

*United Nations Agreement*

Mr. MacNICOL: May I ask one more? I had this question in my mind but I had forgotten the wording of it. Something was said this afternoon about the rehabilitation of industry in the various overrun countries. To rehabilitate an industrial plant would require the purchase of a large number of lines of machinery. Would that machinery be supplied under this legislation, and if so, how would the purchases be made? It would likely have to be purchased outside Europe with the exception of Sweden, Great Britain or Northern Ireland. It could be purchased there or in the United States or Canada.

Mr. CLAXTON: The rehabilitation of industries is dealt with by resolution No. 12 of the council. It is a very long resolution and perhaps I should not take up the time of the committee to read it. However, I shall say this: UNRRA does not undertake the job of reconstruction. It is established to do the immediate job of relief and rehabilitation in so far as that rehabilitation will enable the countries to help themselves to provide their own relief. When we come to purchases of machinery I can see that it would be very wise for the administration to assist in the repair of milling machinery in ports which will be bombed, so that instead of having to bring flour in sacks we can bring wheat in bulk and thereby bring about a very great saving. In those circumstances the administration would no doubt plan the repair of milling machinery; but when we get to the actual handling of that operation it must be remembered that UNRRA does not intend to take the place of any administration in any territory. Ordinarily it will deal through the government in that territory. We may assume that UNRRA will come into operation only after civil order has been restored, after which the military authorities would turn over the administration of relief to UNRRA. Therefore the taking over by UNRRA of the job of giving relief almost assumes that there will be a civil government in effective power there. That being so, UNRRA will deal with the civil government almost exclusively. It does not intend to set up a new civil service or bureaucracy or even distribution agencies everywhere throughout Europe and the far east. It will do only whatever is necessary in the existing circumstances, and as far as possible it will use the existing governmental and other agencies.

Mr. STIRLING: That leads me to a question I have wanted to ask. Can the parliamentary assistant outline the details of what he sees with regard to the future at the receiving end? I presume that when an

[Mr. Claxton.]

occupied country has been relieved from the thralldom of the enemy that country's government in exile will return and take charge and, as the hon. member has just said, it will be the authority to deal with the receiving end and the distribution. I wonder whether a considerable time will not elapse before UNRRA can do any distributing? I do not know whether UNRRA is in touch with governments in exile at the present time, but even those governments when they return to their own countries will surely take a considerable time to look around. However, estimating even roughly what the requirements will be for the restoration of the people both materially and spiritually, what does the parliamentary assistant expect UNRRA to do in that regard?

Mr. CLAXTON: The situation as I understand it is this: The interallied war relief requirements committee was set up in London in September, 1941, as I described this afternoon. That committee included representatives of, I think, eight of the occupied countries. They were in close touch with conditions in their own country, and over a period of two years they worked out estimates of the requirements of their countries as they saw them. Those estimates were carefully considered by the committee and embodied in the report of the interallied relief requirements committee, which was dated June 30, 1943. That report is no doubt being used by the regional committee for Europe and by the UNRRA administration at Washington in working out estimates of relief requirements.

We have a good deal of material to go on by reason of the experience in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. All that has been carefully watched. There is close cooperation between UNRRA officials and the combined civil affairs committee of the combined chiefs of staff. They work out the over-all requirements for Europe on the assumption that she is liberated as of a certain date. These requirements are submitted to the combined boards in order to ascertain whether and where the supplies are available. Now, all those estimates may be wrong. They may be made wrong by the enemy suddenly stopping, or they may be made wrong by the enemy bitterly resisting and pursuing a scorched-earth policy. They may vary, depending upon the time of year when a country is liberated, whether or not the harvest is in. But still they are the best estimates that can be worked out at the present time. On the basis of those estimates, constantly revised in the light of changed conditions, UNRRA is setting about procuring the supplies that will be necessary.