

*United Nations Agreement*

service abroad. They are to commence a course in the United States on May 1, and are, I understand, limited to welfare and social workers and others of that class. They are to come to UNRRA on the recommendation of such voluntary agencies as the Red Cross, and their salaries are to be paid by those agencies, while expenses of travel and maintenance will be paid by UNRRA. The position in regard to Canadians serving there is that as a result of the rather exceptional status of our voluntary agencies, most of which are in receipt of government aid, an arrangement has not been quite worked out as yet. I would suggest, however, that if any Canadians wish to serve abroad in that capacity, they should forward their applications now to the Department of National War Services, which can pass them on. In connection with administrative personnel, applications should be made to UNRRA headquarters at Washington, as I indicated last night.

Mr. COLDWELL: I was going to ask the parliamentary assistant, who was present at the conference, what consideration was given by the conference to the recommendations contained in the report of the interallied post-war requirements committee. He will probably remember that in its report this committee submitted a number of questions, six in all, which I have before me and which were sent to the various allied governments. The report to which I refer was presented last June; but it was not until last November, when the meeting to establish UNRRA was held, that this report was made available to the public. I should like to place the questions on record, because they have a vital bearing on what we are discussing, and since we are approving the UNRRA agreement attached to the bill I think we ought to understand what should be done, what is being done and what is our responsibility in the matter.

The first question was:

i. What arrangements are proposed for the procurement and distribution of supplies to meet requirements?

There we have a very important question, particularly in view of the dire need which exists in many countries. The other questions are:

ii. What arrangements are proposed in regard to the allocation of shipping?

iii. On what principles are supplies and shipping to be financed?

iv. What arrangements are contemplated for restoring and controlling the inland transport system of Europe?

v. On what basis are arrangements for field missions and essential services to be organized?

vi. Is the need for restoring employment recognized as an essential part of any relief programme?

[Mr. Claxton.]

It has appeared to me, while listening to the discussion to-day, and also after reading the agreement which has been signed—and this is what I had in mind this afternoon when I was speaking about the need for widening the scope of this agreement—that very little attention has been given to some matters arising from the questions, which seemed to worry the interallied war relief requirements committee, when it reported to the allied governments in June of last year. Its report went on to say:

The allied governments may consider that these questions can best be settled by the united nations relief and rehabilitation administration, if and when it has been set up—

And it has now been set up.

—but the committee feels bound to stress the importance of clearing up these issues as soon as possible, so that definite plans may be prepared by the appropriate authorities.

It seems to me that the defect in the agreement is that we do not know how these plans are to be formulated. The director general has certain responsibilities, as outlined in the document attached to this bill. But how those duties are to be carried out ought to be, I think, a matter of close scrutiny by the nations that are parties to the agreement.

As a matter of fact, so far as production goes I would say that no arrangements which can be made for the acquisition of stock and the piling up of supplies can meet this situation in the years to come. I do not think we shall be faced with the problem for two or three years. It is my view that the rehabilitation of these devastated and scorched-earth areas will require a very considerable time, and the rehabilitation of other backward countries, in the economic sense, will require a very much longer time.

So far as I know, all we have in the report of the meeting attended last November by the parliamentary assistant is a reference in section 4 of resolution 22. I believe he has the resolution before him tonight. One of the functions of the committee on supplies is there set out as follows:

To cooperate with the director general and the established intergovernmental and governmental agencies in efforts to increase production and the availability of supplies.

As I have indicated, some anxiety was shown on that score in the inter-allied post-war requirements committee. They were not satisfied, unless because of the possibility of world shortage some real effort were made, and unless nations like Canada, where we have had ample supplies during the war, and where we have been short of very little in the way of basic foods, would consent not only to a