main operational budget had subscribed to the Constitution. Its responsibilities in connexion with refugees and displaced persons included repatriation, care and maintenance, legal and political protection, transport and resettlement. In addition, IRO operated an International Tracing Service.

The IRO consisted basically of the General Council, which was the policy-making body; the Executive Committee; and the Director-General and his staff. Three United States citizens - Arthur J. Altmeyer, William H. Tuck, and J. Donald Kingsley - served successively as Director-General, leading a staff that at its peak numbered nearly 5,700 employees. With Headquarters in Geneva, IRO had a number of field offices throughout the world.

After several extensions of its life, IRO closed its operations on 31 January 1952 and after a liquidation period, went out of existence on 30 September 1953. [Note: For further information on its past activities see appropriate volumes of the UN Yearbook]. By that time many of its responsibilities had been assumed by other agencies - national, intergovernmental, private and international. Of particular importance were the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, established at Geneva in January 1951 as a part of the United Nations, and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (originally PICMME), set up in December 1951.

Scope and Content

The IRO records in the United Nations Archives (14 linear feet) were received from the United States Branch Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. They are records of the Washington Office of the IRO and its Preparatory Commission respectively of its forerunner the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. The records consist of some

2,800 case files re. tracing and resettlement of refugees. Alphabetical name indexes exist. These files would typically be disposed, however, they may prove helpful in dealing with inquiries relating to social security matters, IRO-care and family history of World War II refugees and displaced persons; therefore, they should be kept in the Archives for a limited time.

Apart from the case files the following odd papers and printed publications have been included also in this archives group: Inventory of IRO Staff Members, Displaced Persons Professional Medical Register, Telephone Directory, Personnel Regulations and their Implementation, Adoption of an Identity and Travel Document for Refugees, History and Work of the IRO.

Collection Inventory

S-0525 Washington Office - Case Files 1945-1952

Scope and Content

Series contains ROAG-1.

Box	Folder	Title	Date Created	Date Closed	Security Level	Scanned Items
S-0525-0001		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
	S-0525-0001-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1 - 120	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0002		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
	S-0525-0002-0001	Case Files - Nos. 121 - 170	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0003		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
	S-0525-0003-0001	Case Files - Nos. 171 - 250	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0004		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
	S-0525-0004-0001	Case Files - Nos. 521 - 640	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0005		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
	S-0525-0005-0001	Case Files - Nos. 641 - 760	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0006		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
	S-0525-0006-0001	Case Files - Nos. 761 - 900	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		

0525-0007	S-0525-0007-0001	Case Files - Nos. 901 - 1010	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0008		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0009	S-0525-0008-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1011 - 1100	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0010		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0011	S-0525-0009-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1101 - 1310	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0012		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0013	S-0525-0010-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1311 - 1420	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0014		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0015	S-0525-0011-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1421 - 1510	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0016		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0017	S-0525-0012-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1511 - 1550	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0018		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0019	S-0525-0013-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1551 - 1700	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0020		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0021	S-0525-0014-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1701 - 1860	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0022		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0023	S-0525-0015-0001	Case Files - Nos. 1861 - 2010	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0024		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0025	S-0525-0016-0001	Case Files - Nos. 2011 - 2100	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0026		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		

0525-0017	S-0525-0017-0001	Case Files - Nos. 2101 - 2249	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0018		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0018	S-0525-0018-0001	Case Files - Nos. 2251 - 2290	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0019		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0019	S-0525-0019-0001	Case Files - Nos. 2500 - 2610	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0020		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0020	S-0525-0020-0001	Case Files - Nos. 2800 - 2950	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0021		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0021	S-0525-0021-0001	Case Files - Nos. 2951 - 3080	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0022		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0022	S-0525-0022-0001	Case Files - Nos. 3081 - 3250	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0023		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0023	S-0525-0023-0001	Case Files - Nos. 3251 - 3500	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0024		Washington Office - Case Files	01/01/1945	31/12/1952		
S-0525-0024	S-0525-0024-0001	Case Files - Nos. 3501 - 3637	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0024	S-0525-0024-0002	Preparatory Documents concerning the adoption of an Identity and Travel Document for refugees coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (Printed publication of the IGCR)	01/01/1946	31/12/1946	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0024	S-0525-0024-0003	Personnel Regulations and their Implementation [file contents missing]	01/05/1951	31/05/1951	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0024	S-0525-0024-0004	Headquarters and UNKRA Geneva Headquarters Telephone Directory [file contents missing]	01/10/1951	31/10/1951	Unclassified	No
S-0525-0024	S-0525-0024-	Personnel Office Inventory of - Non American Staff Members [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No

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S-0525-0024-0006	Personnel Office Inventory of - American Staff Members [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	
S-0525-0024-0007	Personnel Office Inventory of - Staff Members Transferred to UNKRA [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	
S-0525-0024-0008	Professional Medical Register [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	
S-0525-0024-0009	Extract - The International Refugee Organization Its History and Work [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	
S-0525-0024-0010	Alphabetical Name Indexes [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	
S-0525-0025	Washington Office - Case Files - Resettlement Cases A - L	01/01/1945	31/12/1952			
S-0525-0025-0001	Resettlement Cases A - L [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	
S-0525-0026	Washington Office - Case Files - Resettlement Cases M - Z	01/01/1945	31/12/1952			
S-0525-0026-0001	Resettlement Cases M - Z [file contents missing]	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	
S-0525-0027	Washington Office - Case Files - Tracing Cases A - Z	01/01/1945	31/12/1952			
S-0525-0027-0001	Tracing Cases A - Z	01/01/1945	31/12/1952	Unclassified	No	