

#### 4.4.2 Specialist Sections

The chiefs of the specialist sections will be responsible for arranging in detail the comparison procedure to be followed within their respective sections. They should also be personally responsible for filling in elimination diagrams with the results obtained. Since it is imperative that the same method of recording results be used by all sections, section chiefs should be carefully instructed. If the elimination diagram here recommended is used, the following three indications are the simplest and clearest:

- 1) if the result of a given comparison is elimination, the appropriate square should be marked with a diagonal cross (X) in black;
- 2) if the result of a given comparison is "uncertain", the appropriate square should be marked with a dash (-) in black;
- 3) if the result of a given comparison is identification, the appropriate square should be marked with a circle (O) in red.

An example of a completed diagram (100 comparisons) is shown in Fig.4; in the original, the circle showing that body No.19 has been identified as Mrs. J.J-- will be red. Note that, in spite of this identification, the logical elimination of all other persons as being this body (vertical row), and all other bodies as being this person (horizontal row), should not be performed at this time, and the corresponding comparisons not be omitted; should doubt arise later in any given case, it will prove decisive that all information which the data can possibly give has been brought to light while the experts were still in session, able to discuss it and to reach joint decisions.

When the first elimination diagram containing ten names of missing persons in one group, and ten reference numbers of bodies estimated to belong within the same group, has been set up by the ID File Section, it must be copied. One copy is submitted to each specialist section - marked with the section's name (upper right corner) - and together with the AM and PM documents concerned. The specialist sections will have different tasks to perform depending upon the material they are experts in handling; the organization of their comparison work may therefore differ from section to section.

#### 4.4.2.1 ID Photography Section

While this section is primarily a service function established to provide photographic documentation of findings made by the experts of other sections, there may well be private photographs included in the AM documentation of one or more missing persons. Accordingly, the possibility of comparing details shown in such photographs with exposures made by the PM Photography Unit should not be overlooked (for instance hairline and hair style, an unusual ear form, a characteristic necklace). The section should therefore be asked to conduct independent and systematic comparisons, completing the same version of the elimination diagram as other sections and regardless of the limited results it may be able to come up with. Where no comparison is possible, this should be recorded in the diagram with a dash (same as uncertain).

#### 4.4.2.2 ID Fingerprint Section

This section will be manned by experts trained in handling fingerprint evidence and conducting comparisons thereof. Its first obligation will be to classify all PM prints taken by the PM Fingerprint Unit. Since fingerprint classification is independent upon sex, race and age, it may be a matter of opinion whether prints should be filed according to classification alone, or be filed in the separate groups within which they are received from the ID File Section. With the grouping here recommended it would appear, however, that there is a very good chance of a PM fingerprint set actually belonging to one of the missing persons listed in the same group. AM fingerprints included in the AM documentation of missing persons may also have to be classified, upon which comparisons can be made. The elimination diagram should be completed systematically, all cases where no comparisons were possible being listed as uncertain (dash).

As the overall identification procedure draws to a close, a number of difficult cases may stand out more and more clearly. If in these cases PM prints are available, but no AM prints, the ID Fingerprint Section may become asked to make specific efforts to obtain AM prints from the homes (or otherwise) of those missing persons who - according to the grouping - are "possibles".

#### 4.4.2.3 ID Property Section

In close cooperation with the ID Photography Section, the ID Property Section will handle the comparison of all personal effects removed from the bodies. This section may have the advantage of being able to re-examine property directly and at any time before reaching a conclusion, but in principle it is asked to compare written data, i.e. AM and PM property descriptions. It should conduct its comparisons systematically and complete the elimination diagram as requested, all cases where no conclusions are possible being listed as uncertain. In this section there will be limited possibilities of reaching eliminations.

When finished with conducting comparisons for identification, this section will be confronted with the further - and often considerable - task of finding out, who are the owners (missing persons) of all property recovered independently from the disaster scene (E-numbered bags).

