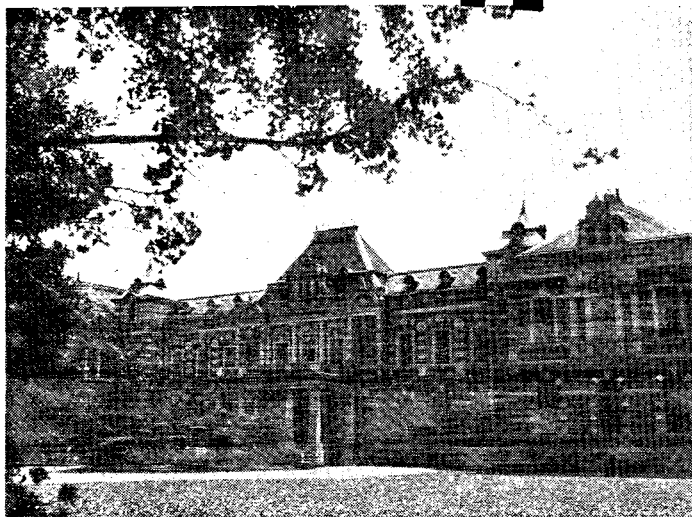


SUMMARY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE JAPANESE RED CROSS SOCIETY

1947 - 1950

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National Headquarters of the Japanese Red
Cross Society, Shiba Park, Tokyo

Tokyo

1952



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I. Introduction

The period 1947-1950 which the present report will cover in the following pages may still be characterized, in Japan, by social uneasiness and economic instability, though in less accentuated degree compared with what followed immediately after the war. Unfortunately, natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, big fires and epidemics struck one after another the country during the same period. Shortage of materials and devastations which are also consequences of war made it all the more difficult to meet them successfully.

Under these conditions the task of the Japanese Red Cross Society was heavy in its traditional mission for alleviating the suffering of the people in its different fields of activity,

The above sketch is the Memorial House in Kumamoto City in which act of official recognition of the Japanese Red Cross Society was given in 1877.

creating thus a bright atmosphere in the communities and encouraging the nation for the betterment of life. The Society worked for the organization and development of Red Cross Volunteer Services and the Junior Red Cross throughout the country, enlarged the scope of her medical activities in hospitals, clinics and maternities and called out medical relief teams at the time of disasters, and distributed a lot of relief supplies to the sufferers. Mobile clinics in rural areas having no easily available medical facilities, increase of child welfare institutions and the relief services to the repatriates were also the Society's important activities during this period.

II. Basic Facts on Organization

The Society, founded on May 1, 1877 during the civil war in Kyushu, has its Board of Councillors, as her central committee, consisting of 63 councillors, 46 of whom shall be elected from among the Society members and by each Prefecture of Japan and 17 appointed by the President of the Society from among the learned and experienced persons as well as the representatives of government and private organizations concerned.

The Society is completely free of government control and direction, but it works closely with the Welfare Ministry.

57 honorary officials are in the National Headquarters in Tokyo, and 45,206 in the local chapters and medical institutions, while paid personnel count 154 in the National Headquarters and 7,869 in the Chapters and medical institutions.

There is one local chapter in each of the 46 Prefectures in Japan and, under the Chapter, there are branches and sub-branches in each cities, towns and villages.

The President of the Society is elected by the members' general meeting on the recommendation of the Board of Councillors.

III. Membership and Fund Raising

The members of the Society are of three classes:

1. Regular Members—those who make an annual subscription of ¥30;

2. Special Members—those who have been recommended as such by the Board of Councillors on account of the assistance they have rendered either to the work or to the funds of the Society;

3. Honorary Members—those who have rendered meritorious service in the interest of the Society and recommended as such by the Board of Councillors.

Number of the members is as follows:

Class	1947	1948	1949	1950
Honorary Members	43	43	50	50
Special Members	311,108	347,471	360,537	385,164
Regular Members	10,031,012	9,550,494	9,498,297	10,496,452

The funds necessary for operating the Society's activities had consisted chiefly of members' fixed subscriptions, but, to meet the financial difficulties after the war, the Society carries out the annual fund raising campaign since 1947.

