

United Nations Agreement

That is necessary in order to exercise control. At Atlantic City the council passed resolution No. 9 dealing with welfare services and volunteer relief agencies. I shall read section 2:

That it shall be the policy of the administration to enlist the cooperation and seek the participation of appropriate foreign voluntary relief agencies, to the extent that they can be effectively utilized in relief activities for which they have special competence and resources, subject to the consent and regulation of the director general in accordance with article IV, paragraph 2, of the agreement.

Therefore the resolution expressly directs the director general to utilize the cooperation and assistance of such agencies. I understand that committees have been set up in the United Kingdom and in the United States to coordinate the activities of such agencies.

Mr. REID: While I realize this agreement has been signed and nothing that we do or say can alter it, yet the members of the House of Commons have a duty to examine the bill closely and to obtain the fullest information possible before it becomes law. I should like to ask the parliamentary assistant a question based on article I. In that article I see no mention made of the statement which appears in the preamble. I presume that the nations signing the agreement would pay little attention to the preamble. After the agreement is signed and it comes into effect, the governor general in council, and the council of nations will look to the articles themselves in the carrying out of the agreement. They will not look at the preamble. This is what the preamble says:

Being determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area by the armed forces of the united nations or as a consequence of retreat of the enemy the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people—

That part of the preamble is carried out in article I, but the following portion of the preamble is left out. I can see no mention of it at all. To me it is very important. I shall read it to the committee:

—and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services.

It seems strange to me that although the preamble outlines the duties of the united nations, yet when it comes to the agreement itself that very important provision is left out. I think an explanation of that is due the committee.

[Mr. Claxton.]

The other matter I had in mind has to do with article IV, section 5. This is the section in which I am interested:

The director general—

Who, by the way, shall have the power to administer the agreement.

—shall make periodic reports to the central committee and to the council covering the progress of the administration's activities.

Then, Mr. Chairman, listen to this:

The reports shall be made public except for such portions as the central committee may consider it necessary, in the interests of the united nations, to keep confidential.

If there is one thing that has brought about great distress in Europe, it has been secrecy, and I thought we were heading into a new era when these reports would be open to the world, because surely there will be nothing to hide. Canada, however, is not a member of the central committee, and accordingly will have no say as to what parts of the reports should be kept confidential and what parts may be made public, and it seems strange that no protest has been made in regard to this section. I should like the hon. gentleman who is in charge of the bill first to answer the question I asked and then to give the reason why the director general should submit his reports to the central committee rather than to the council of nations.

Mr. CLAXTON: It is quite true that the words in the preamble to which the hon. gentleman made reference are not repeated in article I, but if the agreement is read as a whole I think it will be found that there are references throughout to services for the relief of victims of war and similar expressions which would be sufficient to carry over the expression in the preamble. I refer to section 2 of article I, which reads:

To plan, coordinate, administer or arrange for the administration of measures for the relief of victims of war in any area under the control of any of the united nations. . . .

Those who have been displaced from their homes are "victims of war".

Mr. REID: Through the provision of food only.

Mr. CLAXTON: Not only that; "through the provision of food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities, medical and other essential services". Therefore I would suggest that this form of words is sufficient to carry over from the preamble the language to which the hon. member has referred. In further explanation I may say that the resolutions adopted by the council at Atlantic City make