

This cannot be the job of any one nation, but must be the task of all nations who wish to serve humanity.

To bring about common action an agreement was drafted, and the draft was circulated by the United States government in its note of June 9 last. That note was printed in the *Votes and Proceedings* of this house of June 18, 1943. Representations were made to the government of the United States by various governments, with the result that the agreement was substantially changed in some particulars. It was signed by forty-four nations at the White House on November 9. At the signing President Roosevelt said:

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty per cent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and above all peace.

In a sense UNRRA constitutes an international community chest for a purpose which is urgent and limited. Once the agreement was signed, no time was lost in organizing the administration. The first meeting of the council was held at Atlantic City the day following the signing, when all forty-four nations were represented. During the next three weeks, from November 10 to December 1, the work of laying down lines of policy and organizing the administration was pressed forward in a spirit of cooperation reflecting the common desire of the participating nations to meet a great human need.

The result was that forty-one resolutions were unanimously adopted, laying down lines of policy and setting up the administration. Many of these resolutions make recommendations to the member governments. The purpose of the bill is to authorize the government to carry out such of the recommendations as are appropriate, and otherwise to implement the agreement and any resolutions of the council or committees of UNRRA. The moneys to be spent on UNRRA remain completely under the control of parliament, and this bill applies only for an appropriation of \$10,000,000 out of the war appropriation mutual aid bill for 1943.

No small part of the success of this meeting was due to the able chairmanship of the Hon. Dean Acheson, Assistant Under-Secretary of State of the United States. In his closing speech he said:

We have reached agreement upon a practicable programme, of defined scope, fully possible of achievement in action. A general purpose has been translated into a definite plan.

We have formulated for submission to the lawmaking bodies in our countries a workable plan for financing our programme—a plan, the fairness and practicability of which we believe will commend it to those in authority.

We have devised a procedure for ascertaining and meeting needs, which fits into the existing procedures for supplying the materials needed in the prosecution of the war and which assures fairness and expedition in the supply of liberated areas.

Finally, we have chosen the men to lead us in the continuing cooperation without which this work cannot succeed, and we have provided for an international organization to administer the policies laid down.

The first meeting of the council of UNRRA showed that forty-four nations could look at the problem of relief, not only as a European problem but as a world problem affecting every nation whether occupied or not. The results of the council showed that the united nations and associated powers could work together effectively without domination by the great powers and without obstruction by the small. It also showed that Canada had a definite contribution to make not only as one of the principal supplying nations in the world but also in the work of international organization. She received recognition by being made chairman of the very important committee on supplies and also a member of the regional committee for Europe.

As one of the members of the Canadian delegation, and as a member of the house I should like to pay a special tribute to a class of people we are often apt to forget in our discussions. I have in mind particularly the leader of the delegation, Mr. L. B. Pearson, who has a standing throughout the world today which would be hard to match in any country. As one moves around, and meets the representatives of all the nations, he finds that Canada has a reputation and a standing hard to equal. In no small measure that is due to the character and the capacity of the men in our Department of External Affairs—and in this connection I should like particularly to mention Mr. L. B. Pearson.

Since the Atlantic City meeting the executive has been organized under Governor Lehman, the director-general. It has its headquarters in Washington, but a considerable organization is already established in London under the deputy director general for Europe, Sir Frederick Leith Ross. A Canadian, Mr. Van Gelder, is deputy director general in charge of administration at Washington, and other Canadians are serving on the staff there.

It has already been announced that the second meeting of the council will be held at Montreal on the 23rd of June, and the Prime Minister expressed the feeling of all Canadians when he extended a most warm welcome to the administration.