#### 4.4.2.4 ID Medical Section

In this section, a large number of physical features will be used for comparison. Corresponding general features may allow a conclusion of "possible" identity, while incompatible features will lead to elimination. Specific features (external as well as internal) may offer good chances of identification, but - if handled systematically - they may equally allow an important number of eliminations. The section should therefore conduct its comparisons methodically one by one and complete its elimination diagram as requested.

When finished with conducting comparisons for identification, this section will have the further obligation of trying to refer all body parts (bags with P-numbers) to the right bodies. The use of a standard anatomic sketch of the human body may be a help. If successful in any given case, the ID File Section must be notified in order that the complete PM document set for this body part may become transferred and attached to the PM document set of the body in question, thus become included in later comparisons (provided the body has not been identified already).

#### 4.4.2.5 ID Dental Section

Owing to the large number of exact physical details that can be compared in this section, it has particular potential for bringing about eliminations as well as identifications. Depending upon the amount of dental treatment performed on the victims, and upon the volume of AM dental records available, this section will have to be adequately manned. The section chief will organize the comparison procedure and, again, it will be most safely and clearly steered by the meticulous use of the elimination diagram. A possible procedure may be to place a number of experts in front of a screen, hand each of them one PM document, and then show one AM document on the screen. The section chief should ask each colleague in turn what his findings are, professional details being discussed within the group while the AM record is still on display. When agreement has been reached, the result is plotted in the diagram and the next colleague asked for his findings. When all comparisons have been conducted with the first AM record, the next one is shown on the screen and the whole procedure repeated.

As will be understood, the more experts that can be allocated to this particular section, the more comparisons can be conducted consecutively within a short time, and the more expert views will be available on dubious points before a conclusion is reached. Whilst this rigid comparison procedure is essentially what any adequately programmed computer can do, the latter can never be programmed to include all the professional minutiae on which the experts' evaluation may finally have to rest. Computerization may therefore save considerable time by quickly establishing all clear eliminations and, secondly, by sorting out the most obvious possibilities of identity, but the risk of wrong notation (in particular in AM dental records) dictates that final conclusions must be reached by the experts personally evaluating the data at hand. They should have trained themselves beforehand in conducting a comparison session of this or a similar type.

When all comparisons in one round (maximum of one hundred) have been conducted, the section chief will return all AM and PM documents to the ID File Section together with the completed diagram, and wait for further rounds to follow. It has to be expected that this section may become a bottle-neck in the comparison phase, seeing that it has the largest amount of data to cope with including its own photographs and radiographs. Facilities should be available in particular for the comparison of dental radiographs (viewers) they represent the most objective means of identification in this section.

When the last comparison round has been completed, this section may have the further obligation of trying to refer fragmentary dental remains from P-numbered bags to individual bodies. If successful in any given case, the ID File Section must be notified in order that the complete PM document set for these remains may become transferred and attached to the PM document set of the body in question, thus become included in later comparisons (provided the body has not been identified already).

NOTES

Sex Group: <u>FEMALE</u> Race Group <u>White</u> Age Group <u>15-70</u>	Block <u>1</u>	Specialist Section <u>MEDICAL</u>										Block <u>2</u>	Specialist Section <u>MEDICAL</u>									
		92	01	07	13	19	26	32	38	44	51		05	17	22	31	36					
Age		21	32	47	58	69	80	91	102	113	124		135	146	157	168	179					
B---, B.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
D---, D.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
F---, F.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
H---, H.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
J---, J.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
L---, L.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
N---, N.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
P---, P.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
R---, R.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
S---, S.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
A---, A.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
C---, C.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
E---, E.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
G---, G.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
K---, K.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
O---, O.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					
T---, T.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					

Fig. 5. ID Medical Section - master diagram (diminished)

#### 4.4.3 Section Master Diagrams

In the ID File Section, AM and PM documents returned from the specialist sections will be placed back in their respective group files, i.e. re-united with the INTERPOL ID-Form, Part A (yellow), still on the AM File - and with Parts B, C, and G (red) still on the PM File. Completed elimination diagrams are kept in their corresponding twelve groups.

