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Oct 25
MI/Unnumbered

ALL COUNTRIES

FREE WORLD PRISONERS DETAINED BEHIND
THE IRON CURTAIN.

SOURCE/MUNICH EVALUATION: Private information.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: To mid-1955.

EVAL. COMMENT: None.

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Official and unofficial estimates for the eight countries reported on lead to an overall figure of about 1,041,280 persons detained by the USSR and countries of the Soviet Orbit, of whom there are 162,946 who have been specifically identified or whose whereabouts is known. These figures do not include many nationalities, for instance Americans and British, or prisoners held by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

There is no way for governments in the free world to know with certainty the number of their nationals detained behind the Iron Curtain, in view of Soviet unwillingness to provide information on this subject. There is no record of the number who have disappeared behind the curtain for various reasons, as private citizens or as prisoners of war. Governments are constantly busy revising their estimates as new information is gleaned from returning prisoners or from those relatives in the West who are permitted to correspond with those imprisoned, and these are proportionately few. The number of prisoners and detainees given below is based where possible on the records of the UN General Assembly's Ad Hoc Commission on Prisoners of War and on official government statements. The figures include the overall estimates as well as the number of those about whom definite evidence has been established.

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I. Germans Detained Behind the Iron Curtain.

/Based on the report of the Federal Government of Germany to the UN General Assembly's Ad Hoc Commission, included in the Commission's Report of September 30 1954./

Soldiers missing in the Eastern theater of operations at the end of World War II: 1,156,663.

<u>Prisoners of War in Soviet Custody</u>	<u>Number Identified in 1950-1951</u>	<u>Number on Whom There is Definite Current Information</u>
In USSR	77,333 ⁺	9,210
In Czechoslovakia	3,002	2,812
In Poland	13,291	1,623
Total	93,626	13,645

⁺The German government reported 88,560 established by information as of May 1950, subsequently 10,525 have been repatriated, 702 have died.

<u>Civilian Detainees</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Number on Whom There is Definite Current Information</u>
Deported to USSR	730,730 ¹	129,000 ²
Civilian prisoners in Czechoslovakia	8,243	6,141
Civilian prisoners in Poland	9,810	4,912
Children detained in Poland	3,240	
Total	742,023	140,053

1. The German government claims a total of 750,000 were deported to the USSR of whom 19,270 were subsequently reported to have died.

2. Of whom 30,000 are known to be in "compulsory settlements."

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II. Italians Detained Behind the Iron Curtain.

/Based on the report of the Italian Government to the UN General Assembly's Ad Hoc Commission, included in the Commission's Report of September 30 1954./

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Number on Whom There is Definite Information</u>
Soldiers missing on Soviet front who have not returned to Italy In USSR:	63,731	
Prisoners of War		533 ⁺
Civilians	/8/	8
In Albania:		
Prisoners of War	/22/	22
 Total	 63,761	 563

⁺Including 508 whose presence in captivity in USSR was established prior to 1947 and 25 whose presence was established after 1947.

III. Japanese Detained Behind the Iron Curtain.

/Based on the report of the Japanese Government to the Ad Hoc Commission and on statements of the Japanese Foreign Office of June 17 1955 and of the Japanese Welfare Minister, March 31 1955./

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Number on Whom There is Definite Information</u>
In the USSR	12,462	1,452
In Communist China	51,069	7,069
In North Korea	2,165	
 Total	 65,876	 8,521

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IV. Spanish Detained Behind the Iron Curtain.

/Based on the Spanish Government's report to the Ad Hoc Commission's Sixth Session./

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Number on Whom There is Definite Information</u>
Adult Nationals	375 ⁺	152
Children Taken to USSR during Spanish Civil War whereabouts known, 1948	300	
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Total	675	152

⁺At the third session, the Spanish Government claimed 1,000 of whom 286 have since been repatriated.

V. Dutch Detained Behind the Iron Curtain.

/Unofficial Estimate/

The Soviet Foreign Ministry officially informed the Dutch Government on May 14 1955 of the names of 12 nationals with whom relatives could correspond and who could receive packages. No estimate is available of the total number detained.

VI. Greeks Detained Behind the Iron Curtain.

/Unofficial Estimate/

Roughly 20,000 Greeks are estimated to be held in satellite countries as a consequence of the Greek Civil War, including guerrillas and adult and child hostages.

VII. Austrians Detained Behind the Iron Curtain.

/Unofficial Estimate/

The Austrian Government claimed 1,328 Austrian citizens to be detained in the USSR prior to the recent agreement on repatriation which provided for the return of 613 Austrian nationals. This would bring the number remaining in the USSR at 715. The Austrian Government has not yet issued an official

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statement on the exact number still in detention, and may revise its estimates on the basis of information brought back by repatriates.

VII. South Koreans Held in North Korea.

The South Korean Government claims that there are 4,280 ROK soldiers detained in North Korea, plus 50,000 ROK soldiers allegedly released behind North Korean lines prior to the armistice, giving a total claim of 54,280 South Koreans detained against their will.

/Syngman RHEE speech of June 25 1955, FBIS June 27 1955
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End