

in all branches of the IRO care and maintenance programme. Children are the particular beneficiaries of many of these services, which are provided through special children's centres, in aid to schools, kindergartens and clinics ; through special feeding programmes ; through child search activities ; in assistance in location of relatives ; and in repatriation. New activities have been developed to a certain extent for adolescent youth, for whom special programmes have been greatly needed. Some forty thousand children and adolescents in Germany and Austria will also benefit from organized summer camp programmes which are now in full operation. Adults in need of special care, the aged, the sick, and nursing or expectant mothers also benefit from special assistance provided by voluntary effort.

Voluntary organizations provided not only supplementary aids to the IRO programme, but also greatly needed relief and other services to many eligible refugees for whom the Organization has been unable to furnish adequate assistance in the past year. Many of these organizations have warned the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission in recent months that they will be unable in future to continue such relief operations on the same scale as heretofore. Severe financial retrenchments have affected a number of programmes. Rising costs in many countries, and particularly in the principal areas of IRO field operations, have also enforced some scaling down of services. Moreover, the responsible and active role which many of these societies must now play in their own countries, which have become countries of large-scale resettlement, has thrown new burdens upon them, inevitably affecting the scale of their operations elsewhere. Recent conferences and discussions between the IRO and co-operating societies have necessarily underlined these three factors affecting their future activities. A further study of these issues will be made in co-operation with the organizations concerned.

For the list of the voluntary societies working with and on behalf of the IRO in the principal areas of IRO field operations, see the Appendix at the end this report.

SECTION VII

Supply and Transport

When PCIRO assumed operational functions and became financially responsible for the maintenance of eligible refugees and displaced persons in Germany, Austria, Italy and the Middle East and China, it

could not physically supply the camps immediately, and consequently agreements were made with the governments and Occupation Authorities to continue the supply on the basis then operating.

These agreements varied as to levels of assistance and as to estimated costs. The estimated costs varied from 20 cents *per capita per diem* in the British Zone of Germany to 35 cents in the French Zone, while in the United States Zone the figure of 35 cents was based on the actual cost of supplies and services rendered. The cost in Italy was initially estimated at 57 cents.

An examination of these calculations revealed that, if funds were not to be diverted from the essential tasks of repatriation and resettlement, drastic economies would have to be made.

By the end of the first year of operations, due to most careful and detailed procurement and with the full co-operation of governments, notably those of the United States and the United Kingdom and their occupational forces, the above estimated costs had been greatly reduced and considerable sums released from the direct supply budget to resettlement activities and, at the same time, standards fixed by the Department of Health, Care and Maintenance are in the course of being implemented.

In support of the projects of voluntary societies, the IRO has supplied all the food necessary in the operation of the children's summer camps in the three Zones of Germany and Austria and in Italy.

In addition to the basic supplies of food, fuel and clothing, IRO has continued a programme of importing and distributing medical, hygiene, educational and training supplies and personal items. Initial quantities of these latter supplies were taken over from UNRRA.

In so far as possible, supplies needed for IRO operating programmes are obtained from indigenous sources with the co-operation of either the military authorities in the occupation zones or of the governments elsewhere. The imported supplies necessary to supplement indigenous production are obtained wherever they can be purchased most economically and with currencies which are available to the Organization. The maximum possible use is made of IRO-chartered vessels to carry supplies to Europe on the return crossing after resettlement voyages. Where this is not possible commercial facilities are used.

Every effort has been made to utilize the currencies provided by Member Governments in the procurement of supplies. It has not been found possible, however, to purchase basic supplies in large quantities

with those currencies which are not freely convertible, and the utilization of these funds therefore presents a serious problem.

Supply systems vary substantially in the several areas of operation. For example, in the United States Zones of Germany and Austria distribution of imported supplies has been carried out principally by IRO personnel in conjunction with the occupying authorities; whereas in the British and French Zones it has been the responsibility of the Occupation Authorities.

The supply operation in Italy has been fully maintained by IRO, which undertook the responsibility of providing all supplies and equipment necessary to maintain refugees, with the exception of those services provided by the Italian Government within the terms of the present Agreement. The majority of food supplies, with the exception of fresh meat and vegetables, were procured from the United States Department of Agriculture. All other procurement was carried out in Italy, although rising prices have increasingly affected the plans of the Organization.

For the greater part of the first year the Far East operation was maintained almost entirely from stocks handed over to IRO by the predecessor organization, UNRRA, and distribution was undertaken on behalf of the IRO by the American Joint Distribution Committee. Local procurement of certain food items and the procurement of clothing from the United States has been necessary, and distribution lately became an IRO responsibility.

The Middle East operation was maintained almost entirely by local purchases.

In the field of transport, IRO began its operation with a total of 2,535 vehicles taken over from predecessor organizations. In addition, IRO was allotted a large number of captured enemy vehicles plus 100 cars in the British Zone, and 600 military vehicles and 1,558 trucking vehicles in the United States Zone of Germany. In all, 77 different types of vehicle were received, many of them in their last stages of usefulness. This multiplicity of types and conditions of repair presented an extremely difficult problem of maintenance and provision of spare parts.

During the past year it proved possible to replace many of these vehicles through the purchase of 1,933 new commercial and military passenger and load-carrying units. In this way important steps toward standardization, which will drastically reduce maintenance and replacement costs, were taken.

In general, the division of the transport function between IRO and the Occupation Authorities in Germany and Austria followed the same

pattern as described above for the supply function. That is, in the United States Zones of both countries IRO was responsible for the movement of supplies at all levels, whereas, in the British and French Zones, this service was performed largely by the Occupation Authorities. IRO transport in these latter Zones is largely limited to passenger vehicles for administrative staff. In other areas IRO has operated administrative vehicles, obtaining most load-carrying vehicles from civilian sources.

Procedures covering insurance and third-party claims have been developed and all IRO vehicles are insured against third-party risks either with commercial companies or through self-insurance, which is covered by a fund held at Headquarters, Geneva. During 1947/48, claims against the Organization payable under the self-insurance scheme amounted to \$14,000. A safety-first campaign instituted in May has produced excellent results.

SECTION VIII

Repatriation and Resettlement

A. REPATRIATION

In the period from May 1945 until 1 July 1947 approximately 7,000,000 displaced persons were repatriated through the combined efforts of the Allied Armies and of UNRRA. It was obvious that during the life of the IRO, repatriation would be on a much more modest scale. This was true not only because there was a smaller pool of displaced persons from which repatriates could come, but also because the vast majority of those who wished to return could have done so before IRO undertook operations. Nevertheless, there has been clear recognition by the Organization that repatriation is a first priority function of the IRO under the terms of the Constitution. It was recognized to be the responsibility of the Organization to provide the machinery for the repatriation of all refugees and displaced persons who chose it, as well as to provide all possible assistance to them in arriving at an independent decision.

Various steps were taken to accomplish these objects. One was the establishment of relations with the countries of origin. On the basis of the displaced persons population, this term has usually meant Poland, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia ; adequate relationship with