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SUB-COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

Statement on the Constitution of UNRRA
Submitted by the Representative of UNRRA

The Agreement of 9 November 1943 which created the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration established a Council consisting of one representative of each member government, and laid down that the Council was to be the policy-making body of the Administration. The Agreement provides that this Council originally consisting of four members but subsequently increased to nine, the function of which is to make policy decisions of an emergency nature between sessions of the Council. Any such policy decisions by the Central Committee are subject to review by the Council itself. No special times of meeting are prescribed for the Central Committee, but in practice it usually meets about once a month.

These two are the policy-making bodies of UNRRA, since its constitution draws a sharp distinction between what may be called the legislative and executive aspects of its work.

The Agreement specifically provides that the executive authority of UNRRA shall be in the Director-General who shall have full power and authority for carrying out the relief operations contemplated by the Agreement, within the limits of available resources and the broad policies determined by the Council or its Central Committee.

The Agreement also establishes, or provides for the establishment of various other committees, all of which are, however, advisory

in character; some are to advise the Council itself and others to advise the Director-General. The relationship between these committees and the Director-General is in every case that the Committee is established to advise the Director-General but not to exercise control over his operations, since the responsibility for executive action is placed on the Director-General himself, subject, of course, to the policies laid down by the Council.

The operations of the Administration as conducted by the Director-General are, of course, subject to review by the Council or the Central Committee, which may, when it thinks fit, direct a change in policy or an alteration in the conduct of operations.

So far as financial arrangements are concerned, the Director-General is required to submit to the Council an annual administrative budget which is subject to the approval of the Council. In practice, the Council acts with the advice of its Committee on Financial Control, in which the detailed discussion of the administrative budget takes place. With regard to operating expenses, these are met by the contribution from member governments made in accordance with the recommendations of the Council, which has recommended that two operating contributions should be made by each of the contributing governments. The expenditure of these funds is entrusted to the Director-General in accordance with the broad policies laid down by the Council. Under the Council resolution recommending a second operating contribution from each contributing government, it is, in addition, provided that the funds thus made available shall be used by the Director-General in accordance with "broad programmes of operations" as approved by the Central Committee. Under this provision, the Director-General has submitted to the Central Committee for its approval broad programmes which have allocated the available funds

between the various recipient countries and the other operations conducted by the Administration.

The Agreement itself and the various Resolutions of the Council require the Director-General to obtain the consent of the military authorities in control of any area to the operations which he proposes to undertake and of the government of any member country in whose territory he proposes to operate. In effect, the Administration's operations are thus to be conducted with the agreement of the governmental authorities in the areas in which they are being carried out and, in pursuance of this direction, the Director-General has entered into agreements with the governments or military authorities in all the areas in which the Administration is operating.
