

15. RELIEF NEEDS AFTER THE TERMINATION OF UNRRA

At the first part of the First Session of the General Assembly in 1946, a long discussion took place concerning the relief needs after the termination of UNRRA.¹ The existence of a continuing problem of international relief was accepted generally. After prolonged consideration, the Assembly in its resolution of December 11, 1946, called upon all Members of the United Nations to assist in meeting the need by developing their individual relief programmes with the greatest possible speed. In this resolution, which was adopted unanimously, it was recognized:

- (a) that certain countries would need financial assistance in 1947 to provide imports of food;
- (b) that such needs for assistance might not in all cases be entirely met by international agencies or by other public and private agencies available for this purpose;
- (c) that in some countries in which assistance was not provided there would be hunger, privation and suffering during the spring and summer of 1947;
- (d) that there was an urgent necessity for meeting this need and that Members of the United Nations had expressed willingness to do their part in attaining this end.

The resolution moreover explicitly reaffirmed the principle that "at no time should relief supplies be used as a political weapon and that no discrimination be used in the distribution of relief supplies because of race, creed or political belief".

In accordance with the provisions of this resolution the Secretary-General in the early part of 1947 convened a Special Technical Committee of Experts to study the minimum import requirements of the countries needing aid. The Committee reported relief needs as follows:

	(Millions of U.S. dollars)
Austria	\$143.5
Greece	84.3
Hungary	40.2
Italy	106.9
Poland	139.9
Yugoslavia	68.2

¹See *The United Nations 1946*, Department of External Affairs, Conference Series 1946, No. 3, p. 83.