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26 September 1945

Mr. George S. Mooney
Executive Secretary
European Regional Office
UNRRA
11 Portland Place
London W. 1, England

Attention: Miss Olwen Vaughan, Film Officer

Dear Olwen:

Katie showed me your note and her club card from you and they made me very nostalgic for London. I am enclosing a clipping announcing the Press Club show for UNRRA, and I'll let you know later how it comes off.

Bill Morrell, Bill Phillips, Morse Salisbury and Katie are all back and things here are buzzing. The UNRRA REPORT was shown in New York last week at a big luncheon of people from all over the U. S. who headed the Used Clothing drive. Morse was there and reported a very good reception and a number of requests for it. I am having some 16 mm. prints made to tide us over until we can get 16 mm. prints of the theatrical short Pathe is going to make for us, using that material and other footage—including, I hope, the film on the mules which has not yet arrived.

Incidentally, you may be interested to know that the 16 mm. film IN THE WAKE OF THE ARMIES—UNRRA, which we have been distributing in the U. S. through film libraries since June 1, has now been seen by more than two and a half million people and is still going strong. This is all on request since there are no controlled film circuits here. The MOI may be encouraged by this fact to try an UNRRA film of their own for Britain, which will be more up to date than the NFB picture.

John Grierson will be here this weekend, and I hope to learn from him more specific details of his film plans.

Nick's dope sheets, coming in from Greece, show fascinating material. Have you been able to screen any of it in London? If processing it there means a real delay, you might suggest to Jo Golightly that they ship it through as is since time is important.

Miss Olwen Vaughan

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26 September 1945

March of Time tells me their D. P. film will be released in December or January (probably the latter).

Has MOI sent a crew to Yugoslavia yet? Thanks for the Calder-Marshall material. We are reprinting much of it for circulation in the U. S.

"The True Glory" has been received with tremendous acclaim by the critics, and audiences are enthusiastic.

Let me know how the French venture works out. As you know, we are very interested in bringing them actively into the UNRRA picture along with Britain, the U. S., Canada, and Italy.

Give my love to Vivi and Joe and remember me to all my London friends—with a special memory for you.

As ever,

William H. Wells
Chief, Visual Media Branch
Office of Public Information

Enclosure - clipping

WHWells:md



UNRESTRICTED

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
JUGOSLAV MISSION
BELGRADE

W 24/12

2 August 1945.

TO: R ✓ Morse Salisbury, Director of Public Information
UNRRA Washington

H.R. Cummings, Director of Public Information
UNRRA London

Cullen, UNRRA Clearing Office Rome


FROM: Leo Fuller, Acting Director
Office of Public Information
UNRRA Belgrade

SUBJECT: Transmitting Feature, Yugoslav Ports

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The attached feature story by David Leff is being transmitted herewith. Included are 23 photographs of UNRRA goods being discharged at the port of Sibenik. These are without negatives, and are all consigned to Washington.

Also enclosed are 4 photographs with negatives, showing UNRRA goods discharging at Split. These are also consigned to Washington. However, it is left to the discretion of the UNRRA Rome Clearing Office to use any of these photographs before forwarding them.


LEO FULLER

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Encls.



URRCD

UNRRA Yugoslav Mission
Office of Public Information
David N. Leff

Belgrade
1 August 1945

JUGOSLAV PORTS

Jugoslavia's ports are now officially rated as capable of receiving 145,000 tons per month of relief and rehabilitation supplies. UNRRA and Allied shipping authorities have adopted this figure on the basis of recent dramatic improvement in the port-working performances at Dubrovnik, Split, Sibenik and Trieste, where UNRRA ships are now discharging.

When goods were piling up on the docks at Split, Sibenik and Dubrovnik last month, the working of these three Dalmatian ports was placed under a Yugoslav Army officer, Col. Ivanovic, who quickly broke the bottleneck. By mobilizing peasants, townspeople and POW's, congestion in the port areas was cleared up in a few days, and off-loadings from ships sharply speeded up. The newly-mobilized manpower (and woman power) was organized into teams which compete with regular stevedors to unload small ships in record time.

Reports from UNRRA representatives on the Adriatic coast describe the extraordinary speed with which the food-laden liberty ships are now unloaded. The S.S. TAYLOR WALKER recently discharged 2,000 tons of wheat in a single day at Split - an all-time record for the port and for the ship. At Sibenik, the GEORGE M COHAN put ashore 8,000 tons in 7 1/2 hours. Sibenik is a small port, totally lacking in power cranes and other cargo-handling facilities. However, Sibenik's townspeople turned out and joined the regular dockworkers at the task of moving food from the quay. Ships at Sibenik discharge part of their cargo directly into small boats which carry food to the inhabitants of nearby Dalmatian islands and to the small coastal ports serving the "Lika" - a region of Yugoslavia that has been terribly ravaged. People in Lika are still eating roots and berries. Last week a small schooner arrived late at night at the Lika port of Senj. Boys and girls of the local Youth Group took off its 25 tons of wheat in half an hour.

When UNRRA relief goods first began to arrive on the Dalmatian coast early last spring, only the small, bombed and wreck-strewn ports of Split and Dubrovnik were open. Most able-bodied men were still in the fighting army. The stevedores¹⁰⁰⁰ assembled to unload the first relief ships last February were weakened by hunger and could only work a few hours a day. Now the Dalmatian ports clear an UNRRA liberty ship at the rate of 1,000 tons a day, and are asking for more ships.

On July 8, the UNRRA food ship JESSE BILLINGSLEY docked at Trieste with 6,000 tons of grain for Yugoslavia. It was the first civilian vessel to enter Trieste since the end of the war. Two hundred Yugoslav railway cars were rushed to Trieste, and the BILLINGSLEY off-loaded in $4\frac{1}{2}$ days flat. British and American shipping authorities have now agreed to assign 45,000 tons per month of UNRRA relief and rehabilitation goods to Trieste - 1,500 tons a day - and Allied Military Government in Trieste promises still more, if the Yugoslav authorities can handle more.

Thus the first bottleneck in supplying UNRRA relief to Yugoslavia - limited port capacity - has been broken. This feat was accomplished by the day-to-day collaboration of the Yugoslav government, UNRRA, the U.S. War Shipping Administration, the British Ministry of War Transport, AMG-Trieste and the men and women who unloaded the ships.

Now that Yugoslavia can take as many ships as UNRRA can send, the second obstacle to feeding the 7,000,000 people of Yugoslavia's famine area must be solved - lack of motor trucks. Patched-up schooners, battered railroads and donkeys do their bit toward distributing food inland, but they are pitifully few, badly damaged, and hardly penetrate the starving hinterland. In the areas where modern transport cannot penetrate, and where war and occupation have killed off all the animals, the people themselves trek to the ports and carry home the food on their backs - sometimes as far as 100 kilometres (65 miles). To pile up enough food in the high mountain valleys to carry the inhabitants through a winter which begins in September and thaws out in May, thousands of motor trucks are needed.

UNRRA transport engineers have estimated that 8,000 vehicles, of 2½ - tons average capacity, can do this job - if they arrive before the snow falls. Since February some 1,500 trucks of all sizes (but mostly 1½ - tonners) have landed in Jugoslavia, and UNRRA has managed to acquire another 1,700 for delivery in the next few months, plus a promise of 1,500 from the armies in Italy. This makes a grand total of 4,700 - just over half the immediate minimum requirements. Unless enough trucks arrive at Yugoslav ports to create local stock piles by the end of September, says Miss Doreen Warriner, UNRRA food specialist, many thousands of people in Lika, Dalmatia, Bosnia - Hercegovina and Montenegro, may literally starve through their first postwar winter.

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Yugoslav Mission



TO: Director General,
UNRRA HQ
Washington

FROM: N.J. Klugmann
Special Assistant to Chief of Mission
Belgrade.

Attached are copies of two reports by Mr David N. Leff
of the UNRRA Field Mission in Montenegro, for courtesy of trans-
mission to the Public Information Division.

The reports cover -

- (a) The position in the srezes of KOLASIN,
ANDRIJEVICA and BERANE
- (b) Distribution of seed wheat to Eastern
Montenegro.

NJK Klugmann

NJK/bz

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12 May 1945.

Report by David M. LEFF, covering

DISTRIBUTION OF SEED WHEAT TO EASTERN MONTENEGRO.

The three srezes of KOLASIN, ANDRIJEVICA and BERANE are situated to the east of the rivers Moratcha and Zeta. Their present combined population is about 80,000. German forces withdrawing through Yugoslavia in autumn, 1944, destroyed all the bridges over the Zeta and Moratcha, thus totally isolating these three srezes from the rest of Montenegro. The road link to PEC in South Serbia remains passable except in winter, but as UNRRA supplies are not yet coming in through SALONIKA, this is of slight value.

Since UNRRA representatives first came to Montenegro in mid-March, officials of the government at CETINJE (then known as "CASNO" but since reorganised as "CNV" - "Crnogorska Narodna Vlada") have expressed repeated concern over the problem of bringing UNRRA supplies to these three srezes. When the two neighbouring Sanjak srezes of PLJEVLJA and BIJELOPOLJE were merged into the Montenegrin State in late March, the population and the problem beyond the broken bridges both doubled, and a third blown bridge, across the Tara River near MOJKOVAC, had to be reckoned with.

The warehouse at PODGORICA was designated as distribution centre for the eastern srezes, and allocations arrived all during March and April. By the end of April, 293.3 tons of seed and food for the three srezes were stored in the warehouse, now almost full.

Meanwhile a unit of Partisan army engineers had spanned the Zeta near PODGORICA with a pontoon bridge and had strung a cable over the Moratcha at BIOCE. Rigged to the cable was a box on a trolley which could carry about a quarter of a ton and which was pulled across the 80-meter canyon by manpower. The army used this device to bring grain into western Montenegro from South Serbia.

April is wheat-planting time in eastern Montenegro; in certain high-altitude sections, it continues into early May. As soon as the pontoon bridge and cable-trolley system was operating, srez officials began using it to bring seed wheat from the PODGORICA warehouse into the three isolated srezes. During the last week in April they brought in 34½ tons of seed in this manner out of the 49½ tons on hand, and about 10 tons of food out of 242 in the warehouse. These shipments were brought by JS army trucks returning empty to S. Serbia via the pontoon bridge and cable trolley, which I visited on 25 April, 1945.

Two days previously, in CETINJE, the Minister of Agriculture for Montenegro had approached us on the urgent need for getting seed wheat into the back srezes before the end of planting time. We had advised him to communicate through Montenegro's port representative with Mr Segadin of JSCML for the purpose of securing ten trucks to make a special round-about trip through Albania to the far side of the cable trolley in order to pick up and distribute the seeds. At this time I had not yet visited BIOCE and was unaware that the srez officials of KOLASIN, ANDRIJEVICA and BERANE had already commenced to solve the problem themselves with the aid (however scanty) of a few JS army trucks.

The agricultural commissioner, Mr Cetkovic, at once dispatched a telegram to the Montenegro port rep to arrange a trans-Albania convoy, and Mr Ross supported this recommendation by telephone to UNRRA personnel in Dubrovnik.

On 25 April I returned to CETINJE from the BIOCE cable-trolley "bridgehead" and learned that the Albania convoy had been approved, and would pass through BUDVA the following day. Accordingly I arranged to accompany the convoy for the PR as well as the distn angle, and secured a pass from the commissioner of agriculture to proceed to eastern Montenegro via Albania and S. Serbia. I proceeded to BUDVA on 26 April to pick up the convoy. The assistant commissioner of agriculture has already reached BUDVA for the same purpose. He had been assigned to assume charge of the convoy and superintend pick-up and delivery of the seeds.

The convoy was delayed a day and on the morning of 27 April the asst com. relayed a message to me from his chief to return to

CETINJE, and instead of accompanying the convoy, rather meet it as it arrived at BIOCE. Back in CETINJE the commissioners of agriculture and internal affairs both explained with much courtesy and some embarrassment that the issuance of a pass to a non-Yugoslav for transit through Albania had been premature and that it was not diplomatically feasible.

While we waited in CETINJE for the convoy to make its circuit and arrive at BIOCE, the Food Commissioner informed us that the PODGORICA warehouse was to be cleared immediately by reallocating the remaining 243 tons of food to PODGORICA and DANILOVGRAD srezes in the ratio of 2:1. On our way through PODGORICA on 5 May we noted that the first 2/3 had already been distributed and the remainder would soon be.

I crossed the cable-trolley at BIOCE on 5 May and met the asst. agric. com. who informed me that the ten trucks had left DUBROVNIK on 27 April with a cargo of Red Cross supplies for the army in S. Serbia. The trip through Albania had been longer and more difficult than anticipated. Five trucks had actually pushed through to BIOCE; the other five waited in ANDRIJEVICA until enough seeds had been delivered at BIOCE to warrant their services.

The five trucks arrived at BIOCE late afternoon of 4 May; they were loaded with ten tons of seed by evening of the next day and set out for KOLASIN early on the morning of 6 May. The trip took about 3½ hours; to ANDRIJEVICA from BIOCE is about 6½ hours; to BERANE about 7.

From KOLASIN the seeds were distributed to the various opstine by donkey or human transport, and distribution was accomplished with fair rapidity.

After unloading at KOLASIN, the five trucks returned on 7 May to ANDRIJEVICA to pick up a load of S. Serbian grain destined partly for the army and partly for the people on the other side of the trolley (i.e. the west side) and then proceeded back to BIOCE on 9 May in the morning.

Meanwhile five trucks from DUBROVNIK had come direct to BIOCE, west bank, with additional seed wheat over and above what was in the PODGORICA warehouse. Another convoy from DUBROVNIK was to follow with 20 tons of seeds for PLJEVLJA and BIJELOPOLJE. It is hoped that the bridge across the Tara at MOJKOVAC linking KOLASIN with BIJELOPOLJE will be ready in four weeks; meanwhile seeds will be trucked up to MOJKOVAC and distributed beyond by human and donkey.