When all part-diagrams from one specialist section concerning one victim group have been received, they can be combined into one section master diagram in the following way:

- 1) all part-diagrams marked "Block 1" are placed over one another (taped together on the back), Part A over the top of Part B, Part B over the top of Part C, and so on - to form the complete "Block 1":, the headings on Part A will be the only visible but - since all headings are the same, including the body reference numbers - they will cover the whole block. Similarly, a complete "Block 2" is established - and so on;
- 2) the complete "Block 1" is placed over the left half of the complete "Block 2" (taped together on the back), "Block 2" over "Block 3", and so on. Hereby, the names of missing persons as listed on "Block 1" will become the only visible but - since these names are the same on all other blocks - those on "Block 1" will cover all other blocks. It will be understood, how essential it is that all part-diagrams in each block have been carefully filled in by the ID File Section with names and reference numbers in exactly the same sequence and place.

By this procedure, the various part-diagrams (10x10) for one victim group and one specialist section have been combined into one master diagram. The latter is now ready to be submitted to the Identification Board. If photostat copies are taken, red circles in the original part-diagrams (= identifications) will become reproduced in black (cfr. Fig. 5); this can be remedied at any later time by entering a red cross (+) within each black circle.

#### 4.4.4 Identification Board

The Identification Board will be responsible for the final identification of each individual victim and should therefore be composed of the most experienced identification experts involved in the whole operation, i.e. the chiefs of the various specialist sections headed by the Director of Victim Identification or his deputy. Its responsibilities will be

to check the comparison results obtained in the various specialist sections;

to locate and reconcile possible inconsistencies; and

to combine section results into one final list of identifications.

At the outset, the Identification Board should be concerned only with the various section master diagrams as received from the ID File Section. Each Section Chief will handle the master diagrams completed by his own section (maximum of twelve). He should start with checking that all part-diagrams are marked at the top with the name of his section, next that each master diagram (maximum of twelve) is composed of part-diagrams from one and the same group; any mistake in this would soon prove disastrous.

Next, the Section Chief should check that there are no double identifications in any of the master diagrams. For each identification (square with red circle), the vertical row is followed all the way up and down, the horizontal row left and right, in order to ensure that no second identification of this body/person has been made; it will be recalled that the part-diagrams, of which the master diagram is composed, have been completed at different sessions, maybe by different experts. If a double identification is found, the corresponding AM and PM documents should be requested from the ID File Section and re-examined. A decision must be reached, if possible in consultation with the experts responsible for both identifications, and the necessary correction made in the master diagram.

Having eliminated possible double identifications, remaining identifications (red circles) should now be acknowledged. This is done by the Section Chief overcrossing all dashes (for "uncertain") in the vertical and horizontal rows corresponding to each identification, thus changing them into eliminations. For clarification and later control, this overcrossing can be done in green.

The final step will be for the Section Chief to check each vertical and each horizontal row in each of the master diagrams in order to see, if there may be any one row in which there remains only one dash (= uncertain). If so, this means that the corresponding body/person has in fact been identified by his section - even if indirectly - by the elimination of all other possibilities; accordingly, a red circle can be entered around the dash.

The above procedures may well take some time, but they are the prerequisite to the establishment of a final identification diagram. Each specialist member of the Identification Board should end up with twelve checked master diagrams showing the first-round comparison results obtained in his section.



#### 4.4.4.1 Composite Diagrams

The next step will be to combine section results into one composite diagram for each victim group. For this it is suggested, that the board director request from the ID File Section a set of twelve blank master diagrams, one for each of the victim groups and filled in only with the names and body reference numbers in question.