The funds raised, including members' subscriptions were 141,935,137 Yen in 1947, ¥273,181,113 in 1948, ¥283,255,661 in 1949 and ¥482,924,274 in 1950. (¥360=US\$1)

The fund raising campaign was carried out through the month of October in the years 1947, 48 and 49 but, since 1950, in the month of May, in commemoration of the International Red Cross Day of May 8 and the Anniversary of the Society of May 1.

IV. Present Activities

1. Relief Programmes

(1) Disaster Relief

After the end of the Pacific War, the disaster relief took the place of war-time relief in our activities and is now the leading feature of the Society's works and, especially, with the enforcement of the National Disaster Relief Law in October 1947, the Society is under the legal obligation of taking charge of the medical relief in time of disaster and acting as agent of coordination and liaison among the private organizations for their disaster relief activities.

Disaster relief organization Following figures show the number of relief teams of the Society:

TYPE	1948	1949	1950
Standing Medical Relief Teams (a)	333	355	370
On-the-spot Medical Relief Teams (b)	1,942	5,964	6,176
Volunteer Relief Units (c)	2,367	16,627	54,059

- (a) Teams belonging to National Headquarters or to Chapters. One team consists of 1 doctor, 4 nurses, 1 secretary, 1 errand, all Red Cross personnel.
- (b) Teams of volunteers organized on local level. One team consists of 1 doctor and 1 nurse.
- (c) Units of Red Cross volunteers for other disaster services.

Disaster relief equipment The Society's relief equipment is in constant improvement on the basis of the experience in time of disaster. Besides the relief supplies stocked at National Headquarters, Chapters and medical institutions, the following items are ready for use:

Year	Tent	Ambulance	Filter	Life-boat
1947	274	114	7	0
1948	274	114	19	0
1949	279	118	30	0
1950	279	118	65	6

Despatch of Medical relief teams The big natural disasters and epidemics which struck Japan in this period were Earthquake of Fukui City, Japanese B encephalitis in Tokyo, Typhoon Ione in 1948, Typhoons Della, Hester, Judith, Kitty in 1949, Typhoons Jane, Kezia in 1950. "Relief personnel" in the following table includes all kinds of members of the preceding "Relief Teams" and "Relief Units":

Year	Number of Disasters	Relief Personnel	Patients Treated
1947	99	60,023	41,038
1948	148	10,966	61,541
1949	493	6,934	34,744
1950	1,067	13,007	77,393

Relief articles distributed To expedite the rehabilitation of disaster sufferers, the Society distributed to them daily



Flood victims visited by Japanese Red
Cross relief team

necessities, infant clothings, underwears, toilet sets and layettes as shown in the following:

156,627 articles in 1948, 58,365 in 1949 and 57,841 in 1950.

(2) Safety Services

After the pattern of the American Red Cross First Aid and Water Safety, the Society established a concrete system of her safety services in 1947-48 and training courses are held not only for the public in general but also for the policemen and firemen.

In the period 1948-50, 101,319 persons completed the course of First Aid and 1,015 of them were given certificates of qualified instructors.

As for the Water Safety, the following figures show the numbers of those trained:

Year	Instructors	Life-savers	Students
1947	0	4	55
1948	74	168	1,151
1949	113	617	4,826
1950	200	1,698	5,984

2. Medical Service

(1) Medical installation

The Society, taking full responsibilities placed on herself in accordance with the principles set up in the International Red Cross Conferences and especially taking into consideration of the conspicuous lack, after the end of the war, in the medical installations throughout the country, and the existing state of the extreme deterioration of the health condition of the people, has made her efforts in realizing her ideal of having at least one hospital in each Chapter as well as in combating T.B. and in protecting pregnant women. The following table shows the number of existing medical installations:

Year	Hospital	Dispensary	Sana- torium	Maternity Hospital	Maternity Center
1947	47	60	5	3	0
1948	53	55	5	5	0
1949	63	78	5	5	1
1950	67	80	5	5	1

Number of patients handled in the Japanese Red Cross medical installations:

Y e a r			1947	1948	1949	1950
HOSPI- TAL	In- pa- tients	No. of patients	98,953	103,280	76,576	84,509
		No. of hospital days	1,629,011	1,635,601	2,268,287	2,965,344
	Out- pa- tients	No. of patients	1,376,351	1,381,138	1,398,654	1,193,337
		No. of treat- ments	8,249,145	8,792,412	11,002,731	10,496,708
DIS- PEN- SARY	In- pa- tients	No. of patients	4,856	4,124	2,615	2,346
		No. of hospital days	80,436	65,953	43,798	61,216
	Out- pa- tients	No. of patients	260,380	273,164	198,632	140,918
		No. of treat- ments	1,175,402	1,149,069	1,130,484	1,109,359
T.B. SANA- TORIUM	In- pa- tients	No. of patients	8,876	8,971	2,004	1,354
		No. of hospital days	125,419	139,330	76,638	82,136
	Out- pa- tients	No. of patients	25,725	35,457	2,343	1,999
		No. of treat- ments	283,734	309,296	24,492	25,804
MATER- NITY HOSPI- TAL & MATER- NITY CENTER	In-patients		3,198	5,600	15,144	18,278
	Out-patients		7,967	12,013	27,039	34,810
No. of patients treated			1,786,306	1,823,747	1,723,007	1,477,551

In addition, mobile clinics are operated in villages which have no doctors as follows:

Year	No. of places visited	No. of clinics held	No. of patients treated
1947	182	276	28,559
1948	268	353	23,782
1949	7,370	812	78,061
1950	?	2,795	254,863



Mobile clinic in a village

(2) Public Health Training Courses and Exhibitions

These courses and exhibitions are organized for the purpose of diffusion of general knowledge on the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases.

Public Health Training Courses

Year	No. of places held	No. of attendants	No. of days held
1947	49	8,341	—
1948	117	15,353	674
1949	205	16,890	250
1950	234	20,814	746

Year	Public Health Exhibitions		
	No. of places held	No. of attendants	No. of days held
1948	37	146,401	101
1949	48	188,130	136
1950	24	37,620	51

The medical supplies which were donated to the Japanese Red Cross Society by the American Red Cross for the restoration of the medical installation were allocated, adding one stride to the rehabilitation of the institutions which had been impoverished by the havoc of war.

1948	Clothing	603
	Items for use in hospitals	2,008
	Comfort articles	2,487
	Medicines	2,976
	Miscellaneous	110,000
1949	Layettes	916 sets
	Bathrobes	395
	Trousers	329 pairs
	Operating gown	52
	Operating coat	57
	Streptomycin	99 bottles
	Penicillin	490 "
	TB Old	600 pkg

(3) Preparation for Blood Transfusion Service

In May 1949 the Japanese Red Cross Society, wishing to spread blood transfusion service and widely share its benefits with the people, conferred with the representatives of Japan Medical Association, Welfare Ministry and other interested persons on problems of blood transfusion. It was decided that the Society will take active responsibility in promoting the planning of the blood service. In accordance with the decision, a Blood Transfusion Planning Committee was formed in July 1949. The Committee commenced planning concretely by sending Dr. Katsuji Kato, Director of the Tokyo Medical University Hospital, to America from September 1949 to February 1950 to

study and observe the actual blood transfusion service. (With the kind donation of necessary supplies by the American Red Cross and a sufficiently big fund made available by the Japanese Postal Administration, the said service was able to begin its work in Tokyo in April 1952.)



**Blood donor in the Japanese Red Cross
Blood Bank**

3. Nursing Service

(1) Education of Nurses

For the purpose of maintaining relief team personnel and raising the standards of nursing hygiene in our country, the training of nurses is one of the services to which the Society has devoted its utmost effort and from 1890 to 1950 the number of nurses trained amounted to 41,959.

The training system which had been left to the competence of local governments was regulated in 1948 by a new law with

a view to raising the standard of nurses in Japan.

In 1949, 29 existing Red Cross Schools of Nursing and in 1950 2 other schools (total of 31 schools) were authorized as such by the Welfare Minister in conformity with the law. This is approximately one-third of 99 national, university and other nursing schools authorized throughout the country.

The following table shows the number of nurses graduated from the Red Cross Schools of nursing, central and local, during the period of 1947 to 1950 as well as those of the graduated nurses who received diplomas respectively of visiting nurses, midwives and school nurses.