After completing the seed distn job, the ten trucks expect to remain across the trolley, JSCML permitting, until a bridge is completed across the Moratcha to replace the trolley. Optimists expect this will be finished in about three weeks.

The next priority after seeds is salt - for stock as well as human consumption. If JSCML would allocate a few trucks to the ULCINJ-BIOCE run, the ten on the other side of the river could distribute salt.

Certain general conclusions, or rather impressions, regarding the trans-Albania convoy are as follows:

1. The emergency seed distn which was the dramatic raison d'etre for the convoy, was being quietly accomplished with local and army resources. Either this fact was not known to the Commissioner of Agriculture, or he wished to assure the future of the wheat crop by an additional drastic measure.

2. It is certainly well worth while to have ten new trucks operating on the far side of the Moratcha until the bridge is finished.

3. It is not clear to me why it was necessary to go through Albania with Red Cross army supplies for Serbia and then pick up the seeds across the trolley. It would have been easier to bring the seeds direct from DUBROVNIK or PODGORICA through Albania to the three srezes. However I have no answer to this question.

4. Truck movement coordination is only reasonably efficient. e.g. when the five arrived at BIOCE (east bank) the seed wheat had not yet been swung across the trolley, and a day's wait resulted. Poor communications are doubtless responsible for much of this.

5. Truck driving and maintenance is at a very low standard, which will probably wear out or wreck vehicles in a short time. Of the ten vehicles which went through Albania, from two to four were off the road at various times for repairs, which were usually carried out by five to eight volunteer "mechanics" simultaneously and independently.

6. The trans-Albania route is not practical for regular freight movements.

7. Nails, clamps, and heavy wood-working tools should be supplied quickly to aid in the building of timber bridges.

12 May 1945

Report by David N. Leff, covering

THE POSITION IN THE SREZES OF KOLASIN, ANDRIJEVICA and BERANE.

INTRODUCTION: This distribution report covers the three srezes of Kolasin, Andrijevica and Berane, which have been previously reported as the area lying back of the broken bridges of Podgorica, and ~~thex~~ hitherto inaccessible to UNRRA relief. The emergency method used to bring seed wheat to this region during the planting season is separately described in a Special Report also dated 12 May 1945.

The region is one of large timber-covered mountains, rolling meadowlands and comparatively rich farm land. Its principal products were lumber, livestock and fruit.

Combined population of the three srezes is about 80,000 persons now in the area. To this should be added large numbers of soldiers and refugees who will presumably return later. Population as follows:

KOLASIN	-	16,000
ANDRIJEVICA		27,527
BERANE	-	35,000

WAREHOUSING: KOLASIN has a good two-room warehouse with wood floors and secure protection. One room is 6x12x4 metres; the other 8x8x4. From this point seed wheat was collected by representatives of the eight opstine usually by donkey or human labor. Rate of collection was rapid, considering transport media employed.

The warehouses at ANDRIJEVICA was reported to be small but adequate, as the need of the srez was so great that goods would not remain long in transit.

In the town of BERANE, whose population of 3000 is three times that of KOLASIN town and six times that of ANDRIJEVICA, ample warehousing structures are reported.

ACCOUNTING: Forms B and C are being discontinued. Local bookkeeping systems appear properly and conscientiously kept, though with a natural lack of uniformity.

ALLOCATIONS: According to the present allocation table for Montenegro's eleven srezes (excluding Plevlja and Bijelopolje recently acquired) KOLASIN, ANDRIJEVICA and BERANE are to receive 25% of the Montenegro total. As their population is computed at 25.4% of the total, this implies that the three srezes are considered as average in their requirements, neither abnormally deficient, as is CETINJE srez, nor better-than-average, like BAR srez.

Accordingly, since the beginning of UNRRA/ML shipments, quantities of food and seed have been delivered to PODGORICA warehouse, which was designed to serve as distribution centre for the three srezes. However, because of the bridges, there was no access to the three srezes, and the stores lay idle. At the beginning of this month, May, Montenegro's food commissioner ordered that food supplies in Podgorica warehouse awaiting delivery to KOLASIN, ANDRIJEVICA and BERANE should be reallocated; two-thirds to PODGORICA srez and one-third to DANILO-GRAD srez. Thus the warehouse, which on 26 April was full to extreme capacity is now empty again.

Meanwhile, seed wheat is being shipped into the area of the three srezes direct from Dubrovnik, as described in the special report. A new allocation of 20 tons of seed wheat for the two new srezes of PLEVLJA and BIJELOPOLJE will also be delivered via KOLASIN in the next few days.

DISTRIBUTION: At KOLASIN, the agricultural commissioner estimated that 150 kgs of seed wheat would be required to sow one hectare, and that the srez contained 50 hectares of land suitable for wheat. This suggests a need for 7500 kgs; up to May 6, 3300 kgs had been received and were being distributed according to the land holdings of individual farmers, and their economic condition. At ANDRIJEVICA, 18,000 kgs of seeds had been received, and were all distributed, each family receiving from 5 to 10 kilos. BERANE received 4695 kgs of seed wheat and 300 of carrot seed.

In addition to seeds, KOLASIN managed to bring in 14 cases of M&V and two sacks of sugar from the Podgorica warehouse. The M&V was distributed among opstina whose livestock had been hardest hit, to supplement their meat diet. Only after the distribution was accomplished was a can opened. The discovery that there was more vegetable than meat content up-set the basis on which the food was distributed. As for the two sacks of sugar - the first seen in those parts in four years - it was being dispensed only on medical prescription to sick people. However it is to be noted that doughnuts and beverages served by the srezki odbor mess were heavily sugared.

At BERANE, 140 cases of M&V were brought from Podgorica warehouse. Unlike KOLASIN srez, which attempted to distribute even 14 cases to the population at large, BERANE is holding the 140 cases as a reserve for the use of the hospital, the schools, and the odbor, preferring to delay a general distn until larger and more wieldy quantities are available. About 1200 students attend the schools but only 400 of the poorest will receive M&V.

It should be noted that as soon as a makeshift device for bringing limited quantities of goods into the isolated area back of the broken bridges had been obtained, the first shipment was not of food but of seeds. This implies (1) the food shortage is not as desperate here as elsewhere; (2) the importance of next year's crop is appreciated.

INDIGENOUS SUP:

1. Market Prices: The market in KOLASIN was observed on 7 May. Quantity and quality of all goods offered were low. However it was predominantly a money market, with all prices quoted in the new federal dinar, valued at 3 1/3 lire.

Olive oil	-	150	dinars kg	- only 2 kgs offered in mkt.
Milk	-	13	"	
Beans	-	15	"	- bought in PEC, 80 kms away @ 7 din
Onions	-	36	"	
Small nails	-	10	" dek.	
Pencils	-	10	" ea.	
Needles	-	1	" ea.	

At BERANE was reported an even more striking example of the effect on living of the disruption of transport. Corn was for sale (in small quantities) at 30 dinars per kilo, while at PEC, 80 kms over the mountains in Serbia, corn is quoted at 3 dinars.

2. Other Food Sources: There is a steady flow of grain from Serbia across these three srezes into the coastal region of Montenegro to feed the army. This is carried by JS army trucks and worked over the broken bridge by the cable-trolley described in the Special Report. Small amounts of Serbian grain are received by KOLASIN, ANDRIJEVICA and BERANE for general distribution. It is my impression that not over a few tons are involved.

In addition token shipments of lard, bacon and sugar have come in by air from Bulgaria.

As at the PODGORICA warehouse, several dozen cases of cigarets ("Hrvarski Drzani Monopol") were noted. Although I made no comment, it is my feeling that the considerable transport pains taken to obtain these might better have been expended on M&V.

SHORTAGES: 1. Priorities: In each srez I discussed with officials the types of priority relief items needed. These are listed below, but only slight weight should be given to the order of items; delivery time and quantities available will naturally alter priorities:

KOLASIN: Salt, food, clothes and shoes, potato seed, plows, scythes, wheat cleaners, other farm tools, belts and parts for damaged sawmills, medical supplies and bedding, dynamite, paint.

ANDRIJEVICA: Clothing and shoes, food, farm and fruit orchard implements, medical and bedding, glass and building materials, portable fruit canneries, portable sawmills, wood and metal-working tools.

BERANE: Food, medical supplies, clothes and shoes, building materials, telephone batteries and wire, petrol and diesel fuel.

2. Housing: Extensive devastation occurred throughout this three-srez area, which suffered from Italian, German and Chetnik occupation, and severe battles. Towns such as KOLASIN and ANDRIJEVICA changed hands as many as twenty or thirty times.

Houses destroyed in ANDRIJEVICA srez were estimated at 80% for the srez as a whole, and 30% for the town.

Although the region is rich in timber, much of it already felled and seasoned, lack of bridges, trucks and sawmills prevent reconstruction. Houses are built of wood and earth, with steep shingled roofs.

3. Household effects: People today possess as a rule only what they were able to carry off on their backs during the many wholesale evacuations caused by the war. ANDRIJEVICA, for example, was evacuated eleven separate times during 1944 alone.

4. Livestock: The principal pre-war output of this area was livestock and livestock products. This has been almost entirely wiped out by enemy destruction and the requirements of the Partisan forces. Livestock statistics from ANDRIJEVICA are abstracted below as typical:

Livestock	No. head	- 1941	1945	% left
Sheep	185,338		8,758	5
Cattle	41,621		3,904	10
Horses, mules, donkeys	4,776		397	8
Beehives	8,152		205	2½
Chickens	26,134		2,808	10

If the "% left" remnant were to be calculated in weight rather than in number of head, results would be even more striking as animals alive today are gaunt and weak.

TECHNICAL: 1. MT: UNRRA-furnished trucks have until recently been used only by the Commission (JSCML) for shipments to main distribution centres only. Lack of local transport from main distn centres outward has resulted in accumulations at the centres.

We have heard from the food commissioner of Montenegro that it is now planned to distribute trucks for the use of the various federative units, and that Montenegro is to receive 45. This will be very worth-while, as it will permit the transport not only of UNRRA goods but of such indigenous products as salt and timber. However, it will further dissipate an already very weak control over MT maintenance and handling. It is almost literally true that more UNRRA/ML MT is observed carrying people than relief goods. Driving practices are quickly wearing out gears and tires; consistent top-loading of people on freight is doing the same for springs and motors. Furthermore, turn-around time is often unaccountably protracted.

Each srez has a heavy German truck at its disposal, but these are in such poor condition and burn so much fuel that their usefulness is quite limited.

2. Sawmills: These three srezes were an important lumbering centre, but all of the sawmills, with one exception, have been totally destroyed or seriously damaged. The one operational mill is a large modern plant at ROZAJ in BEPANE srez. However the only motor-road connections are eastward to TUTIN and NOVI PAZAR: the mill is six hours by horse from BEPANE.

The most important remaining sawmill in Montenegro is at JABUKA, on the road to KOLASIN. According to authorities at CETINJE and KOLASIN, this is capable of quick repair, if belting and certain replacement parts can be obtained. It is alleged that detailed description of these requirements have already been sent to Belgrade. It is my impression that the most important single factor in the rehabilitation of Eastern Montenegro is transport, i.e. bridges and ~~timber for xxxxxxxx bridging xxxxxxxx~~ calverts. Restoring the mill at JABUKA would provide timber for such bridging. I would suggest that the provision of needed belting and spare parts be the subject of an urgent supplementary demand, as the bridges must be in before winter.

If it is possible to send portable sawmills into the area, much lumber could be cut from the large number of seasoning logs observed stacked and strewn throughout the three srezes.

3. Other: In addition to MT and sawmill requirements, other urgent technical needs include mine-cleaning instruments and personnel, and medical supplies and bedding.

COMMUNICATIONS: Systematic destruction of roads, bridges and culverts by the withdrawing German army in autumn of 1944 has isolated the five eastern Montenegro srezes of KOLASIN, ANDRIJEVICA, BERANE, PLJEVLJA, and BIJELOPOLJE from the rest of the country and from each other. Innumerable diversions and temporary log bridges have been constructed, and larger wooden spans across the Moratcha River near BIOCE and across the Tara near MOJKOVAC are expected to be ready in a month or less. However with the start of the rain and snow seasons, this entire area will again be isolated and subdivided. Accordingly it is submitted that immediate attention should be given to extensive and permanent road and bridge repairs and/or to dispersed stockpiling of food and clothing staples. Furthermore, in the interests of reconstruction elsewhere, communications should be patched up at once to the point where worthwhile quantities of lumber may be taken out for use in PODGORICA and elsewhere.

The current lack of distributing seed wheat has demonstrated the importance and the difficulty of tele-communications with this hinterland area. Phone lines are in, but very inadequate. Batteries, wire and certain other essentials are badly needed to provide minimum communication facilities which will be required to administer any trucking, bridge-building or saw-milling operations which may be undertaken with UNRRA materials.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE

Notes for the Week ending 2nd June 1945

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 European Committee Meetings
 Relief by Air for Czechoslovakia
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Part II: Summary of British and Allied Press Views:

- (i) References to UNRRA
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- (iii) General

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PART I

U. N. R. R. A.

THE PROGRAMME FOR LIVESTOCK SHIPMENTS

The first shipments of dairy heifers and draft animals to help replace the decimated livestock population of Greece will soon be despatched from the United States. This news is given by Headquarters in Washington, which announces that the first consignment will consist of some three hundred dairy heifers and nine hundred draft animals, and adds that three hundred bred heifers and three hundred mares will probably be shipped to Yugoslavia shortly.

These shipments will inaugurate the UNRRA programme for restoring the dairy herds and draft animal stocks of the European nations receiving its assistance. The problem is large. In the five countries - Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland - which will be receiving full-scale UNRRA aid, more than one-fifth of the livestock has been lost. As compared with pre-war, there are now in these countries five million fewer draft animals and dairy cattle. The loss has been extremely heavy in Greece and Yugoslavia, and during the war has amounted to one-third of the dairy cattle and draft animals.