Taking one victim group at a time, the board director will in turn ask each of the representatives of the five specialist sections (fingerprint, photography, property, medical, dental) what their results are. It is suggested that the same indications be used as in the specialist sections, i.e. diagonal cross, dash, and red circle; furthermore that, within each square, the results are listed in a fixed order, for instance fingerprint results in the upper left corner, photography results in the upper right corner, property results in the centre, medical results in the lower left corner, and dental results in the lower right corner.

Upon completion, these twelve composite diagrams should be examined one by one, square by square, in an attempt to locate possible inconsistencies in any one square between the results obtained from various sections concerning the same body/person. Indications within one square may vary from five diagonal crosses to five circles. Dashes will represent no problem, but a contradiction will be apparent if within one square there are one or more red circles together with one or more diagonal crosses. In such a case, the AM and PM document sets concerned must again be requested from the ID File Section and re-examined by the respective experts of the board. A final decision must be reached and the necessary corrections made in both the section master diagram and the composite diagram. It will be well to remember that for all means of identification the safest result to reach is elimination; except for fingerprint identification, none of the others should be allowed - by themselves and alone - to establish identity. It is suggested, therefore, that in all cases where a square holds an identification as well as an elimination, the identification be overruled.

Next it must be checked that there are no double identifications. Again, vertical and horizontal rows are followed from top to bottom and from left to right in order to see whether - in any one row - there may be two or more identifications listed. If so, the corresponding AM and PM document sets must be requested from the ID File Section and re-examined by the experts involved. A decision must be reached and the necessary corrections made in both the section master diagram and the composite diagram.

The result of this whole operation will be, that twelve composite diagrams have been established which hold no inconsistencies and which can therefore form the basis for setting up a final identification diagram for each victim group.

#### 4.4.4.2 Final Identification Diagrams

The twelve composite diagrams represent the ID-Board's most valuable tool; they list - in one place - the comparison results obtained separately in the five specialist sections. With possible inconsistencies eliminated, they will now allow the ID-Board to decide which identifications to accept as final. For clearly recording final identifications, separate Final Identification Diagrams must be used, one for each of the twelve victim groups. Again, they are blank master diagrams filled in only with the names and reference numbers of the persons/bodies concerned.

It is suggested that the ID-Board accept as final identifications first those squares that show identification by fingerprints. These identifications should be marked - in the composite as well as in the Final ID-Diagram - with a red circle and all corresponding vertical and horizontal squares crossed out; once an identification has been accepted, all other possibilities must be considered eliminated.

Next, the composite diagrams are examined for squares which hold two (or more) red circles. If such are found, and if at least one circle originates from either the medical or the dental section (thus was based on physical evidence), it is suggested that they be also accepted without further. A red circle is entered in both composite diagram and Final ID-Diagram, and corresponding squares are crossed out (X).

As will be apparent, the Final ID-Diagram does not show any section results; also, no dashes will be inserted, and there will be no crosses other than those justified by an accepted identification. At this point, therefore, the Final ID-Diagram represents the immediate results that could be obtained from the first-round expert comparison in all the five sections:

It has been a repeated experience in major disasters of later years, that a large scale identification diagram (display board, wall paper) can be a considerable help; currently updated, it will allow personnel working in the Identification Centre to keep informed of the present situation at a glance. It has also been found, however, that confusion may arise if too many experts are allowed to independently enter results in this diagram. It is recommended, therefore, that a large scale diagram be set up, but that it remain under the strict control of the ID-Board, being updated only by a member of the board if and when the latter so decides. It should hold all the information listed in (i.e. be an enlarged version of) the Final ID-Diagram. As may be realized, a large scale diagram cannot be kept as later documentation of results obtained at various steps in the combined identification procedure (e.g. cannot be submitted as evidence in court), so cannot substitute the Final Identification Diagram.

Whatever their number, the immediate identifications made by the ID-Board will allow a reduction of the data material still to be considered. A file of Bodies Identified should therefore be set up by the board, still subdivided in twelve groups. From the ID File Section, AM and PM document sets on all identified bodies/persons

should be requested and be placed as connected pairs in individual covers; it is recommended that these covers be marked with the respective body reference numbers and filed numerically.

