

meet the needs of relief in Italy until the end of December. He explained that it was hoped that the United Kingdom and Canada would also contribute to the cost of relief during this period.

Owing to the unwillingness of the Russian delegates to commit themselves before receiving an informal assurance from the major contributing countries that something would be done to extend free assistance to the USSR, definitive conclusions on other important topics could not be reached until the final meeting of the Council. The arrangement made with the Russians, to which of course no reference was made in the course of the UNRRA proceedings, was to the effect that the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada considered that the statements made by the Russian delegates concerning Russia's need for supplies and her inability to pay for them would justify those countries in taking the line in the Committee appointed under Resolution 23¹⁸⁶ that the Ukrainian and Byelo Russian Republics were eligible for free assistance in the amount of \$250,000,000. This assurance is being given in the form of a letter to which I have added my signature.¹⁸⁷

The result of this arrangement was that the agenda of the final meeting of the Council was dealt with rapidly. Korea and Formosa were recognised as areas in which UNRRA should operate. France and Canada were included in the membership of the Central Committee and the report of the Committee of Financial Control was adopted. The USSR was made a member of the Committee for the Council for the Far East and a resolution was adopted concerning the repatriation of displaced persons outside Europe and the Far East.

The USSR abstained from voting on a resolution produced by the Australian representative which would have enlarged the membership of the Central Committee by three, namely, Australia, Brazil and Yugoslavia, and the effect of this abstention was that the motion which altered the Constitution of UNRRA could not be carried. Mr. Bruce¹⁸⁸ expressed great indignation on the grounds that the Russians had given no notice of their intention to oppose it and had assigned no reasons for doing so. Later in the proceedings the Russians explained that they had given as their reason that no notice had been received for the meeting or of the intention of Australia to propose a motion of this importance. Mr. Bruce explained that Australia was not represented on the General Committee at which this statement of the USSR's position had been made. This closed the incident while removing misunderstandings and it was agreed that the proposal should come before the next session of the Council.

¹⁸⁶Voir George Woodbridge, et al., *UNRRA: The History of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration*. volume III, New York, Columbia University Press, 1950, p. 67. See George Woodbridge, et al., *UNRRA: The History of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration*. Volume III, New York, Columbia University Press, 1950, p. 67.

¹⁸⁷Sur les arrangements avec l'Union soviétique, voir les documents 1218 à 1221.

On the arrangements with the Soviet Union, see Documents 1218 to 1221.

¹⁸⁸Haut commissaire d'Australie en Grande-Bretagne; chef de la délégation de l'Australie. High Commissioner of Australia in Great Britain; Head, Delegation of Australia.