

Another side of the picture was the attitude towards "intruded" persons, that is, enemy nationals, particularly Germans, who have been sent to colonize United Nations territory. This report showed: 200,000 Germans sent in to replace French driven from Alsace-Lorraine; Prague full of Germans; hundreds of thousands of Germans sent to colonize the lands from which Poles had been forced in western Poland. Many other cases are on the records and in all it is estimated that between 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 Germans have been settled on United Nations territory. The Committee on Displaced Persons recommended that UNRRA be authorized to remove to their homes any enemy or ex-enemy subjects so intruded into United Nations territory.

The Balkans loomed up as the first field of major activity.\* The Director General, addressing the Montreal Session requested a statement of policy from the Council on the care to be given displaced persons in United Nations territory which had never been occupied by the enemy. The cost would be great but there were urgent cases such as that of the Greeks and Yugoslavs in the Middle East which required assistance.

Representatives of UNRRA were sent to Italy to survey and report on conditions in that country. They pointed out that 75 p.c. of the population in liberated Italy were on a rationed diet which was only about half that necessary for normal existence. Near Rome, due to difficulties of transport, the diet was only 70 p.c. of the low average for the total liberated area; distress was rampant in many parts. The burden had fallen most heavily on the children and perhaps 2,000,000 were in dire need. One serious result had been a sharp rise in infant mortality.

Authorization for UNRRA to undertake relief operations in Italy was provided by a resolution passed at the Montreal meeting. The scale and nature of these operations was strictly defined. The amount is not to exceed \$50,000,000. It is to be restricted to: (a) provision of medical and sanitary aid and supplies; (b) assistance in the care and return to their homes of displaced persons; (c) welfare services for children, and for nursing or expectant mothers.

Canada, being honoured by the Permanent Chairmanship of the Montreal meeting and being represented with the United Kingdom and the United States on the Combined Food Board and the Combined Production and Resources Board, has played an important part in setting the machinery of UNRRA to work and in moulding policy, for these and other Boards are round table conferences where each member speaks frankly, common problems are worked out, information obtained and given, and available supplies distributed in accordance with the most urgent need.

The international machinery offered by UNRRA is the most promising means by which the economic machinery of devastated Europe can be primed—not by indiscriminately supplying Europe with food and finished goods but by helping the liberated peoples to help themselves and, where the need is proved, to furnish the *raw materials* needed for relief and rehabilitation. All countries in a position to pay will, of course, be expected to do so but countries unable to make payment and in dire need will be eligible for relief. The alternative would be the rapid exhaustion of such reduced foreign exchange assets as were available to the European countries, followed by unbalanced budgets, depreciated currencies and, finally, the imposition of burdensome exchange and trade restrictions.

\* The principle of UNRRA's administration is that priority should be given to those areas in greatest need. Russia advanced the proposal that priority for assistance be given those nations which have suffered most under Axis rule and have offered greatest resistance. The reconciliation of these two points of view was one of the tasks of the Conference.