The ID-Board will have to decide at this time, whether individual identification documents should be set up and death certificates issued currently or at intervals, e.g. by the end of each day. In some countries, a one-page death certificate will suffice for having a body pass issued; in other countries, a complete body description has to be included, so quite some clerical work may become involved. These questions are best handled by a separate Body Release Section (cfr. later). To be noted is, that - as long as all bodies have not yet been identified - there may still arise questions requiring the re-examination of one or more already identified bodies. For this reason, body release should not be unduly precipitated and for instance embalming not be carried out until absolutely necessary.

#### 4.4.4.3 Reconciliation Sessions

The immediate identifications were fairly simple for the ID-Board to perform; they were obviously cases in which adequate identification data happened to be available. The remaining cases, on the other hand, will be those in which identification can only be accomplished by a more thorough weighing of the material. A number of reconciliation sessions should therefore be planned and further experts be invited to participate together with the chief of the ID File Section.

In preparation for the first reconciliation session, the twelve composite diagrams should be examined once more and a list be made of all cases/squares in which one red circle appears. The specialist sections responsible for these identifications should be asked to reconvene, the appropriate AM and PM documents be requested from the ID File Section and re-examined, and a weighing of the safety of each identification be made - knowing now, that the data at hand are the only ones which may permit identification.

At the first reconciliation session, the section chiefs involved will submit to fellow members of the ID-Board the results of their sections' deliberations. The board will discuss each individual case and decide, whether or not to accept identification. Accepted identifications should be marked as before in the composite diagram, in the Final ID-Diagram, and on the large scale diagram.

Again at the hand of the composite diagrams, the attention of the ID-Board should now be turned to eliminations. All remaining squares (i.e. those showing only five section results) are examined one by one; they may hold from five diagonal crosses to five dashes, and any combination in-between. Since an elimination is more easy and more safe to perform for any specialist section, it is suggested that all squares in which two or more eliminations are listed be now accepted as such, i.e. a full diagonal cross placed in the square. Again, these eliminations must be transferred to the appropriate Final ID-Diagram and to the large scale diagram.

Finally, and in preparation for the second reconciliation session, a list should be set up of those cases/squares in which only one elimination is listed together with four dashes. At the hand of

this list, the specialist sections involved will have to be reconvened for the second time, the appropriate AM and PM documents requested from the ID File Section, and these cases examined once more in detail - knowing now, that the data at hand are the only ones which may permit elimination. As has been mentioned previously, most eliminations will originate from the ID Medical and the ID Dental Sections, so maybe only these two sections will have to be reconvened.

At the second reconciliation session of the ID-Board, the section chiefs involved will be able to submit the results of their sections' deliberations concerning singular eliminations. The board should discuss each individual case and decide, whether or not to accept elimination. Each accepted elimination must be clearly recorded in the composite diagram (full diagonal cross), be transferred to the Final ID-Diagram, and be listed in the large scale diagram.

At this point, the question of correct body grouping should be taken up. The following procedure is recommended:

- 1) If the total number of bodies recovered in the disaster is the same as the number of names on the victim list, it should first be checked that all twelve victim groups hold the same number of bodies as of victim names. Should this not be the case, it is obvious that one or more mistakes have been made, most probably in the age grouping rather than in sex or race grouping. There are three possibilities:
  - a) a body too many in a given group means, that a body has been misplaced from another group to this one;
  - b) a body missing in a given group means, that it must have been misplaced from this group to another;
  - c) even if in a given group there is the same number of bodies as of victim names, there is still the possibility of a double switch.
- 2) If the total number of bodies recovered in the disaster is not the same as the number of names on the victim list, this may be the explanation for discrepancies in the number of bodies/names in any of the twelve victim groups. These considerations should be kept in mind when the following procedures are carried out in an attempt to locate, where mistakes may have been made:
  - a) each of the twelve composite diagrams should be checked for victim names which show a full horizontal row of eliminations; obviously, such a finding will indicate that a body belonging to this group has either not been recovered, or has been misplaced to another group;
  - b) each of the twelve composite diagrams should be checked for body numbers which show a full vertical row of eliminations; obviously, such a finding will indicate that this body does not belong in the group.