The UNRRA programme of purchases in the Western Hemisphere contemplates replacing one per cent of these losses. It will require, during the next eighteen months, some 25,000 bred heifers and utility cattle for draft purposes and milk production; a few bulls, stallions, rams and boars for breeding purposes; and about 25,000 mares, mules and asses for draft and transportation. About half the animals are scheduled to come from the United States and the remainder from other United Nations in the Western Hemisphere.

The first shipment is being directed to Greece because of the extreme need there both for dairy cattle and draft animals. In the Athens area, for example, there are now about 2,500 dairy cows, only one-tenth of the pre-war number.

Mr. E. Henson, in charge of Agricultural Rehabilitation in Washington, has pointed out that the livestock rehabilitation programme is restricted by the limited availability of animals and shipping space. "It will only partially meet the most urgent needs of the liberated areas for more milk production and more animal draft to increase crop output," he says. "Even so, it will increase the local food production in liberated areas by an amount that will improve the food supply of millions of people. The shipment of selected animals during the coming months will build up both the number and quality of the herds remaining in the countries receiving aid from UNRRA. This type of farm rehabilitation is part of the essential policy of helping the liberated people to help themselves."

D. P. INFORMATION OFFICE IN BELGRADE

As a result of meetings between officers of the D.P. Division attached to the Yugoslav Mission and officials of the Yugoslav Commission, it has been decided to open a joint information office for displaced persons in Belgrade, where Yugoslav and UNRRA officials will work side by side.

PRESS CONFERENCE BY MR. W. S. DUTHIE AND MR. ALAN HALL

At a press conference held at the ERO on Wednesday, May 30th, Mr. W. S. Duthie, Deputy Chief of the UNRRA Mission in Greece in charge of distribution and supply, and Mr. Alan Hall, until recently Acting Chief of the Yugoslav Mission, described the work that the UNRRA Missions are doing in Greece and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Duthie, speaking on Greece, began by explaining to the correspondents the change-over from Military Liaison to UNRRA at the beginning of April, and went on to outline how the UNRRA programme there is administered through thirteen Regional Directors. He described how the UNRRA import programme was worked out and how the supplies were distributed, pointing out that in the large towns the people had a relatively larger daily ration than in the rural areas, because in the rural areas there should be certain quantities of food available. An extra effort had been made to give a bigger ration for June because that was the eve of the harvest when food stocks are at their lowest. UNRRA was distributing something like 70,000 tons of food a month in Greece.

There had been some difficulty, Mr. Duthie said, with regard to the determination of indigents. The agreement with UNRRA stipulated that people unable to pay for the ration would get it free of charge, but on the other hand UNRRA goods were to be a source of revenue and are a source of revenue to the Greek Government; while the Greek Government undoubtedly wished to be as generous as they could be with regard to their treatment of indigents, sometimes the interpretation of their powers by the local officials had been that their function was to get as much money as possible to recoup the State coffers. The Greek Government, however, had just instituted a most extensive welfare organisation from one end of the country to the other, which would give immediate effect to the application of any individual who wanted to be qualified as an indigent. In this respect, people with frozen assets, such as farmers whose crops were still in the ground and who had no money until the harvest came along, could be treated as destitute until they were able to harvest and sell their crops and could pay for what they had received.

Great Need of Clothing

With regard to clothing, the condition of the Greek people had got to be seen to be realised. For example, there was a village not far from Athens - a village consisting of small cottages and also some nice little villas. In one of these villas a family had lived, who had now to live in a small pigsty at the back on an earth floor, with no furniture. They were living on UNRRA rations, with only the clothes they escaped in a year ago. Those conditions were typical of the rest of Greece. UNRRA was doing its best to provide clothing. In order to give everyone one shift, it was reckoned that 25 million garments would be needed. UNRRA had not got anything like that quantity yet.

The situation was so bad that some of UNRRA's own schemes for relief in Greece - such as malaria control, the shelter programme in connection with the re-roofing of the damaged cottages so that at least everyone in Greece would have a roof over his head - were threatening to be held up because the Greeks to do the work had not any clothing.

Transport Conditions

The one difficulty about distribution was that the roads of Greece were in a dreadful state. Practically every bridge was blown by the retreating Germans. The roads had had little or no repair during the whole occupation - except for one or two main roads, which were badly knocked about when the Germans

were going back. The secondary roads were non-existent as far as surface was concerned. The Greek Government was doing as much as possible to put some sort of surface on the roads, and the Anglo-American Transport Commission was going into the whole question of Greek transportation.

The railways were worse than the roads. Every bridge was blown on the railways. It was estimated that if all facilities were provided, the work of reconstruction would take seven years.

Service was also handicapped by the lack of trucks, and the only transport UNRRA had been able to use for relief was the trucks brought in by the military and the transport which UNRRA itself had been able to bring in. Distribution was in the hands of the Greek Government, but UNRRA supervised and assisted right through until the goods got to the public. Transport provided by UNRRA was handed over to the Greek Government, and UNRRA transport officers ensured that the transport made available was used to the absolute maximum.

Displaced Persons and Rehabilitation Services

There were in Greece a considerable number of displaced persons, including about 30,000 non-Greek nationals in Athens. They were more or less hidden because it was against the law for them to be there. UNRRA had a team which would list these people according to nationality and would eventually return them to their countries.

One of the crying needs of Greece was the rehabilitation of industry. There were a number of factories in Greece which could operate if they had raw materials. UNRRA was doing its utmost to bring in materials and spare parts to have the machines repaired; recently it had got the phosphate plant at Pireaus working; this, within a few weeks of its re-starting, was employing 2,000 people.

With regard to agriculture, the farms were pretty well denuded of livestock and of implements, but there again UNRRA was doing what it could. The vineyards had been at a pretty low ebb during the occupation on account of the lack of pesticides. UNRRA was moving heaven and earth to get in sulphur. The prospects for the crop during the coming year were good. The fishermen had suffered in the same way as most other industries. Many boats had been stolen and sunk, and supplies of nets and fishing gear were a problem. UNRRA had been able to get some new nets from Egypt and had been able to start some spinning mills for making twine for making nets. This had only just got under way, but already the amount of fish being landed in Athens was making itself felt in the market.

What UNRRA was aiming to do with regard to the shelter programme was to provide a roof for every person in Greece during the coming winter. It was hoped to repair 25,000 houses. The fuel position was very tight, but UNRRA was doing its utmost to get in supplies for the winter. The charcoal position was also difficult, but it was hoped to improve the position by means of imported coal.

Control of Distribution

Replying to a question, Mr. Duthie said that there was no chance of profiteering with UNRRA supplies until the goods got to the consumer; what + the consumer did with them was another matter. There was a story in one paper recently that UNRRA flour was being used in making quite expensive pastry in Greece. The flour got to the consumer. Most of the Greek people were put to it for money; sometimes they might sell some of that foodstuff, and it was

quite within the range of possibility it had, in fact, got into the free market. The break into the black market was after the consumer received it. There might be small speculations. The Agricultural Bank, which was set up by the Greek Government for the distribution of supplies to the farms and had a complete organisation throughout Greece, was utilised by the Government, in co-operation with UNRRA, for the distribution of food. UNRRA had distribution men at every warehouse. Each village got its own ration; UNRRA would soon hear about it if it did not. There was relatively no speculation from the ship to the actual consumer. It was what the consumer did with it that UNRRA could not control.

Mission Personnel

In answer to another question, Mr. Duthie said that there were about 150 people in the Mission proper, assisted by about another 150 from voluntary agencies. Of the 150 in the mission, there were about 120 Americans and 30 British, but including the voluntary personnel, the nationalities were about equal. As a Britisher, he would like to see more British people in the Greek Mission, and hoped that some of them of the very first water would shortly be sent out in various functions connected with the mission. The Americans in the mission were absolutely first-class, but it was a pity the British were not playing a bigger share.

Transport Yugoslavia's Biggest Problem

Mr. Hall explained that he had been acting Chief of the Yugoslav Mission for nine months, and had handed over to a Russian, Mr. Sergeichik, last week. He said that there was no doubt in his mind that the Yugoslav UNRRA Mission was a successful mission, and justified UNRRA.

Since taking over from Military Liaison on April 15th, UNRRA had imported for the month of May a total of 45,000 tons of relief supplies; its future programme calls for 55,000 tons in June, 65,000 tons in July and quite a big jump to 110,000 in August. The real difficulty in Yugoslavia was the distribution of supplies inside the country. The transport problems there were immense. The range of mountains parallel with the Adriatic coast were crossed only by third and fourth grade roads. It would probably be three years before the Yugoslav railways were back to pre-war standards. Trucks had never been used to operate effectively in Yugoslavia. The roads had been made for donkeys, not for trucks, and the difficulties of shifting the tonnages from the ports inland were immense. The ships were unloading as much as could be got away from the ports at present.

There would probably be starvation in Yugoslavia for two years to come, because of not being able to get the stuff away inland through these mountains. The same would be true in bringing food from the rich plains along the Danube back into the mountains from the east to the west. Yugoslavia always had a certain surplus built up in that area, but the difficulty again would be to get it transported to the central area of Bosnia and Montenegro where conditions were very difficult indeed. That was the biggest problem - transport - and getting the stuff moved into the country.

The job which the Yugoslavs themselves were doing was a tremendous job of organisation, and one which called only for the highest praise and admiration. They did not want more than supplies from UNRRA. They were capable; sometimes they made mistakes. Quite frankly they had never had to handle a trucking fleet of 1,200 vehicles before. But they had courage and a tremendous vitality for tackling these problems - and if they made a mistake they were frank enough to admit it and to get advice from the experience available to them. They never made the same mistake twice. It had been a privilege to see the spirit of these people. There was a thriving, vital spirit in the country, determined to make a success of the future, and there did not seem anything to

stop them. They were on their way, and it was a real joy to work with people of that type.

Yugoslavia's Needs

The real needs of Yugoslavia were tremendous, Mr. Hall continued. He had been in a village which changed hands 48 times in the last four years and did not exist any more. He had been in a village in the mountains in Bosnia inhabited by women. All the men were dead. One did not see the women because they had no clothes to go out in by daylight. They worked on the land at night.

There were areas where venereal disease was running to a terrific height, where every woman had been infected because they had been in concentration camps or used by the occupying forces.

In Sarajevo, where he had been ten days ago, 50,000 refugees had come in from non-existent villages. There were 100,000 people in Sarajevo who were starving, and there were two mountain ranges before supplies could reach them. UNRRA was trying to get some in by air.

In the capital of Croatia - Zagreb - the situation was equally intense. The population had increased by over a third, and there were probably 200,000 who were literally at starvation level today. The death roll was still tremendous. In addition to starvation as a major cause of death in Yugoslavia today, there was a tremendous death roll because of mines and booby traps. It would probably take three to five years before the mines and booby traps could be lifted in the country.

Epidemics had not proved as bad as was feared because of the wonderful work done by the U. S. Typhus Commission, which had probably saved half a million lives in Yugoslavia alone. Twenty outbreaks of typhus had already taken place in the country. UNRRA had now taken over from the Typhus Commission and UNRRA medical staff were responsible for the handling of typhus control.

The real needs in Yugoslavia were still down the coastal and mountain areas. The biggest job to be tackled was transport: raising barges out of the Danube, clearing the Danube of mines, and providing tugs and other equipment so that the great waterways could start again. There was not a single railroad bridge in Yugoslavia. These people went to work with timber and handtools, and by sweat and guts chiselled out a bridge within six weeks; that was something which it was really a privilege to see.

Supplies of raw wool and raw cotton were needed. The peasant woman of Yugoslavia traditionally spun her own thread and wove her own clothing in the family. In addition, the mills for the city dwellers were in much better shape than had been hoped for, and immediate delivery of 20,000 tons of raw wool and raw cotton would ease the clothing situation before next winter. It was of the utmost importance that UNRRA get that in to the country, and arrangements were in hand so that it would be done.

Finally, the Yugoslavs were going to build their own country their own way. They did not want UNRRA to give them services; they only wanted UNRRA to give them supplies. The services UNRRA offered them were on welfare, health and displaced persons, and they had said that they could do all those jobs themselves if UNRRA would give them the tools to do it with. Certainly they had lived up to that so far. They wanted their health work to be done by their own doctors and nurses, but they did want supplies to carry these services out. That was the shape of the future UNRRA mission, a smaller, much restricted mission than what was originally planned. The Mission now totalled 140 people, but it could be halved within two or three months. The quicker UNRRA was out of the country, the better it would have done its job. It was fortunate in having a

a Government which was capable and willing to co-operate, and in Mr. Hall's opinion, within six months from now the UNRRA Mission would be nothing more than a small supply group seeing that the flow of supplies went in.

As far as the distribution of supplies was concerned, there had not so far been one shred of evidence that the supplies had not been distributed fairly, quickly and in accordance with UNRRA principles. It had nothing to do with the political or religious beliefs of the recipients - Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Moslems, ex-Mihailovitch supporters - all the evidence was that everybody got exactly the same. The Yugoslavs were living up to 100 per cent to the UNRRA principles of equitable distribution.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The European Committee met on May 29th under the Chairmanship of Sir Frederick Leith-Ross. Commander R.G.A. Jackson, Senior Deputy Director General, reported on the delegation from Headquarters to the European Regional Office of responsibility and authority for operations in Europe. The object of the new dispositions, he said, was to simplify the organisation and accelerate the speed of its operations. The Chairman said that the European members of UNRRA had suggested that this policy should be adopted, and he was sure the Committee would take note of the new arrangement with the fullest satisfaction.

The Committee took various decisions on recommendations made by its Technical Sub-Committees on agricultural, fisheries, veterinary, and other subjects. The most important of these related to the question of securing live-stock - particularly cattle and horses - for liberated territories from the ex-enemy countries. The Sub-Committee on Agriculture stated that suitable breeds for many of the liberated countries could, in many cases, be obtained only from ex-enemy countries. The Committee agreed that the Administration should consult the military and other established control authorities with a view to securing information on any surplus of live animals available in ex-enemy territory from which relief requirements of liberated territories might be met.

