

The meetings were quite successful from the standpoint of putting across to the European countries represented the present position insofar as the member countries of the Combined Food Board find it. A special emphasis was placed upon the need of continuing co-operation in order to divide up the available supplies as equitably as possible, taking into account availability of shipping, etc.

I am also enclosing in duplicate a statement made by United Kingdom authorities on wartime agricultural marketing policy in the United Kingdom which was submitted to the allied governments present.[†]

At the conclusion of the conference the allied governments were asked to make a statement for the press covering the position in their respective countries. Unfortunately these statements were not ready by my departure time and therefore I was only able to make arrangements for Mr. Broadley to forward same as soon as possible by diplomatic bag. As soon as I have received them I will let you have copies.

Briefly the position indicated by the European countries present was as follows:

Netherlands

Fertilizers and feedingstuffs needed very badly. Pigs at present only 15% of prewar in total live weight. About two-thirds of the dairy cattle left—no beef cattle. Their biggest problem is to reverse the black market procedure which was considered patriotic during the time of occupation. Once they can get to the point where bread and potatoes can be de-rationed they believe that the morale of the people will be greatly improved. They are very much concerned with the problem of getting the indigenous production of the country into equitable distribution.

Czechoslovakia

No precise figures but indicated that it has not been possible to sow grain and plant potatoes this year, and that their livestock numbers were greatly reduced.

Belgium

Biggest problem fertilizers and feedingstuffs. Small farms, as you know, and again the difficulty of black marketing. In private conversation with them, I believe the position has very much improved in recent months. There is still need of food however.

Cattle population reduced from 2 million to 1.4 million, and dairy cattle reduced from 1.2 million to .8 million. Weight of animals and production capacity very much reduced. Pigs reduced from 1.5 million to .5 million; Sheep from 900,000 to 210,000.

They need 50,000 tons of feedingstuffs per month; fats position bad; sugar serious; cheese very bad.

Luxembourg