

Negotiations between the Italian Embassy in Moscow and the Soviet Government resulted in the release and repatriation to Italy of 36 Italians (including 6 civilians); 2 Luxembourg prisoners of war, 44 Netherlands nationals and, through the intermediary of the French Red Cross Society, 286 Spanish nationals were released.

The Commission did not hold a session in 1955 but noted further progress in its report of November 2, 1955. The total number of Japanese nationals repatriated from China since March 1953 rose to 29,061 and an additional 88 were returned from the U.S.S.R. Negotiations between the Austrian and Soviet Union Governments led to the return of 620 Austrian nationals from the U.S.S.R. in 1955. Between September 1954 and August 1955, 1,162 German nationals were repatriated from the U.S.S.R., 199 from Poland and, between March and August 1955, 1,069 from Czechoslovakia. The Commission was informed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany that there were at least 8,477 German prisoners of war still living and detained in the U.S.S.R. In addition, there were reported to be some 89,752 German prisoners of war who were known to be in Soviet captivity but whose present whereabouts could not be determined. The Government of the Federal Republic also reported that it had established the names of 64,438 civilians who had been deported to the Soviet Union by the Soviet authorities.

In September 1955 Chancellor Adenauer reached an oral agreement with Premier Bulganin concerning 9,626 German prisoners of war held in the U.S.S.R. By January 16, 1956 9,382 of these prisoners had been repatriated.

The repatriation of persons detained has directly contributed to knowledge of the fate of large numbers of missing persons through the interrogation of repatriates by the competent agencies of the interested governments and by the systematic classification of the information obtained.

The Commission concluded its report with an appeal to all governments and all agencies to extend their full co-operation towards the repatriation of every prisoner of war who, according to the accepted principles of international conduct, is entitled to repatriation, and the accounting—by name, whereabouts, and condition—of every prisoner of war who is still detained.

Safety of Commercial Aircraft Flying Near or Crossing International Frontiers

On July 27, 1955 an Israeli commercial aircraft was shot down by Bulgarian anti-aircraft guns. At the request of the Israeli Government, the question of the safety of commercial aircraft flying near or crossing international frontiers was inscribed on the agenda of the tenth session. In a supporting memorandum the Israeli Government suggested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Specialized Agency concerned, undertake a study of the matter and report to the eleventh session any recommendations that he might wish to make for the prevention of further incidents and to provide for the greater safety of air passengers. When the question was considered by the General Assembly, however, the Israeli delegate proposed a resolution which merely asked states to take necessary measures to avoid similar occurrences in the future and invited the attention of the appropriate international organizations to the matter. The resolution, which Canada supported, was adopted by a large majority.