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RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

Report of the Agent General of the
United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency

1. The United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency was established by the General Assembly Resolution 410 (V) of 1 December 1950, and placed under the direction of a United Nations Agent General responsible to the General Assembly.
2. The Agent General was directed to conduct a programme of relief and rehabilitation in Korea as determined from time to time by the General Assembly, and to commence operations at a time to be agreed upon with the United Nations Unified Command and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. The resolution also prescribed that the Agent General should be guided, as regards the authorities in Korea with whom he might maintain relations and the areas in Korea in which he might operate, by the advice of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.
3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly approved a statement of general policy on relief and rehabilitation in Korea, establishing broad terms of reference for the Agency's activities.
4. On 22 February 1951, UNCURK advised the Agent General that he might enter into relations with the Government of the Republic of Korea and with the United Nations Command.
5. On 16 July 1951, an agreement was reached between the Agent General and the

United Nations Unified Command stipulating that UNKRA's activity would be carried out as follows:

I. During the current phase before military security has been established, UNKRA operations will be confined to:

- (a) technical assistance to the Government of the Republic of Korea;
- (b) aid to the Civil Assistance Command of the United Nations Command, which continues to be responsible for all relief and short-term economic aid programmes;
- (c) implementation of any long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction projects which will not interfere with military requirements; and
- (d) the development of long-range reconstruction and rehabilitation plans and programmes.

II. During the second phase, which will be at a time to be agreed upon between the Agent General, the United Nations Command and UNCUREK, UNKRA will be responsible for all aspects of the programme.

6. This agreement was endorsed formally by UNCUREK on 27 July 1951. At the same time, the Commission formally approved the area of the Republic of Korea as the appropriate one for UNKRA operations.

7. Thus, the Agency's operational status is limited by military requirements, and these limitations will persist while the war continues.

8. During this phase, it has been necessary to adjust the UNKRA programming to the over-riding military needs, and to initiate only those projects which can be accommodated within a heavily burdened supply line.

9. Nevertheless, the Agency has established headquarters in Pusan, where some forty-five staff members were actually at work when the present report was written. Recruitment is proceeding as rapidly as staff accommodations can be found.

10. The Agency has already embarked upon a number of technical assistance projects aimed at assisting the Government of the Republic of Korea in a number of fields, including public finance, mining, agriculture, fisheries, shipping, public health, education, vocational training and medical rehabilitation. The list is constantly being expanded in response to requests from the Government and in the light of emergent requirements. The Agent General has been assisted, in recruitment for these specialist posts, by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and by the specialized agencies, a number of which have seconded staff members to UNKRA.

11. As rapidly as sites can be procured, the Agency is opening demonstration vocational training and medical rehabilitation centres designed to train Korean personnel in these areas, so that the trained personnel may establish and operate a number of such centres themselves. Shortage of skilled Korean workers is a major obstacle to effective reconstruction.

12. Since the outbreak of hostilities, the United Nations, with the assistance of the specialized agencies, has contributed approximately fifty specialists to the relief programme conducted by the United Nations Civil Assistance Command, in the fields of health, welfare, engineering, sanitation and labour.

13. UNKRA is currently undertaking the recruitment of the civilian staffs and replacements assigned to the United Nations Civil Assistance Command and stands ready to assist that Command in all feasible ways in carrying out its civilian relief responsibilities.

14. The Agent General is also discussing with the military authorities a number of large-scale reconstruction projects which it may be possible to undertake even under prevailing military conditions. His object is to do as much as he can as quickly as he can, for the need is enormous and the urgency

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compelling. In the meantime, he is attempting to develop his plans and to build up his staff in a manner which will enable him to gear into and to supplement the relief and short-term economic aid programmes of the United Nations Command and to be in a position to assume these responsibilities without disruption when the military situation permits.

15. The Agency is proceeding to develop long-range plans, and has arrived at what must necessarily be a tentative over-all programme for the first year of full-scale operations. That programme accords top priority to meeting the basic needs of the Korean people in terms of food, clothing, shelter and medical supplies. But it also provides, if the full proposed budget of the Agency is subscribed by governments, for a substantial start towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Korean economy.

16. For example, tentative first year allocations would permit the restoration of an estimated 53 per cent of war damage to electric power and public utility installations; of 40 per cent of that to agriculture and forests; of 44 per cent of that to fisheries; of 48 per cent of that to transportation and communications; and of 18 per cent of that to industry and mines.

17. Priority in reconstruction under the first year programme will be accorded to those phases of the economy which will most speedily hasten restoration of over-all productivity and which will have the least inflationary effect.

18. In view of the extent of the war damage and the magnitude of Korean requirements, the budget for the first year of UNKRA operations was estimated at \$250,000,000. The General Assembly resolution establishing the Agency also appointed a Negotiating Committee with representatives from seven Member States for the purpose of consulting Member and non-member States as to the amounts their governments would be willing to contribute to the programme. At the

time of writing the present report, \$205,000,000 had been pledged to UNKRA by a total of twenty-two governments.

19. It is clear, in view of the nearly unparalleled destruction suffered by Korea, that substantial additional contributions will be required.

20. It is clear also that Korean reconstruction represents a challenge and an opportunity for achievement unequalled in the history of international co-operation. To meet this challenge effectively will require the sustained and unstinting support of governments, specialized agencies, voluntary societies and individuals dedicated to the United Nations cause.
