

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-

sible government. In such cases UNRRA would work in close agreement with the military command. And once a government has been set up in a liberated area, the Administration would operate only after consultation with, and with the consent of, the government concerned.

In transporting relief materials, repatriating displaced persons, or in combating epidemics, the Administration would probably have to operate in enemy or ex-enemy areas. Moreover, the Administration might, requested by the military command and the established control authorities, find it necessary to extend relief to ex-enemy peoples. The Conference decided that the expenses connected with such operations should be paid by the enemy or ex-enemy country concerned; and that aggressor nations should pay for whatever they received as soon as payment could be collected. The Director-General would consult with the military authorities with a view to using any surpluses of supplies found in enemy or ex-enemy territories.

COOPERATION WITH COMBINED BOARDS

From the very beginning, it was understood that the activities of UNRRA would be conducted without interference in the prosecution of the war. For this purpose, UNRRA officials would have to work in collaboration with military authorities. Consequently, it seemed essential that requirements of relief be coordinated with military requirements "through the use of existing inter-governmental agencies" already concerned with directing supplies and shipping facilities. These "inter-governmental agencies" are the four Combined Boards for food, industrial goods, raw materials and shipping, which are chiefly concerned with the war effort.

A kind of teamwork formula was worked out: The Conference decided that all members governments should keep UNRRA fully informed of all their relief and rehabilitation requirements. On his part, Director-General Lehman may present to the Combined Boards recommendations he deems necessary to obtain a fair distribution of supplies and shipping in the liberated areas. He