

shipping in operational areas for only those basic essentials necessary to avoid "disease and unrest" which would interfere with operations or with lines of communication and supply.

3. Accordingly in mid-December, after some delay resulting from a change of plans as a consequence of Mr. Macmillan's inability to leave the Mediterranean area, a delegation was dispatched from London headed by the Right Honourable Richard K. Law, and including the Honourable T. H. Brand, from the Ministry of Production; Mr. R. J. Stopford, Deputy Director for Civil Affairs in the War Office; and Mr. D. E. Coulson from the Relief Department of the Foreign Office. Assisted by the U.K. representatives already in Washington (including representatives of the British Ministry of War Transport and British Army Staff), the delegation immediately opened discussions with Mr. Harry Hopkins, representing the President; Mr. Stettinius, Secretary of State; Mr. Acheson and Mr. Clayton, Assistant Secretaries of State; Mr. McCloy, Assistant Secretary for War; Captain Conway of the War Shipping Administration; and representatives of the Navy and other interested Departments.

4. On December 17, Mr. Law outlined to Mr. Hopkins the purposes and objectives of his mission in the following language:

"His Majesty's Government in the U.K. believe it to be essential that the following points of principle should immediately be recognized and agreed by the U.S. and U.K. Governments:

A. Civil Affairs supplies requested by the Theatre Commanders (for distribution by the armies) and accepted by the Combined Civil Affairs Committee of the Combined Chiefs of Staff shall be given the same priority as other military supplies with respect both to procurement and shipping allocations.

B. The National Governments shall be recognized as entitled to prepare and themselves submit their own import programmes to the appropriate civilian supply and shipping authorities.

C. These programmes shall be entitled to favourable consideration for the following reasons:

(a) supplies additional to the civil affairs programme are essential for the maintenance of civilian economies and for the gradual restarting of industry without which unemployment and disorder are unavoidable;

(b) unless such supplies are forthcoming no National Government will be able to maintain its authority.

(c) unrest and instability in the countries concerned would have far-reaching and incalculable effects on the social fabric and political security of Europe, and might well gravely hamper military operations.

(d) the National Governments putting forward these programmes are fighting allies, who have placed at our disposal troops, ships, supplies and now industrial facilities and they are entitled to expect a proper share of the Allied pool of resources.