A list should be made of all mistakes located in this way, the appropriate AM and PM documents sets be requested from the ID File Section, and the ID Medical and Dental Sections be asked to reconvene for the third time. Since in general there will be only one other

victim group to which a misplaced body can possibly belong (the older group, or the younger), a "Block X" of elimination diagrams for this other group should be set up, complete with heading and all victim names. In the specialist sections, the data of the misplaced body can now be consecutively compared with the data of all the missing persons listed; note, that these comparisons have not been made before. Whatever the results, they must be carried back to the ID-Board for inclusion in a composite diagram, necessary corrections being made. If from these new comparisons one or more identifications should follow, they must be recorded as before together with the accompanying eliminations and all the above procedures repeated; new possibilities may have turned up.

The Identification Board will now be ready for its final and most difficult reconciliation session. The composite diagrams, as corrected, should now be examined for vertical rows in which all squares but one are crossed out; if one or more such cases are found, the corresponding AM and PM data sets should be scrutinized by the expert panel in order to find out, whether there is anything to prevent this body from being identified by exclusion; if not, the necessary recordings should be made immediately. Similarly, the composite diagrams should be examined for horizontal rows in which all squares but one have been crossed out; if one or more such cases are found, the above procedure is repeated.

Since, at this time, the number of "open" squares in the composite diagram will have been considerably reduced, it is very possible that these last identifications by exclusion will have caused one out of two open squares in another row to become eliminated. The procedure of searching for vertical and horizontal rows with only one open square should therefore be repeated every time one new identification has been made and the accompanying eliminations listed; it is a kind of chain reaction that has to be followed to the end.

Next, vertical and horizontal rows with two open squares must be looked for. Again, the expert panel should investigate whether - in any such case, and knowing that there are only two possibilities for identity left - a re-evaluation of AM and PM data may permit identification. For such a re-evaluation, the expert panel should have all data material in hand (photographs, radiographs, specimens taken from the bodies, results of laboratory investigation such as blood type, etcetera). Chances are that - in this final stage - otherwise simple medical evidence (e.g. blood type) will become decisive in discerning between a now limited number of possibilities. If successful, this again is a chain reaction which must be followed to the end. A search for rows with three or more open squares may have to follow.

In all probability, the number of remaining unidentified bodies/persons will by now have become so small that the experts begin to know their data by heart. This is the time for taking even remote possibilities into consideration:

- Could one of these bodies be an unreported missing person not on the victim list ?
- Could one of these persons have been wrongly grouped also in respect of sex or colour ?
- If PM fingerprints are available, could AM prints be obtained ?
- If characteristic jewellery or other property has been taken from one of these bodies, could renewed communication with family members or acquaintances confirm or reject ownership ?
- If specific external features have been found in one of these bodies, could amateur photographs be obtained which prove or disprove presence ?
- If specific internal features have been found in one of these bodies, could hospital records be obtained (including in particular radiographs), or physicians' records, which prove or disprove presence ?
- If one of these bodies had teeth treated, could further dental records/radiographs/plaster models be obtained, even if old (school/military/hospital dental clinics) ?
- Could anything from the mouth of an unidentified missing person have been kept at home (old dentures, bridgework, and artificial tooth, a natural tooth) which might be shown to fit one of the remaining bodies ?
- In spite of previous investigation, could there be one or more persons on the victim list who are not actually victims ?
- Could otherwise a wrong name be on the victim list, by mistake or fraudulently (identity exchange) ?