Statement on Supplies

The Committee met again on May 31st, and was presented with the periodical statement on UNRRA's supply activities. The most outstanding fact in the report was that by the end of June UNRRA will have been responsible for nearly 1½ million tons of supplies to Europe. The end of the war in Europe, by releasing shipping and freeing transit facilities, has given an enormous impetus to the flow of supplies. UNRRA was not able to begin operations till March; from then to the end of May total shipments for Europe by UNRRA itself have exceeded 260,000 tons, while June shipments will amount to some 350,000 tons. In addition, UNRRA has taken over from the military authorities, and is paying for, more than 500,000 tons of supplies brought into the Balkans.

Other details given in the report were:

Up to the end of May, total shipments to Czechoslovakia amounted to 33,000 tons, of which 8,400 tons in two ships were sent from the United Kingdom, and the balance from the Western Hemisphere. The first two cargoes from the United States have already reached Czechoslovakia. Unloading at Constanza, with the co-operation of the Soviet authorities, was carried out very satisfactorily, and the second cargo was only eight days in transit from Constanza to Czechoslovakia. The third vessel was unloaded directly into railway wagons. It is hoped that shipments for June will be some 40,000 tons, of which some 4,000 tons will be from the United Kingdom, and the rest mainly from the Western Hemisphere.

Total shipments to Poland to the end of May amounted to 36,000 tons, of which one shipload of 3,200 tons was from the United Kingdom, and the balance from the Western Hemisphere. The amount loaded for Poland at Constanza during April was 6,390 tons. It is hoped that shipments for June will be some 40,000 tons, of which some 4,000 tons will be from the United Kingdom and the rest mainly from the Western Hemisphere.

Shipments by UNRRA to Greece up to the end of April totalled 52,000 tons, all from the Western Hemisphere. About 60,000 tons is being shipped by UNRRA in May, including two vessels which are sailing from the United Kingdom, and a consignment from Sweden for which UNRRA is paying. June shipments will be about 190,000 tons. In addition to these totals the supplies taken over from the military authorities amount to over 450,000 tons.

Only a small tonnage was shipped to Yugoslavia up to the end of April, but May shipments, including one vessel from the United Kingdom, have exceeded 16,000 tons, and June shipments will be some 60,000 tons. In addition, UNRRA is taking over more than 100,000 tons of supplies brought in by the military authorities.

UNRRA has only a limited programme in Italy, but operations were able to begin earlier here, and 27,000 tons had been shipped by the end of March. A further 30,000 tons were shipped in April and May, all from the U.S.A., and June shipments are expected to be 17,000 tons.

The largest consignments to Europe are grouped under the classifications of food, fats, oils and soap. Next come agricultural supplies and equipment, followed by clothing, textiles and footwear, and miscellaneous raw materials and products which are roughly equivalent in tonnage. Other consignments include medical and sanitation supplies, industrial equipment, communications and transport equipment, and miscellaneous manufactured products.

RELIEF BY AIR FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Another peaceful air operation has just been carried out. In response to an urgent appeal by the Czechoslovak Government, UNRRA has sent a quantity of medical supplies by air to Czechoslovakia. The first three planes, piloted by the R.A.F. have landed at Pilsen and have unloaded. Three more planes are due to leave immediately. A further seven planes are scheduled to leave in the middle of next week. The latter will carry medical supplies, including, it is hoped, the anti-typhus DDT dusting powder, urgently required in the Tereien Concentration Camp in N. W. Bohemia.

The first sea and land shipment of UNRRA supplies arrived in Prague on May 30th, and the following day a broadcast on the Prague radio said:

"The first train-load of supplies from UNRRA for Prague arrived in Prague on Wednesday. The train consisted of forty trucks and came in from the Black Sea Port of Constanza. It carried sugar, coffee, dried milk, prunes, peas, tinned meat, lard extracts for margarine production, and clothing.

"It was officially taken over by the Minister of Food, who, in his address, stressed the importance of UNRRA supplies for Czechoslovakia. According to him, the next supplies will consist not only of medical supplies, food and clothing, but also of raw materials and machinery needed for the rehabilitation of the Czech economic production.

"The Minister returned thanks to UNRRA for these supplies and to the Soviet Government for putting at their disposal the port of Constanza, and for the help given to transport the goods."

NEW ALLIED COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The Foreign Office announced on May 28th the setting-up of an Allied Committee to consider European economic problems. The announcement stated that a meeting of Allied representatives was held in London on May 28th under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Law, to discuss the desirability of setting up at once an emergency economic committee for Europe, for consultation on questions of immediate interest now that hostilities have ceased, especially those affecting production and distribution in European countries in relation to the flow of supplies from overseas.

In the hope that all the European Allies will be ready to collaborate in the work of such an organisation, the Governments of Belgium, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, the UK and the US, have agreed to set up a provisional committee which other European Allies can join as soon as they are ready.

EUROPEAN COAL ORGANISATION

The European Coal Organisation, a new international advisory body, has been established in London under the chairmanship of Mr. J. C. Gridley. The Organisation will have a board consisting of representatives of the member Governments, a whole-time independent chairman and a secretary (Mr. B. Aicard), who will be assisted by a permanent Secretariat now being recruited from the member countries.

The Governments of Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and the United States have recently agreed to join with the British Government in establishing this provisional advisory body, in view of the acute coal shortage in Europe and the need to co-ordinate supply arrangements. The organisation will make recommendations to the appropriate national and international authorities or other bodies concerned with ensuring a fair allocation in Europe of exportable surpluses.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S LETTER ON RELIEF NEEDS

President Truman has sent the following letter, dated May 23rd, to Mr. J. A. Krug, Chairman of the War Production Board, Mr. Marvin Jones, Administrator, War Food Administration, Mr. Harold L. Ickes, Solid Fuels Administrator for War, and Mr. Leo T. Crowley, Chairman of the Foreign Shipments Committee:

"Judge Rosenman's report, of which you have a copy, has pointed out the extremely serious economic situation in the liberated countries of North-West Europe. The report confirms in strong terms the need for action on the part of this government.

"In brief, the report points out the following:

"A dangerously low level of nutrition exists generally in these liberated countries except in the rural, food-raising areas. The production of coal is not meeting even minimum requirements. The means of internal transportation by rail, canal and highway have suffered substantially from looting and destruction. What are left have been largely devoted to Allied military use. Ports have suffered extensive damage from bombing and demolition. Manufacturing has been paralysed by destruction or damage, lack of raw materials and inadequate plant maintenance.

"The needs of the liberated countries of North-West Europe are grave - not only from a humanitarian point of view, but also because they necessarily

involve many internal and international political considerations. To a great extent the future permanent peace of Europe depends upon the restoration of the economy of these liberated countries, including a reasonable standard of living and employment. United States economy, too, will be deeply affected unless these areas again resume their place in the international exchange of goods and services. A chaotic and hungry Europe is not fertile ground in which stable, democratic and friendly governments can be reared.

"Just as the United States has been the largest producer of the United Nations in wartime, so will it naturally be looked to as the principal source of civilian supplies for these countries.

"It is the established policy of this government to accept this responsibility as far as it is possible to do so.

"As a matter of national policy, therefore, I request your agency to grant the priority necessary to meet the minimum civilian requirements of those of our allies who have been ravaged by the enemy to the fullest extent that the successful prosecution of military operations and the maintenance of our essential domestic economy permit."

VISIT OF US SENATE COMMITTEE

A US Senate Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hilgore, is at present making a tour of the European theatre, and UNRRA operations are included in the matters it is investigating. The members of the Committee have been in London during the past week, and invited Mr. Rhatigan, Director of the Department of Operations, and Mr. Schaaf of the Department of Supply, to meet the Committee and tell it of UNRRA's activities.

RESIGNATION OF MR. HUGH R. JACKSON

The Director General made the following announcement of May 22nd:

"It is with sincere regret that I announce the resignation of Mr. Hugh R. Jackson, Deputy Director General for Regional Liaison. Mr. Jackson has served UNRRA with distinction since its inception and has rendered invaluable service in the formation of its policies and organisation of the Administration. He will remain with UNRRA for the next few weeks to complete certain assignments which he has been handling."

UNRRA IN PARLIAMENT

EUROPEAN RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION

During Question Time on May 31st, COMMANDER KING-HALL asked the Prime Minister if he would endeavour to establish an Allied Committee composed of Ministers of Cabinet rank empowered to co-ordinate the activities of the various organisations, national, international, concerned with relief measures in Europe.

MR. CHURCHILL replied:

"The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is already charged, under the terms of the Agreement signed at Washington on 9th November 1943, by all the United Nations, with the duty of co-ordinating relief measures, though its power to do so is of course subject to the consent of the member Governments concerned. The Council which controls the policy of this international body consists of representatives of the United Nations, most of whom are of rank corresponding to that of Cabinet Ministers. It is the Committee of the Council for Europe which meets in London which is specially concerned with relief measures in Europe. The administration maintains close touch with the Allied military authorities, and endeavours to combine its relief measures with theirs. No useful purpose would appear to be served by attempting to set up another Allied Committee for the same purpose."

/COMMANDER KING-HALL

GOVANDER KING-HALL then asked whether the Prime Minister was satisfied that something more could not be done to prevent some of the overlapping which was taking place between UNRRA relief teams, the Red Cross, and other organisations working with the Allied military commands.

MR. CHURCHILL replied that he was doubtful whether prevention of overlapping would be facilitated by the construction of such a committee as had been suggested.

MR. KENNETH LINDSAY asked the Prime Minister what British Departments were concerned in different aspects of European relief and reconstruction; what were the arrangements for co-ordinating their action; what were the combined organisations, including representatives of His Majesty's Government and other Governments, similarly concerned; and what were the arrangements for ensuring co-ordination between them.

THE PRIME MINISTER: "The principal responsibility in these matters lies with the Foreign Office, the War Office and the Ministry of Production. Their action and that of other Departments concerned is co-ordinated in the normal way, by means of Cabinet Committees and otherwise. The combined organisations include the Combined Boards, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Provisional Executive for European Inland Transport, the United Nations Maritime Authority, the European Coal Organisation and the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe. The Emergency Economic Committee for Europe, which held its first meeting on 28th May, will also, where appropriate, concert the action of specialist organisations in the European field."

In a supplementary question, MR. NOEL-BAKER asked whether the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster would be in charge of matters affecting UNRRA. To this MR. CHURCHILL replied that he would not be in charge of them, but would be concerned with them. To Mr. Noel-Baker's request that the Prime Minister would draw the attention of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to the great importance of supporting the work of UNRRA in respect of displaced persons, Mr. Churchill replied that he would, and that he thought that this interchange in the House would probably have the desired effect.

MR. LINDSAY finally asked whether the Prime Minister would consider issuing a White Paper to explain, when they were sufficiently clear, the number of bodies which were dealing with different aspects of this problem in Europe. Mr. Churchill replied that he saw no reason why that should not be done, but would rather not name an exact date when it would be done.

PART II

SUMMARY OF BRITISH AND ALLIED PRESS VIEWS

(i) References to UNRRA

The following is a summary of an article in the Economist, 19.5.45., entitled "New Priorities for Europe":

The structure of authority and administration for peace is much more complex than that for war. The war in Europe has been simply directed from SHAEF, and has been jointly provisioned by the Combined Boards in Washington. It has been governed by the single principle that military needs enjoy an absolute priority. The direct military power represented by SHAEF is, however, already changing its character; shortly there will be two distinct Army authorities - the military proper and AMG, both responsible to the Supreme Commander acting either through SHAEF or through the Allied Control Commission which is to be set up. It is clear from Mr. Stimson's recent announcement that the Americans in their AMG zone will fulfil all the functions of government, and British plans will probably be very similar. That is not certain is how soon the transfer of authority from SHAEF to the Control Commission can be made.

It is obvious that the role of such civilian bodies as UNRRA will be strictly subordinate. The Director General has announced changes in the direction and staff of UNRRA so that it can be ready to engage in "intensive field operations." It appears to have been decided long ago that UNRRA's activities in Western Europe and Germany should be confined to the care of displaced persons, but even in this restricted field the military authorities appear to be performing and to be preparing to go on performing, all the tasks originally allotted to UNRRA. One class of civilian authority has, however, already asserted its independence of the military, namely the Allied Governments of Western Europe, in so far as their national civil imports, transport, industrial capacity, and local supplies are concerned. It is SHAEF's policy to let them have full responsibility for their own administration except where overriding necessity demands a measure of military control.

Thus in the place of the unified direction of SHAEF, there will shortly be a divided military authority, and, except in Germany, different national authorities. The relationship between AMG and the civilian authorities will be difficult, but it is useless to envisage anything else. The military authorities will be the only officials able to administer the reconstruction of Europe for some time to come. No other cadres could be built up - UNRRA is proof of this - on a comparable basis of efficiency.

But a military administration will almost automatically continue to give first attention to military needs, and if the military administration of liberated Europe - which is inevitable - is not to act as a brake on reconstruction, there must be from the outset a reassertion of civilian control at the highest level. There has been talk of establishing a Supreme Reconstruction Council. The fate of the European Advisory Commission, or indeed of UNRRA itself, suggests that the mere creation of representative bodies, however high-sounding their title, may accomplish little. The only civilian authority powerful enough to control the military administration would be that of the President and Prime Minister, acting through deputies who enjoy their complete backing and confidence. To them it would be necessary to add a direct representative of General de Gaulle, since France is also an armed and occupying Power. A triumvirate, a Commission, representing in the most immediate way the supreme civil authority, in the three States, would alone have power and prestige enough to impose a civilian stamp on the military administration in Western Europe. If Soviet Russia would effectively co-operate, so much the better.

The civilian supply authorities - the Combined Boards - are still in being; the Governments of Britain, the United States and France are civilian governments. It would be failure indeed not to create the civilian control necessary to see that Europe's needs are now put in their proper perspective.

