

UNRRA, as distinct from the permanent organization on food and agriculture, was temporary ; it was emergency. It might have to start large-scale operations in a few months ; it might have to function in the midst of war.

COMMITTEES ARE SET UP

Under the chairmanship of Dean Acheson, Member of the Council for the United States, the UNRRA Council divided its agenda into four main committees and fifteen sub-committees. The Committee on Ad Hoc Committees acted as the steering agency of the session.

The UNRRA committees did not attempt to legislate, i.e. to draw up international conventions or treaties to be signed ; what began on November 10 at Atlantic City amounted to business deliberations by nations having urgent stakes in setting up an organization that could act at once.

Committee I on Organization and Administration considered in its four sub-committees the following items : The composition and functions of the regional Committees for Europe and the Far East, together with the Standing Technical Committees on Agriculture, Displaced Persons, Health, Industrial Rehabilitation and Welfare ; rules and procedures of the Council and its Standing Committees ; personnel policies and the administrative budget.

Committee II on General Policy and its three sub-committees dealt with the broad policies of the Administration, its relations with governments and with inter-governmental bodies.

Committee III on Supply and Finance had one sub-committee to study the financial plan for the Administration, and another to examine the procedures for ascertaining and meeting deficits in supplies. It was also charged with setting up the Standing Committees on Supply and Financial Control and with defining their functions.

Committee IV on Relief and Rehabilitation Policies was divided into six sub-committees engaged in discussing technical aspects of relief distribution, health and medical care, welfare services and voluntary relief agencies, assistance to displaced persons, agri-

cultural rehabilitation and rehabilitation of industries, transport and other services essential to relief.

The United States provided the secretariat for this first session of UNRRA. Altogether there were well over 150 meetings of the main committees, sub-committees and drafting groups, some of which had almost daily sessions.

And these meetings were characterized by an avoidance of high-flown oratory and idealistic generalities ; realism was the keynote of the Council Meeting. Within three weeks 41 resolutions were passed and handed over to the Director-General for further action.

THE SCOPE OF UNRRA

Dean Acheson, Chairman of the Council, remarked that UNRRA could not reconstruct the world, neither could it be limited to a mere "soup kitchen" charity. The scope of UNRRA, he pointed out, lay somewhere between these two extremes.

The Conference drew a line among the three R's—Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. Post-war reconstruction was not in its function ; its limit was relief and such material rehabilitation as might be found essential to relief. Thus, the Council concluded that the Administration should ensure the provision of :

- (1) essential consumer goods for immediate needs, such as food, fuel, clothing, shelter, medical supplies ; and materials, such as seeds, raw materials and machinery ;
- (2) essential services such as health and aid in the repatriation of displaced persons ; the rehabilitation of public utilities (light, water, communications) in so far as they could be restored for immediate needs and to enable a recipient country to produce and transport relief supplies for its own and other liberated territories ; and assistance in procuring equipment for schools and universities.

Thus, UNRRA might restore water supply systems damaged by bombing, but could not install a new sewage system in a town which never had a sewage system.

It was realized that in some instances UNRRA might have to operate in liberated areas where there was no organized or respon-