Anybody who has ever cooperated in the final stages of identification in a mass disaster situation will recognize the tedious and tiring procedures here described. Only the use of some form of elimination diagram and its derivatives (master diagram, composite diagram, Final ID-Diagram) will allow the Director of Victim Identification to maintain constant and safe control over these procedures. It is a step-by-step operation that can only become successful if a clear view can be maintained - at any time - of what has been accomplished and need not be repeated.

As will appear, attempts to solve the last cases will turn to quite some extent around the possibility of finding further AM data for comparison with PM findings, which means that victim families may have to be approached repeatedly. Sooner or later, however, the Investigator-in-Charge will have to set a time limit for further identification attempts. The formal conclusion of the identification operation will be the issue for each identified body of an identification document, a death certificate, and - for foreigners - a body pass. An alphabetical list of all persons identified, and a corresponding numerical list of all bodies identified, will record the final result of the whole operation.

#### 4.4.5 Body Release Section

There will be a number of practical problems connected with body release; they are best solved by a separate Body Release Section established in close connection with the Body Movement Section in the Mortuary Centre. In the first place, the Body Release Section should be the office through which the Director of Victim Identification informs a family that their relative has been recovered and identified. This information should always reach the family before any press releases are made; accordingly, the latter should also be canalized through this section. For reaching foreign families, the INTERPOL radio network is available; otherwise, local embassies must be approached. Since there are a number of practical questions to be solved in connection with body release, a standard form should be developed; using this form, and when contacting a victim family, local police will make sure to have these questions answered, in order that they may be relayed back to the Body Release Section immediately; for instance:

- has a funeral director been engaged ? - who ?  
if not (foreigners), should the body be embalmed ?
- should a funeral service be held in the mortuary
- will the family provide a coffin and take care of transport ?  
if not, where should the body be sent ?
- to whom should personal belongings be sent ?
- should any such belongings (jewellery ?) follow the deceased into the grave ?

Some families may wish to see the deceased before burial; they should be referred to the Director of Victim Identification who - at the hand of PM documents - will be able to advise them.

In the Body Movement Section, quite a lot of extra space and personnel will be needed. Coffins must be ordered and stored, - a separate Embalming Unit will handle the embalming of the bodies where requested (including facial reconstruction of those to be viewed), their shrouding and their coffining, - metal lids will have to be soldered, - one or more funeral ceremonies (religion ?) may have to be arranged, - and individual arrangements for transportation made.

The Director of Victim Identification will issue a Release Certificate for each body identified; it should list at the top the body reference number and the name of the person it has been identified as, and include a check-list of accompanying documents (identification document, death certificate, copy of the autopsy report where requested, body pass), instructions from the family (cfr. above), date and time the coffin left the section, and by whom it was taken. It should be signed upon completion by the Body Movement Section officer in charge and returned to the ID File Section. The Director of Victim Identification may have to arrange a funeral ceremony for those victims that were not identified. For international regulations concerning the transportation of dead bodies from one country to another, cfr. Chapter 4.

#### 4.5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The victims of a disaster may not all be citizens of the country in which it occurs. Whenever foreigners are involved, it is recommended to establish close cooperation with - preferably to attach a liaison officer from - each of their home countries. Hereby, a faster and more reliable exchange of information will be ensured.

If many victims originate from a foreign country in which a State Police Victim Identification Commission already exists, broader assistance from that country may be asked for. While an expert group from a foreign country will normally work under the authority of the country inviting it, there are several cases on record from the past decades in which a disaster occurred in a country that did not possess the expertise and the resources necessary for effectively handling victim identification, and in which the responsibility for handling these operations was therefore more or less fully delegated to the foreign group.