/But

But the existence of an effective civilian authority for reconstruction matters would not solve all problems: relations with national governments would still be delicate; the division of very scarce supplies will grow more difficult as the winter approaches. The fact, however, that a body existed to which Governments, civil authorities such as UNRRA, and the military could all turn would give some guarantee that the right priorities would emerge.

The press conference given on 24. 5. 45. by Dr. Topping and members of the ERO Health Division (see last week's Notes) was reported in the Times and Telegraph, 25. 5. 45.

Mr. Buell Mabon's appointment as Chief of the Greek Mission is reported in Glasgow Herald, 25. 5. 45.

Hellas, 25. 5. 45., carries a Reuter report of R.A.F. pilots flying grey mullet to Greece as part of UNRRA's plan to re-stock Greek lakes.

An interview with Commander Jackson, Senior Deputy Director General, is reported in the "Talk of the Town" feature of the Evening News, 25. 5. 45.

France, 25. 5. 45., features an article headed "Differences of Opinion in a Village", a month-to-month record since August 1944 of hard living conditions, of arguments about the Allies, and comments on day-to-day events. (The paper says that in spite of the bitterness shown in some of the passages of the diary, it had been thought good to publish it just as it was received from the contributor). One passage concerns UNRRA: "October 1944. George, the farmer, showed me an article. It is about the famous organisation of UNRRA, which we often heard spoken about in London or New York when we used to listen secretly to the Allied wireless in the evenings. The article made my mouth water. It is a formidable organisation - thousands of officials, millions of dollars in credit, mountains of supplies. What relief when it gets going! Meanwhile, the situation isn't quite so good; fairly heavy requisitions, which were met. There's no longer any excuse for withholding them and saying 'All the loss for the enemy. The potato harvest is going to be good. No wine since August.'"

An editorial article in the City Observer, 25. 5. 45., on the subject of reconstruction says that coupled with the political uncertainties in Europe is the question of UNRRA's future. "What has this unwieldy body, to which such high hopes have been attached by millions, accomplished so far? Frankly, not much. Above all, UNRRA badly lacks prestige, cohesive management and efficient personnel. But even if it should make up for these deficiencies, its success or failure ultimately depends upon the degree of confidence and cooperation obtaining between the Allies."

The official UNRRA announcement of the forthcoming Council Meeting in London was carried in Times, Daily Telegraph and News-Chronicle, 26. 5. 45.

"Thousands of tons of UNRRA supplies have reach Poland via the Black Sea ports of Constanza, "Daily Telegraph reports, 26. 5. 45, under the heading "UNRRA Aid to Poland".

Negotiations between representatives of the British Ministry of Food and representatives of Danish agriculture have begun, reports the Times, 26. 5. 45., on the question of immediate exports from Denmark. It still has to be decided, it is stated, whether the exports shall go to Britain, SHAEF or UNRRA.

The "Londoner's Diary" in the Evening Standard, 26. 5. 45., comments on the appointment of Sir Arthur Salter as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster: "Sir Arthur Salter was formerly Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport. While he held the office he spent a great deal of time in the United States, where he did an excellent job in organising shipping for transporting men and supplies to Europe. Subsequently he carried out a lot of the preliminary work for UNRRA. His task will now be connected with the restoration and the rehabilitation of Europe. He is one of our leading economists, and has great capacity for detail."

/Manchester

Manchester Guardian 28. 5. 45., in its "London Correspondence" feature, says that the Foreign Secretary, in addition to his two new under-secretaries, will rely particularly on the services of Sir Arthur Salter, the new Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in matters affecting European re-organisation, food and supplies in the liberated countries and for the problems connected with UNRRA and displaced people. It adds that Sir Arthur is expected to take some of the questions which up to now have been under the special care of Mr. Richard Law.

A letter in the Manchester Guardian, 26. 5. 45., over the signature "Anglo-Hellene" quotes from a first-hand account of life in Athens today: "Everybody seemed happy and looked fat and well. This rather puzzled me at first and I looked round for the reason. First, only the physically strong had survived; secondly they were all on holiday, nobody was working; thirdly they are being fed better than ever before in their lives". "Anglo-Hellene" comments that "this impression of a holiday atmosphere is confirmed by reports I have of UNRRA staff doing two or three hours' work a day and then being sent off 'to amuse themselves'."

The Times and the Daily Telegraph, 28. 5. 45., both report the appointment of Colonel Katzin as D.D.G. for Administration in the ERO.

Evening Star 28. 5. 45., under the heading "UNRRA sends Relief Fast" carries the announcement that by the end of June UNRRA will have sent a million and a quarter tons of relief supplies to liberated Europe. Also Evening News of the same date, and News Chronicle, 29. 5. 45., which adds that plans are now being made for the despatch of raw cotton and wool to Europe to permit liberated peoples to produce their own clothing.

Evening Standard 28. 5. 45., states in a report from Washington that Mr. Hoover's call on President Truman "is widely regarded as a prelude to an announcement that he is either to take charge of the whole programme or assume a leading role in UNRRA. The organisation has been a big disappointment here. Pressed from both sides - civilian and lend-lease demands, on one hand, and military needs on the other - it has achieved little so far, through no fault of Mr. Herbert Lehman. Hoover was a brilliant success as Federal Food Administrator after the last war."

A Daily Worker leader, 28. 5. 45., comments sharply on the calling-in by President Truman of Mr. Herbert Hoover for consultation of the European food relief question. "It cannot be justified," it says, "by the reason given, that in the last war Hoover had experience of food relief. As head of the organisation then operating, Hoover made it an instrument of reactionary blackmail, starving whole territories to discredit new democratic regimes, and sowing the seeds of Fascism through the counter-revolution he encouraged. Incidents in Greece and in Trieste have shown that present-day Allied food administrators need no lessons in the use of food for pressure."

Daily Express, 29. 5. 45., claims that, Mr. Hoover's plan is to put one man in charge. "He does not like UNRRA, which, he says, was set up on a political basis and is handicapped by having to refer every move to committees. Hoover thinks UNRRA should be run by a single head with power to make decisions, should be designed to prevent 100,000,000 people starving and not to do social welfare work, and should have its own shipping fleet." He refused to say whether he would take over direction of the plan."

The Times, 30. 5. 45., carries a report of the meeting of the European Committee (See Part I).

The forthcoming UNRRA Council meeting is the subject of an item in the "Star Man's Diary" feature of the Evening Star 30. 5. 45. The despatch of an UNRRA relief team to Norway is also mentioned.

/The

The Daily Telegraph, 30. 5. 45., reports briefly, and the Times, 30. 5. 45., fully, the announcement of Admiral Voulgaris, Prime Minister of Greece, that UNRRA supplies, owing to an unexpectedly large allocation of shipping, would exceed all anticipations.. He cautioned the Greek public against expecting an immediate flow of goods, but said that arrivals during the next 60 days should be sufficient to lay the foundations for a real recovery. Shipping would only be limited by the capacity of the ports to handle the goods. Figures he gave for the commodities expected during the next 60 days, reports the Times, were: 264,719 tons of grain and flour; 88,423 tons of other foods; 3,121 tons of soap; 3,382 tons of medical supplies; 2,506,044 units of clothing as well as 1,134 tons of unspecified donated clothing; 5,701,456 pairs of boots and shoes; 1,000 blankets; 4,500,000 yards of piece goods; leather, hides and other materials for the manufacture and repair of shoes; 21,000 tons of petrol; 28,000 tons of coal, and large supplies of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. "All these will be brought in by UNRRA and given to the Greek Government free of charge", the article continues. "They will be distributed free to those who cannot afford to pay, and at moderate controlled prices to others. Funds realised from the sales will be used by the Greek Government for relief."

Points from Mr. Duthie's and Mr. Alan Hall's Press Conference on 30th May at the ERO (see Part I) were given in Daily Telegraph 31. 5. 45. under the heading "Clothes needed for Balkans - UNRRA reports," and also in the Glasgow Herald of the same date.

Among candidates for the forthcoming election mentioned in the press of 31. 5. 45., are several associated with UNRRA. Mr. W.S. Duthie, Deputy Chief of the UNRRA mission in Greece, in charge of supplies, is to be adopted as prospective conservative candidate for Banffshire (Daily Worker 31. 5. 45). Miss Margaret Shufeldt, head of UNRRA's food section, is a prospective labour candidate for Chelsea (Daily Herald 31. 5. 45.). Miss Phyllis Ward is giving up her job in Germany as a deputy camp director of UNRRA to fight Cheltenham. (Daily Herald 31. 5. 45.).

UNRRA's locomotive orders placed with British and US manufacturers are reported in the Financial News 31. 5. 45.

Daily Herald 31. 5. 45., reports that at the request of UNRRA, Sweden is to care for 10,000 displaced persons (see last week's Notes.)

Provincial Press "That famine and pestilence would be grave dangers after nearly six years of war was foreseen long since," writes George Godwin in an article entitled "This is the Task in Europe", Newcastle Sunday Sun, 20. 5. 45. "To combat the conditions propitious for those evils UNRRA was formed," he continues. "It is the fashion at the moment to suggest that UNRRA has failed and that it is unable to cope with the impending chaos. The truth is that the most prescient foresight could not completely envisage the actual conditions prevailing in Nazi held Europe. These in many parts have proved to be far worse than we realised. That is why UNRRA has been somewhat slow off the mark; that is why UNRRA is not as yet working with velvet smoothness. UNRRA, however, is the only implement we have for this terrific task....It would have been rather surprising had UNRRA worked without hitch or breakdown in bringing relief to a Continent whose means of livelihood are all either derelict or in short supply...."

The Glasgow Herald, 23. 5. 45., carries Mr. Lehman's announcement that four vessels carrying relief supplies for Poland and Czechoslovakia had unloaded or were unloading cargoes at Constanza.

The Manchester Dispatch, 24. 5. 45., in a message from Oslo quoted Brig. P. H. Hansen, British chief of the SHAEF Civil Affairs unit in Norway, as saying that an UNRRA delegation would be arriving shortly to take over after military occupation ended.

Thirty thousand people of North Dakota have volunteered enough ration points to send 45,000 lbs. of beef, through UNRRA, to Europe - Rugby Advertiser, 24. 5. 45.

(ii) Countries

France

France, 25. 5. 45., features an article on the work of the Entr'aide Francaise.

France, 25. 5. 45., prints a resolution adopted by the Commission for Prisoners and Deportees, which draws the attention of public bodies, the Allied powers and the whole of public opinion, to the grave condition of French political prisoners still interned in German camps, and demands that food and medical supplies should be sent to them immediately and that they should be given priority in repatriation.

General de Gaulle's broadcast of 24. 5. 45., was reported in Times, 25. 5. 45. He spoke in general terms of France's economic policy, and said that decisions must be made "that will organically place in the hands of the state for the exclusive benefit of the nation two key industries - the production of coal and electricity, .. and also the control of credit, which will make it possible to direct the whole national economy" Times, 26. 5. 45., carries a first editorial leader on the speech.

The Evening Standard, 26. 5. 45., says the first shipment of potatoes from Canada for 20 years has arrived in a French port.

The Evening News, 29. 5. 45., reports 66 cases of typhus in Paris of which 64 are returned political deportees, and quotes the French Ministry of Health as saying "We have not the necessary medicines to handle an epidemic."

According to the Evening Standard, 29. 5. 45., 3,000 returned prisoners of war and political deportees forced the manager of one of the largest department stores in Paris to fit out 250 of them with new suits. And the Daily Herald, 20. 5. 45., carries a report of 5,000 ex-prisoners and deportees demonstrating in Paris against the high cost and shortage of food and the lack of shoes and clothing. Two of the favourite slogans of the demonstrators, it says, were "Frenay resign" and "Ramadier to the gallows".

Belgium

M. Paul Kromacker, Belgian Minister of Supplies, has left London for Washington, "to put before the Combined Boards his country's case for more shipping and imports of food and raw materials", reports the Times, 26. 5. 45. The article mentions Belgium's drastic fiscal and currency reforms, the reduction in unemployment, and outlines the country's main economic needs.

Holland

The Dutch radio, quotes a Utrecht paper which strongly attacked the sending of Dutch children abroad for feeding and recuperation, (Evening News 24. 5. 45.). The paper is reported as saying "one of our most important tasks is the rebuilding of our families. Let our Allies and Swiss friends send us more coal and food so that we can feed our children at home".

A cable from Den Helder, North Holland, in the Daily Telegraph, 25. 5. 45., describes the effect of the German flooding of the Vlieringermeer Polder, which is now 15 ft. under water. It is calculated that it will take at least three months to seal the dyke again, and another seven months to pump the Polder dry. Seven thousand people are estimated to have been evacuated from the area before the flooding. Canal traffic is beginning to move, but at present the exodus of German troops tends to block the waterways. Den Helder itself now houses only 11,000 people, compared with 37,000 before the war. Commenting on the Dutch food situation in general, the correspondent says it is steadily improving; Dutch households again have milk and butter on the breakfast table, and sometimes meat and white bread. "The worst feature of the food situation is the queuing for hours outside shops which have received supplies from the Allied Civil Affairs organisation. Increased supplies of potatoes are expected, and some oranges have arrived."

Canada has credited Holland with £5,500,000 for the purchase of relief supplies, according to the Daily Telegraph, 25. 5. 45.

Financial News, 25. 5. 45., reports under a New York dateline that the Netherlands are to receive 25 million dollars unsecured credit from the Canadian Government. The loan, which carries 2½ per cent interest, will be made against the purchase of Canadian foods to be completed within two years.

The assignment of high priorities, by the US War Production Board, to £1,250,000 worth of drainage equipment for Holland, is reported in the Daily Herald, 28. 5. 45.

