
RESOLUTION ON U.N.R.R.A.

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rapporteur: Mr. Eduardo del Portillo (Bolivia)

The General Assembly in its eleventh Plenary Meeting, held on 17 January 1946, referred to the Second Committee for consideration and report to the plenary meeting, the following draft resolution of the United Kingdom Delegation concerning the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), (Document A/C.2/2):

1. The second world war reduced a number of countries to a conditions of such economic and social distress that they are unable by their own unaided efforts to undertake the immense labour of restoration required to place their peoples on the road to recovery. Without some measure of recovery these countries are unable to contribute to the achievement of the purposes for which U.N.O. has now been established.
2. Foresseeing this situation, no less than forty-four nations signed, in Washington on 9 November 1943 an agreement establishing UNRRA and binding themselves to extensive efforts and sacrifices designed to bring relief and rehabilitation to those regions where they were most needed as soon as the progress of the war permitted. Further nations have since also signed.
3. In the past eighteen months UNRRA has succeeded in a remarkable degree in achieving this object, having furnished the first example of constructive co-operation, under a formal treaty engagement, of so many of the United Nations. At an impressively growing pace supplies and first-aid services

have reached those areas most in need, many thousands have been saved from starvation and disease, and the hope of a happier existence offered to countless others.

4. The culminating stage, now beginning, in UNRRA's great work, is clearly the most critical. The task of the liberating armies is done, and all those populations which need UNRRA's help can now be reached. In greater volume than ever before supplies and services must be provided if the essential aim is to be secured and if in turn UNO is to receive the effective collaboration of countries which, ravaged by the war, ardently desire to build a better world.

The General Assembly accordingly:-

(a) urges states signatory to the UNRRA Agreement with the least possible delay to contribute the further one per cent of their national income to UNRRA's funds as recommended in Council Resolution No.80 of August 1945;

(b) urges other peace-loving states who are not signatories to the UNRRA Agreement to join the Organization and thereby make their contributions to this great humanitarian task;

(c) instructs the Secretary-General to make arrangements with the Director-General of UNRRA whereby the General Assembly may be furnished with full periodic reports on the work of UNRRA and on the progress made towards economic recovery in the countries being assisted by UNRRA.

The Soviet Delegation presented an alternative redraft (Document A/C.2/4). In this redraft, the second sentence of the first paragraph of the United Kingdom Resolution was omitted, as it was considered by the Soviet Delegation that devastated nations would in any case do their best to support the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Soviet Delegation proposed a modification to paragraph (a) of the United Kingdom Resolution, replacing the words "urges states signatory to the UNRRA Agreement" by the words "urges states which were not occupied by the enemy and signed the UNRRA Agreement etc." The Soviet Delegation pointed out that this modification merely underlined an already accepted principle, since contributions were in fact received only from countries which had not been occupied by the enemy. Finally, the Soviet Delegation proposed to substitute the words "peace-loving states" in paragraph (b) of the United Kingdom Resolution by the words "United Nations".

The Delegate of the United States proposed that the last paragraph of the draft resolution of the United Kingdom be amended to read as follows:

"The General Assembly, in view of the understanding of the Council of UNRRA that the work of that organization will be completed in Europe by 31 December 1946 and in the Far East by March 1947, and hence impressed with the imperative urgency of all action to facilitate the work of UNRRA,

(a) urges, etc...."

In addition, the Delegate of the United States suggested that in paragraph 3 of the United Kingdom draft resolution the words "under a formal treaty engagement" be replaced by the words "under a formal agreement", since the organization had been set up by an agreement and not a treaty.

After consulting the Delegates of the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R. and Canada, the Delegate of the United States proposed the following alternative resolution which was designed to enlist the maximum support for UNRRA (Document A/C.2/10):

"The Committee on Economic and Financial Questions, impressed with the imperative urgency that action to facilitate the final stages of the work of UNRRA be taken at the earliest possible date in view of the understanding of the Council of UNRRA that the work of that organization will be completed in Europe by 31 December 1946 and in the Far East by March 1947,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the General Assembly establish a committee:
 - (a) to consult with states signatory to the UNRRA Agreement who have not made or arranged to make the further contributions to UNRRA recommended in Council Resolution No. 80 of August 1945, and to urge upon them that they make such contributions with the least possible delay; and
 - (b) to urge upon Members of the United Nations who are not signatories to the UNRRA Agreement to join that Organization and thereby to make their contributions to this great humanitarian task.
2. That the Secretary-General seek to make arrangements with the Director-General of UNRRA whereby the General Assembly may be furnished with full reports on the work of UNRRA and on the progress made towards economic rehabilitation in the countries being assisted by UNRRA.

After the introduction of the United States substitute resolution the draft resolution of the United Kingdom (Document A/C.2/2) was withdrawn.

Some Delegations favoured the retention of the words "peace-loving states" which figured in the original proposal of the United Kingdom, in order to enable such countries as Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal to contribute to the work of UNRRA. It was pointed out,

however, that the United States resolution proposed to set up a committee of the General Assembly, and that it would be inappropriate for that committee to approach governments not Members of the United Nations. Moreover, it was emphasized that the UNRRA Agreement made it possible for other peace-loving states to apply for membership if they wished to do so.

Several Delegations stressed the heavy obligations and the present economic difficulties of their countries, which prevented them from guaranteeing that their governments would be able to make an additional contribution in line with the UNRRA Council Resolution No. 80 (Document A/C.2/12). However, it was emphasized that the United States resolution did not formally obligate governments to make the contribution requested; it merely asked that each contribute what it could. In this connection reference was made to Section 4 of the UNRRA Council Resolution No. 14. (Document A/C.2/12), stating that the Council recognizes that there are cases in which the recommendation for a contribution approximately equivalent to one per cent "may conflict with particular demands arising from the continuance of the war or may be excessively burdensome because of peculiar situations, and therefore recognizes that the amount and character of the contribution recommended is subject to such conditions."

In the course of the discussion, high tribute was paid to the splendid work of UNRRA which had done so much to alleviate distress in the devastated countries.

The Committee adopted by acclamation the resolution proposed by the United States, (Document A/C.2/10).

It was then agreed that the proposed committee consist of the six members of the Central Committee of UNRRA, Canada, China, France, USSR, United Kingdom and the United States, together with the Dominican Republic and New Zealand as contributing countries and

Greece, Poland and Norway as representatives of beneficiary countries. It was suggested that in view of the urgent necessity of facilitating the final stages of the work of UNRRA, the proposed committee begin its work as speedily as possible.

I have the honour therefore, on behalf of the Second Committee, to propose that the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, impressed with the imperative urgency that action to facilitate the final stages of the work of UNRRA be taken at the earliest possible date in view of the understanding of the Council of UNRRA that the work of that organization will be completed in Europe by 31 December 1946, and in the Far East by March 1947,

1. Establishes a Committee.

(a) to consult with states signatory to the UNRRA Agreement who have not made or arranged to make the further contributions to UNRRA recommended in Council Resolution No. 80 of August 1945, and to urge upon them that they make such contributions with the least possible delay; and

(b) to urge upon Members of the United Nations who are not signatories to the UNRRA Agreement to join that organization and thereby to make their contributions to this great humanitarian task.

2. Appoints as members of this committee the representatives of the following countries: Canada, China, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, and instructs the committee to begin its work as soon as possible.

3. Instructs the Secretary-General to seek to make arrangements with the Director-General of UNRRA whereby the General Assembly may be furnished with full reports on the work of UNRRA and on the progress made towards economic rehabilitation in the countries being assisted by UNRRA.
