

“General Hilldring. Yes, sir. If you will allow, sir, that it is going to depend more on the progress of the military operation than on any other one factor, and that there will be a considerable variation from any given number of days or months dependent upon the rapidity with which we move forward, I can say that for purposes of planning both on the Army side and on the civilian side we have taken a period of 6 months as being for planning purposes the time of military responsibility.

“If we were to get a sudden collapse in any particular quarter where there was not any hard fighting that period would be considerably reduced.”

“...it is the attitude of the War Department that its part in relief and rehabilitation is in the wake of battle; its responsibility arises from two fundamental requirements, one under international law, which visits upon the military commander a responsibility for the security of the civilian populations uncovered by the military operation; the other factor is directly operational in nature, and that is that civilian populations uncovered, and the administration of these populations, shall not be permitted to interfere with the military purposes of the operation. For those reasons we feel that there is a direct military necessity initially for the Army's having control of civil affairs. However, the instant there is no longer any military necessity for this civilian control the War Department feels that we should relinquish civil affairs, including relief and rehabilitation; and at that moment we feel there should be a civilian agency to which we can turn over relief and rehabilitation.”

General Hilldring went on to explain the nature of the Army relief programme. In doing so he very definitely played down the rehabilitation aspects of that programme. He said:

“With respect to the Army participation in relief and rehabilitation, it is a modest program. It has for its purpose the placing of the civilian populations in repose. The program consists of simple items, such as food, soap, drugs, and a little fuel, plus those items which we introduce to reduce the relief load. For example, in Italy, in addition to the items I have mentioned, we have introduced seed and fertilizer for the purpose of reducing the amount of flour that we will have to procure in this continent—that is, purchase and ship to Italy. That we call rehabilitation in the Army.”

(2) There have been no plans yet formulated regarding the general scope of UNRRA relief in enemy territories beyond paragraph 3, resolution 1, of the Council meeting at Atlantic City. I understand, however, that at the next meeting of the Council consideration will probably be given to enlarging the scope and nature of UNRRA work in enemy and ex-enemy areas.

The Army's attitude towards relief in enemy territories is, I think, sufficiently explained in the remarks by General Hilldring quoted above, and in which he makes no distinction between liberated areas and enemy areas.

(3) At the last meeting of the Committee on Supplies of UNRRA, a statement (which has been forwarded to Ottawa) was made by Mr. Acheson regarding plans for association of UNRRA with the Combined Civil Affairs Committee of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Among other things, it is hoped