Sir Jack Drummond is quoted in the Times, 28. 5. 45., as saying that he saw hundreds of people of both sexes and all ages, in Western Dutch towns, as emaciated from starvation as any seen at Belsen concentration camp. This was in refutation of a suggestion that the special feeding teams sent to Holland were unnecessary. Sir Jack said that when he left Holland 20 teams were already in action and seven more had been called forward from their advance base. This quotation is contained in an account of the preparations made to alleviate the famine conditions in Holland, and the report concludes: "There are therefore two problems in the towns of Holland today. The treatment of cases of starvation is an urgent matter demanding special medical attention. It is being handled with great efficiency by the Dutch public health service and the Netherlands Red Cross special feeding teams. The other problem is to bring more food to the mass of Dutch town populations. They are living on an exceedingly narrow margin, and coal and transport are every bit as vital as supplies of food. Food is arriving in large quantities, but its distribution raises problems of immense difficulty."

The Times of the same date also carries a letter appealing for contributions to the Help Holland Fund, signed by Lord Templewood as President.

The return of 300 out of the 500 Dutch children who have been recuperating in England is reported in the News-Chronicle, 30. 5. 45.

Norway

Britain is sending 23,000 tons of coal to Norway this month, in addition to 25,000 tons of other supplies, mostly food, reports the Daily Herald, 25. 5. 45. Oil seized from the Germans has been handed over to the Norwegian fishing fleets.

Denmark

Denmark is to get 80,000 bicycle tyres, 36,000 motor car tyres, 2000 tons of salt, 13,000 tons of soap, 14,000 rolls of sackcloth, 700 tons of asphalt and medicines, under an agreement between the Allied and Danish authorities, reports the Evening Standard, 26. 5. 45., quoting the Danish newspaper Politiken.

Greece

Confidence regarding the economic and financial outlook in Greece was expressed by Vice-Admiral Petros Voulgaris, the Prime Minister, in an interview published by the newspaper Embros and quoted by Reuter (Financial News and Daily Telegraph, 25. 5. 45.) He said that two months hence the Allies would have supplied Greece free of charge, with raw materials, machinery and other supplies of a total value of £50,000,000. These supplies would considerably ease the general economic situation. He said that internal security was being gradually restored throughout the land.

"Greece: a defence" is the heading given by the Daily Worker, 28. 5. 45., to a statement received from the Greek Minister of Information. "Our readers will note," says the paper, "that the truth of Mr. Papworth's charges (cf. Weekly Notes No. 55, Part II) is not denied. It is merely claimed that abuses are on a smaller scale than he alleges." The statement says that the distribution of all imported foodstuffs is organised on a plan approved by the Allied Relief

Organisations and controlled by their representatives and the State authorities, that rationed goods are distributed free to some 200,000 poor persons in Athens and the Pireaus alone and the same is done in the provinces, and that the rest pay moderate prices to cover the general needs of the State. White flour is distributed in the same way in addition to the regular bread ration, and amounts to 3 lbs. monthly per head. This is sold by some people and hence it becomes available to the pastrycooks.

"Imported Egyptian cotton," the statement continues, "amounts to approximately 500 tons in seven months, although 2,000 tons were promised for the first three months, and is quite inadequate for the existing factories, which require 1,000 tons months to work to capacity. All of it, as well as the cotton imported by military liaison, was distributed to the weaving concerns for the manufacture of urgently needed popular materials. A small amount of Greek cotton available on the free market may be used for the manufacture of tablecloths and other household goods. All raw materials since the liberation of Greece are controlled and distributed by a mixed committee of Allied and Greek authorities....."

Italy

The stream of Italian refugees, men, women and children, who are passing over the frontiers, chiefly from Germany, present the Allied authorities in Italy with a new problem, writes the Times, 25. 5. 45. "About 6,000 refugees are reported to have come through the Brenner Pass in one day. It is expected that at least 1,000,000 people will have to be dealt with, and for this purpose the Allied Commission has established about 40 camps in the North.... One handicap in the immense task is the scarcity of rail transport, as the railways are still coping with heavy military demands, with emergency deliveries of food and industrial coal to the north, and with the transport of German prisoners of war. Some refugees will be carried by sea from Venice and Genoa. Military Government units are providing them all with biscuits, tinned meat, soup, medical supplies and de-lousing powder. At one frontier village 30,000 people were found to have assembled, and MG officers and Red Cross officials helped to shepherd them into trucks for their homeward journey".

All municipal services are working in perfect order in Milan, reports the City Observer, 25. 5. 45., but the industries are beginning to experience some unemployment because of lack of new orders. Food rationing in Northern Italy works satisfactorily and, thanks to the co-operation of the partisans, the black market is much less of a danger than in Southern Italy.

The Allies have formed about 40 camps in Northern Italy to deal with more than 1,000,000 Italian men, women and children expected to be waiting in the border areas when the frontiers re-open, according to the Evening Standard and Evening News, 26. 5. 45. The Standard adds that the Allied Commission is already dealing with about 100,000 Italians who have to be returned to their homes.

Trieste

In a Despatch from Trieste, Daily Telegraph 29. 5. 45., reports that from the point of view of food "a desperate situation has been averted for the next few days, by a generous gesture of Cardinal Schuster of Milan, who has sent the Archbishop of Trieste 600 tons of wheat, corn and olive oil for distribution among the more necessitous cases. Today, six large Vatican lorries, each pulling a big trailer and escorted by British Military police, entered the city, bringing the first 150 tons of food, sufficient to provide two meals for each of the 400,000 inhabitants of Trieste."

Czechoslovakia

City Observer, 25. 5. 45., carries a paragraph on the present position of the Slovak textile industry.

In the Sunday Times, 27. 5. 45., H.O. Brandon, the first British Press representative to enter Czechoslovakia, reports on conditions there. "In spite of all its sufferings" he writes, Czechoslovakia appears much less disrupted - morally, politically, and economically - than most other occupied countries."

He interviewed M. Lausman, the Minister for Industrial Production, who spoke optimistically and told him that all the coal mines were intact and mining had already restarted in Vitkovice and Kladno. The mines in Brux and Dux were short of miners, as most of them had been Sudeten Germans who had fled. Whole villages in the Sudeten German districts have been evacuated, and in order to save the crops and cattle the Government is faced with the task of organising an immediate colonisation of those areas. Brandon reports that the most serious blow to Czech economy is the complete evacuation of the textile industry by the Germans, who scrapped the machines and used the empty factory space for their own transferred war industries. On the other side of the scale, however, the Germans developed completely new synthetic oil and rubber and important optical industries. The transport system in Bohemia and Moravia is practically intact, but most of the bridges in Slovakia were blown up by the Germans, and the port of Bratislava has been completely smashed.

Austria

Under the heading "Vienna a Shattered City of Hungry People", Daily Telegraph 29. 5. 45., prints what is claimed to be "the first authentic eye-witness account, by an American correspondent, of conditions in Vienna since the Russians captured the city on April 13th". Of the food position the correspondent writes: "Food is very scarce. The Russians have not enough for themselves, and the Viennese have less. To make matters worse, no railways, lorries or even horse-drawn vehicles transport food into the city from farms. This has been true for two years, and the position now becomes acute because what small food stores there were are diminishing fast. Here a loaf of bread must last a week. There is no meat, fresh vegetables or fruit....No stores are open, for no one has anything to sell. Only within the past few days has there been electricity in parts of the city. The water system functions only here and there."

General

The United Maritime Authority established by international agreement last summer to provide for the continued control of merchant shipping was officially brought into operation on 24. 5. 45., reports the Times, 25. 5. 45. Unless terminated before by the agreement of the Governments, the United Maritime Authority will remain in effect for six months after the end of the war in the Far East.

Rehabilitation of children in Europe is the subject of an article by Dennis Bardens in the Yorkshire Post, 26. 5. 45., inspired by his visit to the Dutch children's camp at Beggington Fields, near Coventry. "I left wondering what will happen to the children of Europe," he says. "Where are the children of the 600,000 Belgians deported to Germany? What of the million and a half Czechoslovak homes that have been broken up? In France, Holland and everywhere in Europe, over 50 per cent of the children have been found to be undernourished. The broad question of relief is one for UNRRA, but on the psychological side there is years of work to be done. It will call for all the sympathy, all the understanding and all the organisation of which the Allied nations are capable."

The Sunday Express and Reynolds News, 27. 5. 45., carry the SHAEF announcement that 1,000,000 Western Europeans have been repatriated through Allied Army channels. It is estimated that 2,800,000 more, mainly Eastern Europeans, are still awaiting repatriation.

American troops have had to fire on displaced persons who are looting goods trains, according to a correspondent in the Daily Mirror, 28. 5. 45., writing from Jena. "German freight trains today", he writes, "present a fantastic picture - babies and children perched on lumps of coal in a goods wagon, German girls asleep on piles of timber. With no civilian trains available, it seems to have dawned on the German masses still trying to trudge homeward or fleeing from the threat of Russian occupation that they can get along by 'jumping the freight cars'."

/In the

In the Daily Herald, 28. 5. 45., is a picture of two children being fed at the British relief centre in the Zoological Gardens in Hamburg. The caption adds that tens of thousands of freed slave workers and others are being sorted out at this reception centre and repatriated.

Daily Mirror 29. 5. 45., says that doctors all over Britain have been warned to be on their guard against typhus, because twelve cases have been diagnosed among returning prisoners of war.

David Walker, in the Daily Mirror, 30. 5. 45., writes that the food problem of Germany is enormously complicated by the presence of millions of displaced persons awaiting transit, who are being fed at the rate of some 3,000 calories a day.

Most papers of 30. 5. 45., report the conference given in Paris by Lt.-Col. Vincent Paravicini, Chief of the Allied Liaison Section of the Displaced Persons Branch of SHAEF. He said that there were some 4,000,000 displaced persons to be repatriated, of which the French number 1,250,000, Russians 1,500,000, Italians 350,000 and Poles 600,000. Numbers so far repatriated, including in some cases prisoners of war are: French 912,000, Belgian, 158,000, Dutch, 1,300,000, Luxembourgers, 40,000 and Czechs, 5000. The 27th, 12th and 21st Army groups had also repatriated 180,000 Russians. Col. Paravicini said that the re-settlement of large numbers of displaced persons in Europe was being made more difficult by the fact that many Eastern Europeans in the Anglo-American zone did not wish to be returned to the Russian zone. In this category, the Poles were in general showing the greatest reluctance, but Latvians, Lithuanians and others also seemed unwilling to go. He estimated that 600,000 Poles might remain in the zone of the Western allies.

The Daily Worker, 30. 5. 45., says "To establish the nationality of displaced persons from Eastern Europe the pre-war boundaries of Poland are being used and the Baltic countries are still considered as sovereign States" and calls this "a scandalous piece of anti-Soviet impudence on the part of the Allied authorities concerned".

22 MAY 1945

Mr. P. Weinstein
American Committee for Yugoslav Relief
55 Park Ave.
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to your request, we are enclosing material on conditions in and the needs for relief and assistance to Yugoslavia.

Our Public Information wishes to point out that:

- (1) the material contains a number of comments on the part of UNRRA staff which should be construed as purely personal and not reflecting an official point of view;
- (2) the story about Ella Mendich, Texan, is made available with the understanding that it will not be used until after June 1;
- (3) the remarks by Hubert Harrison should be used only with his permission.

We hope that this material will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours

Joel Gordon
Chief, Yugoslav Branch

JGordon/gh
21 May 1945

Clearances: Shelby Thompson



JUGOSLAVIA MISSION

PUBLIC RELATIONS

41

Progress up to date:

Releases: At AFHQ, Rome

1. ML-Tito agreement signed. Supplies going in at once. (Summary cabled to Washington, London and Cairo). 24 January
2. First advance UNRRA party enters Yugoslavia. (Summary cabled to Washington, London and Cairo) 12 Feb.
3. Relief supplies unloaded. (Text sent to Washington, London and Cairo by pouch) 8 March
4. Yugoslav women assist relief work (Text sent to Washington, London and Cairo) 10 March
5. Medical supplies flown to Belgrade (Cabled to Washington, London and Cairo) 14 March

Pictures:

1. UNRRA Advance Party departs (Pix taken by 15th AAF photographer. Prints sent Washington, London and Cairo. Negatives to Washington. Three radio photos to Washington and London). 6 February
2. UNRRA Mission in Bari (Pix by PWB. Arrangements for prints to be sent to Washington and London from Rome) 18 February
3. Series on UNRRA - ML operations in Bari. (Pix by AFPU. Prints to War Office, London, thence to MOI, where UNRRA can collect.) February

Special Articles:

1. Relief supplies start (Placed with BBC correspondent) 6 February
2. Details of shipments to Yugoslavia (Placed with Montreal Standard correspondent) 8 February
3. Dr. Macphail's Belgrade story (Placed with BBC correspondent) 14 February

24700

4. Full report by Dr. Macphail
(Story sent to Washington and London
from Cairo) 2 March
5. Conditions in Dalmatia
(Angled story placed with BBC. Full
story sent to Washington, London and
Cairo) 8 February
6. Relief supplies bring food prices down.
(Sent to Rome for placing by Weidman;
sent to Washington, London and Cairo by
pouch) 10 March
7. Medical supplies for behind German Lines.
(stopped by ML but sent to Washington,
London and Cairo for information) 10 March
8. UNRRA Yugoslavia Mission.
(3,000-word piece, placed with "DANAS",
sent to Washington, London and Cairo. 14 February
9. UNRRA in Dalmatia.
(Special piece by Alan Hall for London
"Daily Express". Copies sent to
Washington, London and Cairo. 12 March

Color Background.

In view of limited number of UNRRA people at present allowed into Yugoslavia, arrangements made for those entering to write personal letters to this Division in Bari. Extracts made and sent to Washington, London and Cairo.

Biographies.

Biographies written of 35 UNRRA officials, including all those now in Yugoslavia. Sent to Washington, London and Cairo by pouch, after cabled notification of individual departures.

Reports.

Reports to Washington, London and Cairo on January 23, January 25, February 7, February 8, February 12, February 14, February 16, February 24, March 6 and March 9.

