

An important function of UNRRA's health organization will be epidemic control, particularly epidemics affecting more than one country. Early recognition will be given to the needs of children and expectant and nursing mothers, for upon them depends the restoration of normal family life. Special measures will be taken to deal with communicable diseases among children, particularly those who are homeless and lost, and whose resistance has been lowered by malnutrition.

Welfare was designed by the Council to include the necessities of life for those persons unable to provide for themselves. Welfare services will be designed to help people to help themselves; and UNRRA will also enlist the co-operation of voluntary relief agencies who have been or are working in the field.

DISPLACED PERSONS

There are 1,800,000 Frenchmen in Germany; according to one estimate, to move this number of persons will take 24 trains a day, every day, for nearly three months. This is but one example of the problem of displaced, uprooted peoples—the physical problem, aside from the deep psychological wounds inflicted by the war and the enemy.

According to an official estimate by the Allied Governments, there are now, exclusive of the Soviet territories and the Far East, between 21,000,000 and 30,000,000 homeless or displaced persons scattered over the continent of Europe—forced labourers in the Axis countries, civilian prisoners and persons in concentration camps, war fugitives, hostages and thousands upon thousands who have been forcibly uprooted from century-long homes to allow the Nazis to put into effect their racial and living-space "doctrines". In the Far East over 40,000,000 Chinese have been driven from town to town, district to district, in regions occupied by the Japanese.

The problem of returning those still alive at the end of the war to their homes has been viewed as a problem of organization almost as great as the problem of relief itself. Yet, transportation is only one part of repatriation. Displaced persons will need food, clothing and temporary shelters. And these relief measures call

for a vast quantity of supplies to be provided for within the minimum requirements for general relief.

Then there is the medical side. Mass movements of displaced persons are likely to cause an acute danger from epidemics, not only among the displaced persons themselves but in the countries of their residence, passage and return. The closest possible collaboration must, therefore, be maintained with the health organization of UNRRA and all other national and international health institutions.

This was one of the toughest problems before the Atlantic City Council. Political implications were obvious and politics did not come into the scope of UNRRA. Will the victims in Axis territories be rescued before the Nazis lay their hands on them in the eleventh hour of revengeful desperation? What about enemy or ex-enemy nationals who have settled in Allied countries, moved into Allied homes?

The Council suggested that while it is not the purpose of UNRRA to assist enemy subjects, the removal of enemy or ex-enemy nationals who may still be in occupation of Allied homes might be undertaken by UNRRA. Realizing the implications of the question, it also suggested, therefore, that the return of such ex-enemy intruders to their homes be referred to an early meeting of the Council as a separate issue for further consideration.

Why teamwork was necessary, why a United Nations' agency was the only practical means to straighten out the awful tangle of displaced peoples was revealed in the next recommendation :

Four countries might be involved before a family, a father or a son could return to their home. There will be the country where they are living temporarily, the country through which they must pass, the country where they have lived, and the country of which they are nationals. Therefore, agreements have to be reached with all of them. The Council expressed the hope, that all governments would cooperate with UNRRA in helping people get back home, whether those people were their nationals or not.

The Council recommended that the Administration should take steps to ensure the closest cooperation with the military authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross (which already possesses a wealth of information and experience, particularly records containing some 15,000,000 names), and with the Inter-

Governmental Committee on Refugees in London which has long dealt with persons who have had to leave their homes for reasons of nationality, race, religion or political belief. It will be the responsibility of UNRRA to assist in the care of such refugees as cannot or do not wish to be repatriated until the Inter-Governmental Committee can find places for them to live.

FOOD COMES FIRST— REHABILITATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

In his first Press conference, Director-General Lehman declared that food would take priority over all shipments other than war materials to the liberated countries. The flow of food will be tagged "emergency relief". Hunger must be assuaged, bodies nourished before the many schemes of rehabilitation can even be started.

UNRRA will furnish "energy" foods to relieve hunger and simultaneously begin the rehabilitation of agriculture. The big shortages after the war will be in milk, meat and fats; there will have to be concentration at first on supplies of wheat and cereals for energy foods, as there are plentiful stock-piles of wheat. Seed, farm machinery, fertilizers, lubricants and fuel will be required. Food processing machinery may be required to convert new food into edible form. Retreating Germans, for instance, tried desperately to destroy olive crushers in Tunisia.

Agricultural experts at the Council Meeting pointed out that for the first crop year after liberation, absolute priority should be given to producing foods for direct human consumption. Only when danger of actual hunger is removed can more ambitious farming goals be contemplated. This means that production of pigs and poultry will be discouraged. This is a programme for a one-year crop, and that is the most critical period.

The Council adopted the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture at Hot Springs that a permanent international food organization should handle long-range plans for increasing world-wide food production and standards of living. It was agreed that UNRRA should confine itself to emergency matters, but should cooperate with the permanent food organization.