Student-nurses

Year	Nurses Graduated	Visiting nurse	Midwife	School nurse
1947	2,665	354	104	971
1948	477	93	93	240
1949	254	183	210	247
1950	331	225	93	117

Remarks: Visiting nurses, mid-wives, school nurses are all qualified nurses.

At all times, Nursing Instructors' Training Courses, TB Nurses Training Courses, Meetings of the chiefs of nursing services, and those of the chief instructors of nursing schools have been held in order to place emphasis and effort on the improvement and development of better nursing services.

(2) Red Cross Home Nursing and its development

The Red Cross Home Nursing was started in 1947 for the purpose of developing within the homes of the general public such methods as the bed side care, the care of pregnant women and new mothers, technique and knowledge necessary for child care, method of general health preservation. The following table shows the number of Red Cross instructors trained and general public who received certificates after attending home nursing training courses since 1947.

Year	No. of instructors trained		Those who received training
	First Unit (a)	Second Unit (b)	
1947	32	—	243
1948	84	3	10,951
1949	38	5	18,595
1950	23	10	30,000

Note: (a) This unit is for nursing in general.
 (b) This unit is for mother and child care.

4. Social Welfare Activities

(1) For Disabled Persons

The protection of the disabled was not unfortunately realized in Japan under special circumstances immediately after the war. It was only after 1949 that the Japanese Red Cross could carry out, for disabled persons, in cooperation with the Welfare Ministry and other institutions concerned, the repair of artificial limbs, eye examination and medical consultation for the disabled, by organizing travelling teams for these purposes as shown in the following:

Year	No. of teams	Artificial limbs repaired	Medical consultation	Eye diseases
1949	36	147	0	0
1950	351	7,819	953	9,289



Red Cross Orphanage in Tokyo

(2) Child Welfare

The Society is operating babies' homes, nurseries, children's homes in a firm conviction that these could be the model facilities in the country. The Society had, in 1950, 9 institutes of these types accommodating 461 unfortunate or weak children. Besides these permanent institutes, the Society started in 1947 to send mobile clinics or to station public health nurses in the nurseries in rural area in order to improve health condition of the people. In 1950, such clinics were sent to 276 towns and villages and treated 12,319 patients.

On the other hand, summer schools for weak children are opened every year as shown in the following:

Year	Number of schools	Children accommodated	Days
1947	9	585	7,665
1948	10	723	8,268
1949	22	1,586	17,424
1950	33	3,611	49,952

(3) Red Cross House at major railway stations

In view of the extreme disorder and congestion in the transport facilities after the war, the Society established in October 1947 relief posts called "Red Cross House" in major national railway stations to take care of the injured and sick travellers. Red Cross nurses and volunteer ladies were on duty at these posts and the number of patients treated is shown in the following:

Year	Number of Red Cross house	Number of patients treated
1947	40	29,215
1948	37	85,828
1949	42	109,086
1950	37	108,290

(4) Relief Work carried out by the funds donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross

In July 1950, the International Committee of the Red Cross made a special donation of US\$30,000 to the Society to assist its work for war victims such as the disabled, blind, orphans, etc.

(a) Child Welfare—Winter underwears distributed to 7,000 children victims of the war accommodated in 354 welfare institutes throughout the country. (Expenses—¥1,995,000)

(b) Construction of Babies' Home—In the compound of the Tokyo Maternity of the Society, a babies' home was constructed. (Expenses—¥7,134,436)

(c) Welfare work for the disabled—Artificial limbs repairing teams, mobile eye clinics made the round of towns and villages and braille books were lent out free to the blinds. (Expenses—¥1,624,064)

5. Junior Red Cross

(1) Membership under the New System

In the new system of the Japanese Junior Red Cross, the enrollment fee entitles each classroom of elementary schools to a year's subscription to the "Junior Red Cross for Lower Graders" and each group of high schools, both junior and senior high, to the "Junior Red Cross for Upper Graders." No money by children is ever used for administrative purposes.

In spite of the adoption of the new system, the membership is quite satisfactorily increasing, now with the real understanding on juniors' side.

Year	Schools	Members
1948	640	218,597
1949	1,253	420,892
1950	1,594	528,441
(1951	1,869	602,882)

(2) Leadership Training

Recruiting and training of our people in Junior Red Cross from all sides are continuous, especially through three approaches:—(a) for children: Leadership training center for 4-7 days either on chapter or area level; (b) for teachers: Study institute for 2-5 days; (c) for the public (PTA, Women's Club, etc.): Orientation course for half a day, with visual aids.