Organization

A. Communications -- Arrangements made in Rome for:

1. Mimeographing and release of material at AFHQ.
2. Use of radio link between Bari and Rome.
3. Use of PWB teletype between Bari and Rome.
4. Use of army pouch between Bari and Rome.
5. Use of army pouch between Rome and Washington.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Public Information Pamphlet, "In the Wake of the Armies" - Issue 1, Apr./45
2. Public Information Pamphlet, "In the Wake of the Armies" - Issue 2, May/45.
3. Report of tour of Dalmatia, Montenegro and Hercegovina, from Bill Morrell to Morse Salisbury, March 25, 1945.
4. Copy of talk given at UNRRA Mess by Hubert Harrison, 9 January 1945.
5. Report on Split, David N. Leff and E.P. Moon, 20 Feb. 1945.
6. Excerpts from Report on Split dated 20 February 1945 received from the Yugoslav Mission.
7. Letter from Berry White, 15 February 1945.
8. Story of graves of American Aviators.
9. Story of Ella Mendich, Texan.
10. Excerpt from Report of William Morrell, Yugoslav Mission, to Morse Salisbury, 9 March 1945.
11. Special Release to Women's Program Directors, 2 May 1945.
12. Report of Morrell to Salisbury, 15 March 1945, attaching human interest stories of Hall, Fasteau and Wilson.

B. Staff

Arrangements made for release from British Army of Leo Fuller for position of Assistant Director.

- a. Fuller has not yet arrived.
- b. Miss Auty has not yet arrived, nor do we know whether she has been recruited by London.

Two-minute Broadcast by Alan Hall for BBC

Written and recorded in Bari and sent to BBC office in Rome for dubbing March 14th.

41

AT HOME, SOMEWHERE IN ITALY.

"Thank goodness, we brought hammer and nails. We'll make this villa a comfortable place to live in yet!" And lo, a packing-box becomes a cupboard, and for good measure there is a little shelf for a flower vase. The stove is burning merrily, and our laundry dries on the line above. There has been a considerable transformation of the three barren rooms to which the six nurses of our group were assigned the day we arrived. It was on that day that the word "luxury" was dissociated forever from "villa". It was on that day we began the uphill struggle to make our billet livable. Since then, imagination and improvisation have been our passwords. I might add "acquisition", too, the term applied to the useful art of securing either needs or niceties in a way that is acceptable but respectfully unscrutinized.

We have managed to lighten the drab impression of folding cots, mosquito nets, and duffle bags. A simple shelf with a colored scarf on it serves as a bedside library; maps and greeting cards are interesting on the walls. Best of all is the stove, a simple apparatus made by adding pipe, door, legs, and grates to a gasoline drum. The struggles to install it and to secure wood and charcoal are all eclipsed by the joy of basking in its glow as we sip high tea. (No longer need we swaddle ourselves in coats and blankets.) We boil water for tea in our mess tins over a little kerosene stove, and enjoy tea which is "high" whenever there are snacks from home.

Did you notice my tall white candle in the candlestick of gay-colored glazed pottery? It's a decoration, to be sure, but a decidedly useful one when our electricity goes off. Many the sponge-baths we have had from our little camp basins by candlelight.

Yes, the life in our villa is a simple life. It gives us a fresh appreciation of much we had taken for granted. It shows us, too, that enjoying our work and having fun off-duty are not dependent on having steam heat and shining porcelain bathtubs.

One of the nurses has pinned a tapestry over her camp cot. As it waves gently in a draft from a broken window-pane, it displays a little cross-stitch motto: "Travel East, Travel West, After All, Home is Best." It is temporary, and it is Italy, but this stone villa between the sea and the olive groves is to-day our home.

Isabel H. Needham
ISABEL H. NEEDHAM,
Regional Nursing Consultant,
Yugoslav Mission, ISSRA

February 20, 1945.

AN UNGHIA NURSE LOOKS AT HER JOB.

Why did I join UNGHIA? The simplest answer is because I knew that if I weren't here, I'd want to be. I was interested in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration since its inception, chiefly for two reasons. First, I believe in any undertaking, large or small, which offers help where help is needed. Secondly, I am a pacifist, deeply convinced not only of the value but of the imperative need of international co-operation in constructive directions.

My first assignment was in a camp for Yugoslav refugees in the Middle East. It was there I made first-hand acquaintance with the problems of nursing in tents in the desert. We were confronted with all the things commonly called to mind by the idea of deserts - heat, sand, scarcity of water, isolation from large cities. These were combined with limitations in equipment, supplies, and personnel. There is no need to emphasize the difficulties, for there was at the same time a positive satisfaction in being able to carry on. Less tangible but very valuable was the opportunity to know and work with a valiant people. These refugees have met desperate trials with steadfast faith.

Later I was transferred to a newer camp, with responsibility for setting up nursing services to care for an expanding group of refugees who, in this case, were principally mothers with small children. In the course of two months there was established a hundred bed hospital to accommodate adults, children, and communicable cases, as well as an ambulatory clinic, a baby clinic, and a center for distribution of formulas and other special feedings. Our nursing staff included trained nurses of four nationalities. Yugoslav girls with an aptitude for the work were taught simple practical procedures while they served as aides on the wards.

It is hard to visualize the exact nature of the work we will be asked to do when the way opens for service in the Balkans. We know only that we will need to draw heavily on every skill and resource we can bring with us. The task we are facing is greater than any individual in the organization, but with each making a maximum contribution, much good can be realized.

In quiet moments, my spirit reaches up, outside of me, beyond me, with a prayer rather felt than spoken:

That I may use those gifts I have to do my best in the
work that is ahead;
That I may be patient and courageous in times of apparent
failure;
That I may be sensitive to need, and understanding toward all;
And that even the humblest service be done in God's name.

Isabel H. Needham
Isabel H. Needham
Regional Nursing Consultant
Yugoslav Mission, UNGHIA

February 20, 1945

TO: Morse Salisbury
Leonard Ingram

UNR
Dubrovnik

FROM: Bill Morrell

March 25, 1945.

I have just finished a seven-day tour of Dalmatia, Montenegro and parts of Hercegovina, travelling with Bill Harris and Milton Bluestein and am waiting now for the earliest passage back to Bari, although whether this will be via Split or direct to a heel port I do not yet know. However, while waiting, this seems as good a time as any to rough out a report on the results of the journey.

We watched food being unloaded from a Liberty ship in Dubrovnik, and in the country districts we saw food from earlier shipments being carried away to the village distribution centers by truck, mule, donkey and (as was often the case) on the backs of women and girls, and I think the most striking impression I received as far as public information is concerned is that we have an enormous and urgent job to do in making known the needs of this country. I have seen enough to convince me that it is almost impossible for UNRRA to fail in Yugoslavia. Relations with the Yugoslavs are improving constantly as their earlier suspicion melts and officials of both ML and UNRRA assure me that the difference in three weeks is most noticeable. The Yugoslavs themselves are tackling the job with their usual enthusiasm and energy, and wherever civilian effort shows any tendency to break down (as for example in the ports, where they have not yet developed the science of unloading, and moving the goods away from transit warehouses as quickly as should be done) the army is brought in to help. Distribution is taking place efficiently, and, as far as anyone can possibly check, fairly. The needs are enormous and the situation is so bad that it can only improve, so that UNRRA is bound to derive some credit. Short of declaring an economic boycott on the country, it will be almost impossible for UNRRA to do anything to stop success. What is most vitally required, however, is a public appreciation of the needs.

Never forget that for the last four years this country has suffered a more ruthless occupation than any other European country with the exception of Poland. For four years we knew nothing of what the occupiers were doing here. True, in some respects Yugoslavia was in the same position as France, Belgium, Holland and the rest. But to-day these countries are being liberated. Vast armies of Americans and British are in these countries and, apparently, vast armies of correspondents, too. To-day we know a great deal about what happened in France and the Low Countries and we also know a great deal about what the "red hot rake of war" has done to Italy. But there are still very few correspondents in Yugoslavia. Furthermore, they are all in Belgrade. And, most important of all, their stories are not very good copy compared with the news from other fronts. Everybody knows about Cassino. But nobody seems to know (I certainly did not know until I came here) that Yugoslavia has thousands of Cassinos, each one more dead than Cassino itself. A few families have returned to live in Cassino, but the destroyed villages of Yugoslavia are completely dead and long since cold.

The reasons are fairly simple. Partisan commanders with whom I have talked have explained their methods of warfare. They were to isolate the enemy in the towns, to cut off the towns from each other. This was accomplished very easily for Yugoslavia is a wild country with towns few and far between and the roads winding tortuously between endless chains of rocky hills and mountains (except, of course for the fertile east.) It was an easy matter to mine the roads and ambush the truck convoys as they came through, and while the face of the landscape today is scarred with burned and destroyed villages it is also covered with the litter of wrecked enemy equipment which caused these retaliations. The three provinces I have toured are like a drawing room the morning after a wild party. Wrecked German and Italian trucks and tanks and cars, stripped down to the steel skeletons, line the roadsides, tipped onto their sides to clear the roads. Ten minutes drive from anywhere on this coast you can pick up enough German helmets and gasmasks to satisfy any souvenir hunter. Nobody has had time to do any clearing other than the repair of the roads for traffic. Everything else has been left where it is or (if it was on the road) shoved to one side out of the way. Between Metkovic and Dubrovnik, the road winds away from the coast and passes through a valley behind the hills. In one of these valleys, the Partisans trapped 1,500 German in an armoured column only a few months ago and slaughtered the lot. The dead are still buried in mass graves on the shoulder of the road. Higher up the hinterland, between Gacko and Mostar, where more recent fighting took place, the dead are still lying under the snow and now that the snow is melting, arms and legs stick out grotesquely above the surface. As I said before the only work of reconstruction

undertaken in liberated areas has been to repair the roads.

While the Partisan war was on, the Germans and Italians quite logically retaliated by burning the villages. It was the only thing they could do. They lived precariously in the towns and the villages were centers of resistance. In an attempt to drive the Partisans into the hills and forests, where they trusted life would be untenable, the Germans and Italians made sporadic raids into the countryside and destroyed all the villages. Everything was done quite scientifically. Effort was not wasted in demolishing the squat houses. Gasoline was merely sprayed over the contents and then the roof was set on fire. In some cases such as on the Dalmatian islands where timber was scarce, the roofs and furniture were saved for use in the German dugouts. In Montenegro and Hercegovina, a hard, stony, mountainous land, where the peasant made a precarious living on his tiny terraces, punched and patted laboriously out of the mountain side, harrows were dragged over the small vines and the stores of fertilizer were scattered to the winds. In other words, within the space of four years the Germans and Italians (everyone agrees that the Italian behaved just as badly as and in most cases much worse than, the German) reduced the rebellious areas to deserts through which were sprinkled the towns with their garrisons of enemy troops. In some cases, this fitted in with the partisan method of warfare which was to force the population to fight on their side. The only way in which the peasants could live, other than in the towns (where they would have had to rely on enemy charity) was within the ranks of the Partisan organizations in the mountains and forests. But the enemy was too stupid to see this, or, if they did, too pressed for time and manpower to devise any other system of warfare. Now that the ordeal is over, however, the country is in a pitiable state. The only tolerable places are the towns, especially such towns on the Dalmatian coast as Split, Dubrovnik and Kotor, where the enemy lived fairly safely and from which his retreat was too precipitate to permit scorched earth tactics. All else is ruin and desolation. No one lives in the mountains where the empty sockets of the cottages stare up to the sky, nearly all the men are away at the front, and women and children are left to carry on as best they can, there are no communications except for the lucky few who manage to be at the right spot when the infrequent trucks come along (generally laden already with troops and arms), the bridges over the gulfs and mountain streams are blown, the railroads do not function. Yugoslavia is probably the only country in the world where you never need to slow down at a railroad crossing. There are no trains. So far as I have been able to ascertain, the narrow gauge railroad that connects Dubrovnik with Sarajevo (and thence with Belgrade), and with the interior, has only eight locomotives. Three of these are down the coast at Zelanika and cannot be used because the bridges between Zelanika and Dubrovnik are blown and cannot be repaired in months. ML are talking about bringing them out by ship and putting them on the Dubrovnik-Mostar stretch if the bridges on the latter stretch can be repaired.

The situation in the hospitals has to be seen to be fully comprehended. We took advantage of our stay at Niksic, which town is in the hills about eighty miles behind Dubrovnik, to visit the local hospital. For such a wild and primitive part of Europe, the building itself was not bad, although it would not have formed even the basement of any hospital in New York. There were three low stone buildings, white-washed walls, spotlessly clean floors, the whole containing forty-four beds. The beds themselves were ancient affairs, and the mattresses were very old and very stained. To accommodate that number of patients, the beds were crowded close together in the wards. There were three beds, for example, in a ward the size of ShelbyThompson's office. To take care of the patients were three partisan nurses and three doctors of whom only one was a surgeon. He was an Italian doctor who had fled to the hills at the time of the Italian capitulation and had joined the partisans there. He had by no means sufficient medical instruments to perform major operations and only local anesthetics. Furthermore, he was being repatriated within two

days and there was no possibility of replacement. This would mean that the Niksic hospital, which is the only hospital for the whole district, comprising about 70,000 people, would be left with only two doctors, neither of whom is a surgeon. As I write, the Italian surgeon must now be on his way back to Italy.

