

# In and Around Germany

## Success of RIAS Service

When the RIAS locator service established contact between 15-year-old Karin Hakos and her uncle, Franz Hakos, on May 15, it solved its 3,000th case. Franz Hakos, who had been seeking the daughter of his deceased brother and sister-in-law since the end of the war, heard the RIAS broadcast in his home in the Soviet Zone and got in touch with the radio station.

Since RIAS went on the air on Sept. 13, 1948, there have been 725 fifteen-minute broadcasts, listing 30,000 search notices. Therefore, 10 percent of the announcements has resulted in success, or more than four every broadcast.

RIAS locator department, under the management of Imgaard Somplatski, cooperates closely with the German Red Cross in Berlin and Munich. Both agencies cross check each other's requests against their enormous files. RIAS files have more than 100,000 entries.

RIAS has lists of the following categories of persons: children seeking their parents and vice versa, prisoners-of-war still in Russia whose names are brought in by returning PW's, returnees being sought by relatives or vice versa, refugees looking for their relatives, and former soldiers whose deaths have been reported and whose relatives are being sought.

That RIAS is being heard in Russian satellite countries is revealed by the record of the locator service. In addition to the 13,000 letters from East Berlin and the Soviet Zone, 700 have been received from foreign countries, principally Czechoslovakia and Poland. Letters arrive regularly in small numbers from faraway Australia, Chile, Peru and South Africa, as well as from Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

## Train of Europe in Italy

The four-millionth visitor to the Train of Europe, a mobile exhibit sponsored by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation in conjunction with its 18 member nations and the US government, was recorded in Rome, Italy, June 17.

The Train of Europe, which now features an exhibit on the theme of NATO Cooperation, has been touring Europe since it was completed in April 1951. During this time, a total of 4,000,000 Europeans from five countries have passed through its corridors to view exhibits devoted to the themes of European economic recovery, integration, defense and unity.

The train, which has five long cars filled with displays pointing out the advantages of cooperation between the nations of western Europe, has already toured Germany\*, Denmark, Norway, France and Italy and is scheduled to tour Trieste, Austria, Holland and Belgium.

\* see "Europa Zug in Munich on Eve of Tour," *Information Bulletin* May 1951, and "1,442,647 see Train of Europe," September 1951.

## USIS Books Sent to Helgoland

Reading material is being supplied by the Hamburg America House to the 150 current residents of the Island of Helgoland. These, all men living in houseboats off the island, are working to rehabilitate the island from the bombing destruction caused during and after the war.

The first shipment of US Information Service material comprising 60 books in the German language and copies of American magazines and the United States' German-language newspaper *Die Neue Zeitung*, was accompanied by the America House's chief librarian, who reported that the recipients were deeply impressed by American interest in their welfare and delighted with the reading material as a welcome relief.

Similar consignments of books from the America House are being made regularly to ships sailing from the port of Hamburg. After each voyage the books are exchanged for new titles. Crews and officials have expressed enthusiasm for this extension service.



US Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin, during a European tour, visited the German federal capital June 26. Entertained at the HICOG hotel in Bad Godesberg, Mr. Tobin (center) receives a description of the Rhine scenery from Anton Storch (right), federal labor minister, and R. F. Bertram, acting labor attache of HICOG. (HICOG photo)

## US Law Library in Munich

German and American officials, on the second anniversary of the founding of the US Law Library in Munich, paid tribute to the library's value in helping to promote better understanding between the two countries.

A total of 12,500 visitors have used the facilities of the US Law Library it was announced by Presiding Judge Leo M. Goodman of the United States Court in Munich. Two years ago, on June 15, 1950, Judge Goodman formally dedicated the Law Library of the HICOG Court to public use.\* The library contained only 1,700 books then. Today its collection has grown to 8,000 volumes.

During the past two years the library has become the largest institution of its kind in the Federal Republic of Germany. It is a center of research and study in the fields of Anglo-American Law, International Law, Conflict of Laws and Comparative Law.

\* see "Bavaria's Law Library" in *Information Bulletin*, November 1951.

The library was started by Judge Goodman in order that the Bavarian people might have access to the literature in these important fields of the law, since most of it had been destroyed or had disappeared during the war. Because of the limited funds available the development of the library was made possible only by soliciting donors in the United States and in Germany. The principal American contributors have been Columbia University, Harvard University, Duke University, St. John's University, University of Pennsylvania, New York Public Library and Library of Congress. The principal German donors have been the Bavarian State Library, Library of the Bavarian Ministry of Justice, Library of the German Patent Office, State and University Library in Hamburg and others.

## Army's State Relations Offices

State relations offices established by the US Army for the coordination of US Military - German relations,

were opened July 1 in Wiesbaden, Stuttgart and Munich. These offices, representing the Civil Affairs Division of the European Command, are responsible for conducting direct liaison between the US Military Forces and the German state governmental agencies and German civilians in German states of the US Zone.

The Wiesbaden officeserves Army and Air Force installations, including military commanders of posts, sub-posts and troop units in mutual US Military - German civilian matters which cannot be resolved on local levels in Hesse. The Stuttgart office has the same function in the former state of Wuerttemberg-Baden while the Munich office-serves Bavaria.

The state relations officer for Bremerhaven is the personal representative of the commanding officer of Bremerhaven Port of Embarkation in matters of Military-German relations at Bremerhaven.

Prior to the opening of the state relations offices, which officially use the German word *Land* for state, US Military - German relations were handled by the US state commissioners' offices, representing the US High Commissioner for Germany.

Ranking personnel and addresses of the newly opened offices are:

Wiesbaden — Lt. Col. W. I. Goodwin and Major George P. Moore, 1 Gutenbergplatz.

Stuttgart — Lt. Col. R. H. Stimson and Marcus L. Hoover, 24 Olgastrasse.

Munich — Col. W. D. Williams and Kenneth E. Van Buskirk, 28 Ludwigstrasse.

Bremerhaven — Lt. Col. John E. Grassel, Room 25, Headquarters Building.

## Campaign for United Nations

A personal campaign in promoting better understanding of the work of the United Nations is being conducted by Reinhard Oebicke, 25-year-old student at the College of Economic and Social Sciences in Nuremberg, since he returned from study in the United States under the HICOG Exchanges Program.



Eight American teen-agers, living with German families in Berlin during July, were entertained shortly after their arrival by several exchange students who had returned from the United States. The teen-agers' visit was sponsored by the American Field Service and families of the returned exchange students. Grouped around the piano are (left to right): Joachim Seybold of Berlin, Mary M. Sherman of Chevy Chase, Md.; Gudrun Link and Hannelore Ringer of Berlin, Carol Koselke of La Porte, Ind.; Waltraud Gurr, Katharina Stuelten and Christa Gaedecke of Berlin; Martha Bicking of Silver Spring, Md.; Penfield D. Sinclair of Syracuse, N. Y.; Hans Plickert of Berlin; Don R. Dunkin of Milwaukee, Wis.; Catherine Cramer of Ardmore, Pa. Seated at the piano is Juergen Drews of Berlin. Not in the photograph is Jo Helen Rose of Midwest City, Okla. (BE HICOG photo)