Following is the figures concerning the training center.

Year	Number of centers	Number of children trained
1948	2	98
1949	6	437
1950	37	2,320
(1951	136	3,030)

(3) Activities

The activities of the Japanese Junior Red Cross are:

Services to school, community and country of all kinds, based upon their own initiative of different schools on different

occasions; Health programmes including the course on Home Nursing; Safety programmes including the course on First Aid and Water Safety; Disaster service; Council meetings on different levels; Exhibition programmes; School correspondence album, national and international; Art project, national and international; Publications of local Junior Red Cross Newsletter; International activities.

International activities are very popular for the children of the country long segregated from the rest of the world historically and geographically:



Junior Red Cross members busy in making dolls for international exchange

(a) International Correspondence Albums were exchanged between 21 countries, always with more albums sent than those received, for example: in 1951, 332 sent and 132 received.

(b) Arts have been exchanged with 16 countries.

(c) 34 dolls dressed in national costume were sent to 10 sister Societies as our goodwill ambassadors.

(d) Study visit of the Junior Red Cross staff among the sister Societies was a new and valuable experience too. In 1950, a member of the staff was given the opportunity to go to the United States on a study visit granted by the American Red Cross, while a staff from Okinawa came to our Society to study.

(e) Goodwill presents were donated from the American Junior Red Cross to the Japanese Junior Red Cross as shown in the following:

1947—50,000 Gift Boxes

1948—Paper for the publication of Junior Handbook

1949—60,000 Gift Boxes

1950—40 School Chests, 50 Music Albums

(1951—30,000 Gift Boxes)

(f) International Exhibition was held in autumn 1950 in commemoration of the Japanese Junior Red Cross National Convention for which 19 Sections in the world sent us many nice materials: Argentine, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Great Britain, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and United States. They were displayed in the biggest department store in Tokyo for a week and afterwards in 6 big cities throughout the country.

6. Red Cross Volunteer Service Group

For the Red Cross to meet most effectively the requirements of the nation, the activities of volunteers are indispensable. The National Headquarters drew up in 1947, the "Outline of the Japanese Red Cross Volunteer Service Group", in which the organization and the activities of the group were

prescribed. It was intended to promote the nation-wide movement to organize the local volunteer service groups in every city, town and village throughout the country, the vocational VS groups in various vocational communities and other social groups such as clubs or churches, and the students' VS groups in various colleges and universities, to serve to meet the disaster relief requirements as well as the social needs of public health and welfare.



Volunteer service members sewing clothing for disaster relief

This movement resulted in the numbers as follows:

Year	Number of groups	Number of members
1948	1,823	1,332,272
1949	4,767	2,628,605
1950	5,094	3,833,599

The local unit of the VS group had two departments: disaster relief and social welfare, and the administration of the unit was entrusted to a committee composed of the representatives of these two departments.

In each department, the following 14 service groups were set up, but not necessarily all, to enforce the VS activities:

Public Health	Engineering
Children's Welfare	Water Safety
Nursing	Transportation
Entertainment	Publicity
Canteen	Staff Aide
Production	Fund Raising
Arts & Skill	Others
Disaster Relief	

In 1950, it was decided to put special emphasis on the following services: Public Health, Continuous service to the Social Welfare Institutions and Disaster Relief.

The number of persons and hours served throughout the country during the year 1950 is as follows:

Service	Persons	Hours
Public Health	21,478	67,857
Child Welfare	9,476	44,781
Nursing	235	1,948
Entertainment	13,420	50,310
Canteen	5,638	26,101
Sewing	5,485	14,208
Transportation	335	2,204
Arts & Skill	7	—
Engineering	6,451	30,282
First Aid	1,135	13,672
Water Safety	136	1,240
Publicity	3,140	10,086
Staff Aide	3,618	16,878
Fund Raising	9,008	21,454
Others	167,535	32,863
TOTAL	247,097	333,884

7. Red Cross Museum

In the Red Cross Museum of the National Headquarters in Tokyo are displayed the materials relating for the most part to health and hygiene, others to the history and activities of the Red Cross, national and international. Visitors are admitted free and their number is:

Year	Visitors
1947	63,723
1948	68,945
1949	62,723
1950	69,160

Special exhibitions held in the Museum during these four years were on: Nutrition, Foods and Hygiene on Teeth, Prevention of Epidemics, VD Prevention, Sports and Safety and those held outside were on: Red Cross Activities, Safety Education, etc.

