

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE COUNCIL

When after the last session of the Council, on December 1, the representatives of 44 nations packed their bags and left Atlantic City, a job had been started. In their discussions, within a comparatively short period of three weeks, they had realistically met a great and staggering problem.

Dean Acheson, Chairman of the Council at Atlantic City, declared: "If we are asked what we have done here, I believe that we can answer: we have reached agreement upon a practicable programme . . . fully possible of achievement in action. A general purpose has been translated into a definite plan."

The work at Atlantic City, according to Colonel John L. Lewellin, of the United Kingdom, was "a crusade to bring food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, clothing to those who are in rags; a crusade against the scourge of epidemics and to help the return to their homes of many millions who are prisoners or who are being treated as slaves."

In his message to Congress asking for appropriations for the Administration, the President of the United States pointed out: "UNRRA will be able to make only a beginning in the vast task of aiding the victims of war. The greatest part of the job will have to be done by the liberated peoples themselves. What UNRRA can do is to help the liberated peoples to help themselves, so that they may have the strength to undertake the task of rebuilding their destroyed homes, their ruined factories and their plundered farms. . . . They do not want charity. They seek the strength to fight and to do their part in securing the peace. . . ."

Food, clothing, medicines and shelter are cheaper than blood. They can save many lives and remove the danger of another war. The resolutions passed at the UNRRA Council contain this hope. Translated into action, they mean that good will, as well as stocks of food and material, must be available, that victory over want, confusion and despair must be as clearly kept in mind as victory over the enemy.

Moreover, the success of UNRRA may point the way to a realistic blueprint for future unity among the free peoples of the world. Its success will greatly influence the development of the concept of cooperation among the United Nations, and upon its

success depends the answer to whether the titanic energies stimulated by the war can be directed toward constructive action.

The steps to be taken will not only prove whether UNRRA can succeed, but also whether any common enterprise of the United Nations can proceed "from the talking to the acting stage". Quoting again from the Director-General's testimony at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives: "If UNRRA succeeds, the world will know that international cooperation is possible, that common interests can be stronger than separate differences. Having done it once, the United Nations will have more confidence that they can do it again. The habit will have been formed."