

226. These proposals as they stand already imply a high degree of co-operation between the United Kingdom, its associated overseas territories, and the other participating countries. In the first place the United Kingdom is making a major contribution to the solution of the European economic problem as a whole by surmounting the United Kingdom dollar problem. Of the aid allocated for this year one-quarter is for the United Kingdom. By the operation of the policies indicated in this Programme the need for aid will entirely disappear and with it one-quarter of the total European problem. The production and export programmes of the United Kingdom, as outlined above, contemplate the supply of vital products—for example, oil, coal, agricultural and other machinery—in great quantities and, in some cases at least, at no small expense in dollar resources and in restrictions on the United Kingdom economy. From the participating countries, on the other hand, the foregoing plans presuppose increased imports of essentials, both raw materials and foodstuffs. The plans outlined here for reducing the United Kingdom dollar deficit to manageable dimensions are dependent upon the realisation of this changed pattern of imports from the participating countries.

227. It is the United Kingdom's hope that, in its examination of the programme presented in this document side by side with those of the other participating countries, the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation will find scope for developing joint plans in many particular sectors that will hasten still more the attainment of European recovery. The United Kingdom has already tabled with the O.E.E.C. a list of fields of activity for intensive study, leading, it is hoped, to early and profitable results. The examination of the national plans of the participating countries may point to dangers of wasteful duplication or opportunities for further expansion. Further types of co-operation among the Governments of overseas territories may suggest themselves. The scrutiny of the balance of payments estimates may indicate to each participating country types of output, the expansion of which would in the long run serve both to assist the difficult balance of intra-European trade and thereby the smooth working of a multilateral system of trade and payments. Studies of this kind will, it is hoped, lead the participating countries towards a joint programme that will provide the basis both of short and of long-term co-operation. Just as a long-term programme for a particular nation is needed to guide the preparation of its annual programme, so a joint strategy for European recovery is needed to guide the development of particular measures of co-operation.

228. In this programme much emphasis has been laid on the necessity for removing obstacles to increased production. In equal measure it is necessary to remove the barriers to increased trade. The United Kingdom has worked, and will continue to work for the reduction and elimination of these obstacles on a mutually advantageous basis and towards the goal of full convertibility of currencies and a freer flow of international trade.

229. The preparation and execution of a Joint Recovery Programme, in which full account is taken of these objectives, calls for a common effort in the whole field of administrative and productive endeavour unprecedented in its scope and urgency. The United Kingdom is prepared and anxious to make its full contribution to the success of this enterprise.