International agreements have not yet been reached for the regulation of such cooperation and delegation of responsibility. When it comes to sending out experts, member countries are advised to explore the possibilities for one or more identification experts to travel immediately to another country. It may mean that a file must be kept on appropriate persons - listing their personal data, their passport number and date of issue (reminding them of times for renewal), their inoculations (reminding them of deadlines for re-inoculation), and including a set of photographs for immediate visa application; in some cases, a temporary diplomatic status may be obtainable. For each key person in such an expert group there will have to be one or two stand-ins - in case the former is not available at the critical time - and they must all be prepared to travel on hour's notice. In the case of a commercial aircraft accident, it may be possible for identification experts to travel as affiliated to a commission of technical experts for which international regulations exist\*.

. Questions of insurance and remuneration while on a mission must be settled beforehand.

Finally, it may be worth-while considering whether the establishment of maybe two or three international identification expert commissions might be the best way of assisting a member country in which expertise and resources for handling a mass disaster situation are scarce.

\* (viz ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation)



Under this chapter will be printed full texts of

- International Arrangement concerning Conveyance of Corpses. Berlin 10.2.37
- Agreement on the Transfer of Corpses. Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 26.10.73
- PAHO Resolution XXIV of 7.10.66 on International transportation of Human Remains

4.7      POSTSCRIPT

There have been many loose ends in the previous description of victim identification procedures, and many problems have been left unmentionned. It is believed, however, that anybody potentially to become involved in a future disaster operation will realize the necessity of pre-planning actions to be taken and of training personnel at all levels; the more organized the intervention, the more lives will be saved and the more victims identified.

Whilst it is hoped that the present manual will assist member countries in successfully organizing their disaster handling procedures, INTERPOL would like to take the opportunity to invite all member countries to send the Secretariat their criticism of the manual in its present form, and in particular their suggestions for its future improvement and updating.

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## 5. APPENDICES

### 5.1 LIST OF EQUIPMENT

It is obviously impossible to furnish a list of equipment to be used in disaster handling which will cover all cases; so much depends on the type of the disaster and its location, on resources available, and on the overall operation goal set up under the circumstances. What can be done, on the other hand, is to give an example. The following is a list of equipment used in an airplane crash near Toronto on July 5th, 1970. All 109 persons aboard died. In this case it was decided to establish the Mortuary Branch and the Identification Centre in a nearby icerink. The identification procedures were completed on July 29th, i.e. after 24 days:

aircraft models	radios
autopsy tables	rope
and equipment	rough boxes
auxiliary lighting	rubber aprons,
axes	boots and gloves
back hoes	safety deposit box
bullhorns	scythes
cardboard cartons	shovels
clothes dryers	smocks
coveralls	storage boxes
draughtman's equipm.	surgical masks
electric fans	tables and chairs
electric light fixtures	tags - linen
filing cabinets	and pasteboard
fingerprint equipm.	telephones
fork lift truck	tents
front end loader	trailers
identification badges	transport:
metal stakes	department cars
mower	motorcycles
office furniture	property truck
stationary and suppl.	refrigerated vans
padlocks	tow truck
pest and rodent	typewriters,
control equipm.	desk and chairs
photographic equipm.	vaccine facilities
plastic bags,	wash basins and
aprons and gloves	antiseptic soap
portable coolers	wooden stakes
and thermos jars	Xerox copier
portable pump	x-ray machines
portable radios	
portable toilet	

### 5.1 LIST OF PERSONNEL

From the same accident (cfr. Chapt. 5.1), a list of personnel assigned during the operations is available. Apart from senior officers and identification experts (a total of 21 persons in key positions), the following numbers were allocated:

<u>Crash Site Phase:</u>	
Security (day and night)	75
Body Recovery	35
Property Recovery	48
Dispatch Riders	2
Officer personnel	3
<u>Morgue Phase:</u>	
Security (day and night)	10
Autopsy Team	12
Fingerprint Team	6
Property Section	15
Master File	1
Draughtsman	1
Continuity	1
Dispatch Riders	2
<u>Investigation Phase:</u>	3
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To be noted is, that stenographic personnel has been included in the above figure - also that several of the officers listed, having completed one duty, were re-assigned to another.

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