

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.

How much and what food is needed is to be based on the lowest rate of nutritional value for maintaining health. It is known that the Inter-Allied Committee estimated the minimum rate at an average of 2,000 calories daily per person subject to some adaptations, but urged that it be increased at the earliest opportunity. This standard is, however, now to be reviewed by the appropriate bodies of UNRRA. In comparison, the official report on Food Consumption Levels in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom recently published by H.M. Stationery Office states the average daily consumption in 1943 per head of the civil population as 3,283 calories for the U.S.A., 3,223 calories for Canada, and 2,827 for the United Kingdom.

To get occupied Europe back to its pre-war state of self-sufficiency, it has been estimated that 400,000 tons of seeds will have to be imported in the first half-year. Imports of dried milk will be needed to replace the loss of milk resulting from the wartime slaughter of cattle in Europe. It was recommended that liberated countries increase their production and consumption of cereals, potatoes and milk to the maximum.

Many countries will want tractors. In the field of farm production, the chief responsibility of UNRRA will be to help local governments with imported supplies and equipment in order to reduce the need for relief after the first harvest.

INDUSTRIAL REHABILITATION

So far the Council had studied many aspects of relief—health, food, welfare services, farm production, deported and displaced persons. None was found separate from the other. Health depended upon food, which depended upon social services and so on. They were inter-related; each was emergency; all would be tackled simultaneously. The success of immediate relief depends upon an efficient transportation system, railway equipment, water and power supplies, and upon minor repairs to factories which, when operating, could produce relief goods themselves.

The Council decided that UNRRA would help those countries whose industries can be rebuilt for production of relief goods. This would cut down on shipping problems, would get urgently needed supplies faster to other liberated areas.