The materials of the Museum are placed at the disposal of the Society's local organizations and others as follows:

Year	Times	Articles
1947	13	358
1948	32	1,365
1949	39	1,382
1950	32	1,302

Lecture meetings, short courses and movie shows relating to health and hygiene and other activities of the Red Cross were held in the auditorium of the Museum 30 times in 1947, 46 in 1948, 93 in 1949 and 84 in 1950.

The Museum has the Red Cross Library in its annex-building collecting about 10,000 Japanese and foreign books on health and hygiene, medical science, social works, etc. The books are offered for public perusal and the number of visitors are as follows:

Year	Visitors
1947	5,372
1948	5,895
1949	6,679
1950	11,279

8. Dealing with the Aftermath of the Pacific War

(1) Aid to Repatriates

After the end of the Pacific War, about 6,000,000 Japanese nationals, military and civilian, were repatriated from all parts of Asia. The Society despatched medical relief teams to various ports in Japan where disembarkation of repatriates took place to take medical care of them in the quarantines, hospital-ships, repatriation ships and national hospitals. Some of the teams accompanied the repatriates' trains and the members of the Red Cross Volunteer Service Groups entertained them at railway stations.

After the repatriates settled down to life, the Society's hospitals, dispensaries and mobile clinics treated them free of charge.

Following is the number of repatriates thus treated:

Year	Railway Station	Train	Medical Institution	Mobile Clinic
1949	17,970	22,227	524	3,325
1950	962	2,174	63	1,901

(2) Relief to Internees

(a) Soviet and Chinese Areas

The repatriation of Japanese nationals was nearly completed in 1949 but unfortunately in Soviet and Chinese areas almost four hundred thousands ex-servicemen and civilians were detained or unaccounted for. The Society tried to do her best for obtaining information and acting as liaison between these unrepatriated and their remaining families: in 1950, as a result of conversation, at the 21st meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at Monte Carlo, between President Shimadzu of the Society and Dr. Pachkov, Vice-President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Soviet Union, the Society sent by January 1952 1,450 individual health and welfare inquiries to the Soviet Society concerning missing ex-servicemen in Soviet area to which no reply has yet been received. The repatriation problem of Japanese from the Soviet and Chinese territories is still pending.

In 1949, the Society helped the Postal Services Ministry to locate the addressees of post cards sent from Japanese internees in Soviet territory and which were wrongly addressed: among 12,760 astrayed messages, the Society could deliver 2,148 to respective addressees.



**Handling astrayed messages from Japanese
prisoners of war in Soviet area**

**(b) South-East Asia, Hongkong, Philippines, Indonesia
and Manus Island**

On the other hand, thousands of Japanese were tried and interned in various places of Asia which had been occupied by the Japanese Army during the last war to serve their sentences. The Society began in 1949 to publish a monthly bulletin entitled "Light of Love" for liaison and consolation of these prisoners and their families, and sent to the former medicines, stationeries, comforts, sporting goods, etc. Following is the number of reading materials sent to them by the Society:

Year	Newspapers	Books and Magazines
1948	11,540	3,243
1949	28,510	3,710
1950	49,330	2,257

(c) **War Criminals interned in Japan**

In 1950, the Society organized, in cooperation with other welfare and religious organizations, an advisory committee for the professional education in Sugamo Prison in Tokyo, where about 2,000 war criminals were serving their sentences. Since then, the committee is supplying them regularly with a considerable quantity of stationeries and despatching lecturers to the prison school.

(d) **Red Cross Messages and Welfare Inquiries**

Following is the table showing the number of messages and inquiries handled by the Society:

	1947	1948	1949	1950
Red Cross Message	6,930	4,703	2,654	2,414
Welfare Inquiry	167	263	595	275
War Criminal Message	2,400	824	511	731

(June 1952)

