

United Nations Agreement

(c) To study measures proposed by any member government for individual or joint action by any or all of the member governments and make recommendations on the basis of its experience in planning and performing the work of relief and rehabilitation.

The bill based on the resolution empowers the governor in council to do whatever may be proper and expedient for giving effect to the agreement. The agreement is limited to setting up the administration, and the operative action will be taken by the UNRRA council and its committees. It is, therefore, also provided in the bill that the governor in council may do whatever is proper and expedient to give effect to any resolutions of these bodies made in carrying out the provisions of the agreement.

The council, which is the policy-making body of the administration, consists of one representative from each member government. The central committee of the council consists of the representatives of China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, with the director general of the UNRRA presiding without vote. Between sessions of the council this committee may make policy decisions of an emergency nature.

Mention should be made of another committee of the council, the committee on supplies, which consists of the members of the council representing those member governments likely to be principal suppliers of materials for relief and rehabilitation. Canada is obviously one of these countries and when the committee on supplies met, the Canadian member was chosen as chairman. The Canadian member was Mr. L. B. Pearson, the Minister Counsellor at the embassy at Washington. This committee is of particular importance because of the provision that the central committee of council shall invite the participation of the representative serving as chairman of the Committee on Supplies of the Council, at those meetings at which policies affecting the provision of supplies are discussed.

Article V of the UNRRA agreement provided that, in so far as its appropriate constitutional bodies shall authorize, each member government will contribute to the support of the administration. At the first session of the council, which was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, from November 10 to December 1, 1943, it was recommended that each member government whose home territory has not been occupied by the enemy should make a contribution for participation in the work of the administration approximately equivalent to one per cent of the national income of the

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

country for the year ending June 30, 1943, as determined by the member government. It was further recommended that as much as possible, but not less than ten per cent, of the amount contributed by each member government should be in such form of currency as can be expended in areas outside of the contributing country; and that the balance thereof should be in the form of a credit in local currencies which should be available for the purchase of the contributing country's supplies and services.

When the Mutual Aid appropriations for 1944 are introduced provision will be made for the Canadian contribution to UNRRA. The present bill provides that interim expenditures, not exceeding \$10,000,000, incurred in carrying out the agreement may be defrayed out of moneys provided under the War Appropriation (United Nations Mutual Aid) Act, 1943. The purpose of this provision is to enable Canada to make a cash contribution at once for the administrative expenses of the organization in Washington, and to finance any orders for supplies that may be placed in Canada before next year's appropriation is voted.

It is particularly fitting that Canada should act promptly in this matter. Among the active belligerents Canada is one of the countries which have suffered the least material damage in the course of the war. The Canadian people, moreover, are well able to realize the enormous importance of relief and rehabilitation, not only from a humanitarian standpoint, but in order that the full fruits of victory may be garnered, and conditions established in which the constructive measures essential for the creation of a better world order can be undertaken.

I should add that the United States congress and the parliament of the United Kingdom have respectively approved of their countries contributing one per cent of national income for United Nations relief purposes. I believe what I have said covers what is essential for the committee to know in connection with the resolution and the bill to be based upon it. As I have mentioned, the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George, the parliamentary assistant to myself as president of the privy council, was an alternate representative at the meeting which was held at Atlantic City, and he is very familiar with all aspects of this important matter. During the course of the discussion he perhaps may wish to add something to what I have said.

Mr. GRAYDON: The interim expenditures not exceeding \$10,000,000 to carry out the agreement does not represent more than one per cent of the gross national income?