Dr. Macphail and her unit expect to be posted any day to Montenegro, here they are to open a home for orphaned children. There is a possibility that they will be allocated the house which King Alexander gave Queen Marie on her birthday shortly before he was assassinated in 1934. About ten miles below Budva on the coasts, a few miles north of the Albanian frontier, the house is in a beautiful location, but was stripped of all its furniture and minutely mined by the Germans before they left so that it is still uninhabitable. At present she hopes to be able to get sufficient equipment from ML (beds, bedding and so forth) to set up her unit as soon as the house is turned over to her. This brings up a problem which will face us increasingly on the medical side. During the last war, as you probably know, the Serbs appealed to the Allies to set up so many hospital units containing so many beds, and this was done. We brought in complete units and did the job. The present proposals to turn over equipment to the Yugoslavs and then to ask it back in order for our people to function does not look by any means so workable. (I am talking solely of the medical people at present.) In theory, of course, the Yugoslav authorities are the people who should know where and how much supplies are needed. On the food side, they are certainly in a much better position than we to know. But on the medical side they are desperately short of trained doctors and officials, who can assess the situation and allocate priorities as to areas. From my purely layman's point of view and from the talks I have had with U.S. P.H.S. doctors and with the unit doctors, it appears that the most workable system would be to divide our medical side into two sections. The individual doctors of the Public Health Service can and should work as individuals with and for the Yugoslavs, going where they are told to go by the Yugoslavs and functioning with the supplies turned over to them by the Yugoslavs. The units, such as Dr. Macphail's "Save the Children Fund" unit, should be equipped to go into action as units immediately they are asked for by the Yugoslavs. The present system, it seems to me, will cause great delay.

The food supply situation in this region, which has Dubrovnik as its port is improving rapidly in spite of the fact that the harbour is not yet cleared of mines. To date five vessels have arrived here since the port was opened on February 28th, and the situation is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tons of Supplies</u>	<u>Vessel</u>
February 28	1635 plus 100 vehicles	Samleven
March 2	130	Aida (schooner)
March 6	2320 plus 99 vehicles	Nailsen Moor
March 7	1640 (POL)	Titus (Dutch registry)
March 17	3000	Sasfinn (British)

A sixth ship, the Samdauntless, arrived yesterday afternoon carrying about 4,000 tons of grain, some more motor transport and the first fifty agricultural tractors to reach this country since 1941. A minor crisis has arisen due to the fact that the unloading of the Sasfinn and the clearance of the dockside has not been yet finished. The commission authorities here are by no means as efficient as those in Dubrovnik and little system seems to have been used in the unloading and clearances to the warehouses. Down at the docks yesterday I counted as many Yugoslav officials just standing around checking the supplies as there were dock workers. Plenty of chiefs but no Indians. However ML are holding a meeting with the commission today and laying down some sort of system. One thing that has been giving the ML people here some grey hairs is the fact that several thousand tons of gasoline in barrels have been standing in the open quay for the last few weeks within stones throw of a

sunken German ammunition ship. After much prodding, the Commission began clearance of this fuel yesterday. Three more ships are due here within the twenty days, bringing the total of supplies in Dubrovnik between February 28th and April 13 (approx) to about 17,000 tons of supplies, excluding motor transport.

In our talks with the local officials during this tour, Harris, Bluestein and I obtained the following list of priorities in needs,

1. Materials to repair roads and road bridges.
2. Transport (railroads are well down on the list as these are clearly a long-term project.)
3. Food
4. Clothing
5. Medical supplies
6. Copper sulphate (for the vineyards)

Everything in this part of the world is done by barter. Money has almost no value except for such things as a shoe-shine, a hair-cut (if you can find a barber - most of them are working for the partisans) or a glass of rakija in a cafe. The peasant women (in talking of civilians, you should always remember that I mean women or children in their teens) walk incredible distances carrying incredible loads in order to barter. The breakdown of the economic system is so complete that a drastic shortage of a commodity in one district may not exist in another fifteen miles away. Consequently you see civilians hitch-hiking with sacks of potatoes to a village some miles away where potatoes were not grown before the war and where they consequently do not exist now, in order to barter them for olive oil or wine or flour, which may be unobtainable in their district. Harris and I worked out the following example which may interest you and which might be usable as a story. On his last trip to Italy, he bought twenty kilos of oranges for five dollars. Oranges are very scarce here and are selling in Dubrovnik for 4,800 kuna a kilo, so that he could have realised 96,000 kuna on his oranges, had he sold them. For 96,000 kuna he could have bought a rug in Dubrovnik that would have sold in New York for at least 500 dollars, thus realising 500 dollars on his original five dollar purchase. However, he could have obtained his oranges in Italy for three packs of American cigarettes, which would have cost him 15 cents at the PX. On a barter system therefore, it would have been possible to realise 500 dollars for an original outlay of fifteen cents.

Some facts about distribution may be of interest. In the Srez, i.e. District, of Niksic, to take a fairly typical example, there are about forty thousand people. So far the only food supplies that have arrived are forty thousand kilogrammes of flour. (In this respect, however, the district is not typical. Other, more accessible districts have received other supplies besides flour and received them much earlier.) To proceed, however, the average prewar consumption of flour was about four hundred grammes of bread a day, making a total of about hundred and eighty thousand kilogrammes, or four hundred and eighty tons a month. In other words, the supplies received are enough for about one twelfth of a month if all the population of this particular Srez were to be fed. All the population is not being issued these relief supplies, however, we were informed. The town commander told us that the practice in the war has been to take from those who have and give to those who have not, "consequently", he went on, "we ascertain which people have enough food to last them for another fortnight or who have possessions they can barter for food," (The barter system and, to a certain extent, the black market, is apparently winked at by the authorities,) "and give only to those who have absolutely nothing." "There would be no sense," he went on, "to issue relief supplies to everyone only to take it back next day from those who already had some stocks of their own."

The precise method of determining who should receive food seems to vary from district to district. At Zelenika, on the coast below Dubrovnik, the local official in charge told us that the people were divided into two sections, those who have absolutely nothing except their lives and the clothes they wear and those who have no money but houses which they may be able to put into shape in a few months time and thus be able to pay. These received food, the first category free, and the second on credit. About ten per cent received no food. They, he admitted, had no flour but did have, say, some oil or wine which they were told to take to the nearest village and barter. You will thus see that, willy nilly a great levelling out process is taking place in this country. Only the foodless with no immediately realisable possessions receive food, the question of credit depending upon whether or not they may eventually be able to pay. Those with possessions of any kind which can be used for barter at this moment, whether it be olive oil or wine or clothes or private possessions are told they must barter them on the open market. I hesitate to give any opinion on the merits of this system since it is apparent that supplies received so far are not sufficient for all the population in the areas which have been liberated.

Whether or not relief supplies are being used as a political weapon no one can say with certainty. My own firm opinion at this moment is that they are most definitely not being used in this way and that it is time for us to stop looking for the partisan in the woodpile. Dave Leff told me of a conversation he had with the mayor of Budva, a delightful old man in his sixties named Petar Lushtich. Dave had spent some time at the University of Arizona and discovered that Petar had also attended it when it was the University of Tucson, class of 1901, so they had some common ground to meet on. Dave asked whether relief supplies were being given to the families of Chetniks. The old mayor was most offended, "we do not make war on women and children" he said. "The Chetniks whom we know have committed murders we intend to kill without mercy, but so long as I am mayor of this town their women and children will receive the same food as the families of the partisans." There was no doubting his sincerity.

On the supplies themselves, I think some section of UNRRA should give urgent attention to the labelling of condensed or dehydrated foods which have to be mixed with water before consumption. One of the stock jokes about the Hoover Relief Commission after the last war told how the peasants of Buthenia, never having heard of cocoa, mixed it with water and painted the walls of their cottages with it. I thought we had learned from that story. Yet only the other day Dave Leff came on a partisan mess, was called to one side by the perplexed cooks, shown some cans of pea soup powder, and asked what they were supposed to be. The detachment had just received thirty kilos of the stuff, enough for 200 men. Not being able to read the English label, they had first tried making cakes with it and then, in some desperation, puddings. The results, even to war hardened soldiers who have lived on roots in the forest, were neither appetising nor digestible.

It would perhaps be preferable, at least in the early stages, to reserve such condensed or powdered foods for communal consumption, such as in hospitals or orphanages. Failing this, however, I think every case of such food should have enclosed with it a label of instructions in Serbo-Croatian so that local officials can instruct the recipients on the method of preparation when it is being distributed. I finally managed to get some pictures today. Up to the present nothing has happened to alter the original system laid down by the Brigadier whereby we could take all the pictures we wanted in Italy but not on this side. I reported to you from Split my unsuccessful attempt to persuade local members of the Commission to take a decision on this and how the responsibility had been passed back to Belgrade. It may be that the Brigadier raised this in Belgrade on his recent trip, but I have not yet received any notification of any new decision. However, walking through Dubrovnik the other day, I noticed a display of photographs in the local partisan

propaganda office and saw that they were pictures of ML food supplies being unloaded here. I went into the shop and managed to buy a selection. They cost me 250 kuna each and, unfortunately, are only single prints on not too suitable paper, but they are at least a start. Later in the day I was down at the quayside and saw a photographer in civilian clothes wandering around, it transpired that he was the man who took the original photographs. I have made an arrangement with him whereby he will take photographs for us, turning the negatives over to us, in return for payment or, preferably, food. There is little doubt in my mind that the fact that the Commission had no information division with which we could work is because it is composed mainly of men who have dealt either in shipping, dock work, transportation, or merchandising of some kind, have had no experience in public relations, have not comprehended its necessity and have been scared to touch it because, in the new political system in this country, public information is synonymous with propaganda, which is a very high-level affair indeed. I am inclined to think that by dealing with the local propaganda office (we can rest assured that there is one in every community, large or small), we shall get more results.

In this particular case I held the interview with the photographer in the office of the local head of the Commission and the latter readily agreed to my obtaining photographs locally. He explained that he had already sent prints of the photographs to the Commission Headquarters in Split, but understood when I explained to him our need for obtaining negatives as well as prints. As things stand at present in this district, therefore, we can use the local photographer by applying for him through the Commission, and may even have him accompany our people on two-day trips into the countryside. We shall, however, need to supply him with 35 millimetre film and I am taking this up with Morse Salisbury when I reach Bari.

March 15, 1945.

To Morse Salisbury (Washington)
To Leonard Ingrams (London)
To Bob Noble (Cairo)

An UNRRA public information man arriving in Dalmatia at this time is in somewhat the same position as a reporter arriving in a town to find fifteen different stories breaking simultaneously all round him. His first reaction is, This can't happen to me. It is, however, happening to me. It will probably go on happening to me since I am due to leave early tomorrow morning for Mostar, Dubrovnik and Cetinje, traveling with Bill Harris and Milton Bluestein. So I am not going to attempt to break down all the information I have gathered during the last sixteen hours into separate stories. The stories are there and I will give them in as much detail as you can separately require to do your own processing. At any rate, I feel it will be of some help to Marvin Beers who wants his material as raw as possible. Just in from tours are Duane Wilson (Washington), Henry Pribram (London), Sam Rosenberg (Washington), John Hall (Washington), and Jack Fasteau (Washington), and I am attaching as much information from their personal reports as I have been able to gather.

First general impressions of this place are wonderful, especially compared to the general feeling of depression and lack of initiative that one senses among the Italians. Here, in this little port, there is a feeling of energy and enthusiasm. The children, whenever there are more than three of them, are continuously breaking out into song, and last night, when I went out for a ten minute walk along the water front, I was treated to a marvellous sight. The tiny harbour is almost a complete circle, with the land curving round like an arm, throwing out a little cliff so as almost to reach the end of the mole on the other side. From the cliff a blue searchlight threw out a dazzling beam across the harbour to the mole, so that to people on the waterfront everything in the harbour was silhouetted. Partisan boys and girls in their teens were singing and dancing in the street on the waterfront and among the short palm trees on its broad sidewalk. The lilting Slav music, the circling figures in the kolo, the silhouettes in the harbour, the blue light beyond, and the black night beyond that made it an intoxicating experience.

Everyone here is amazed at the fine work the Yugoslavs are doing. To sum it up, the opinion of all those in our mission on this side of the Adriatic is that if the supplies keep coming, and if there is sufficient transport available, it will be almost impossible for Unrra to fail in Yugoslavia. There are certain delays, for example the anxiety of the Yugoslavs to weigh everything meticulously before accepting it. Larry Vass tells me, for example, that the accountant for JSCML is anxious to be credited with, say, a three per cent shrinkage on supplies in order to safeguard himself against the sub depots who distribute the food. To those of us used to comparative plenty (or at least so sufficiency), this may appear a trifling detail to worry over. But when you think how preciously every least item of supply is regarded, how the women sweep up the grains of wheat as they escape from the sacks, and how the driver of a truck is made personally responsible for the smallest spanner in his kit (and may be shot for undue carelessness if he loses any valuable spare parts), it is not so trifling. In one district, for example, the distribution of canned meat and vegetables allowed each person slightly more than one can. Some cans, therefore, had to be opened and their contents portioned out so that each person could have his or her exact allowance. By exact I mean just that. If the scales wavered slightly over the mark, the weighing official took a spoon and removed one bean so that the scaled showed the right amount had been given.

And yet, in writing any stories about our work in Yugoslavia, it is absolutely essential to avoid any impression that this is charity. If any people were ready and able to help themselves it is this one.

They are willing to listen to our advice and quick to take it if

they think it is good, and they seldom need to have it repeated. Their records, I am told by our people, are excellent and in minute detail. The supplies are distributed rapidly and, as far as we can determine, absolutely equitably. On the island of Šlarin, John Hall visited a children's orphanage, which contains about sixty children orphaned during the war. In the sick room were five or six children up to the age of 12, most of them suffering from colds and minor ailments. As he was standing by one bed, a little boy of about five, spoke to him. His interpreter said, "That boy's father was a Ustachi leader. He was a very educated man, but a Ustachi, and he is no longer alive". Hall was first of all impressed by the fact that, despite the fact that the boy's father had been a leader of the Ustachi and had been responsible for the deaths of many Partisans, nevertheless they were giving the child the same treatment as they were giving all the other children. Furthermore the child and two brothers and a sister in the same institution.

Hall was also impressed by the manner of his interpreter, a Partisan, and the way in which he said, "He was a very educated man, but a Ustachi, and now he is no longer alive". Hall said that the interpreter spoke quite calmly. There was no trace of hatred in his voice. He recognised that the dead father was a human being; he just happened to have been on the other side and it was necessary for the good of the majority to kill him.

Hall had another instance of this in one of the villages near Sibenik. In this district are a large number of German prisoners who are being used to rebuild bridges, repair roads, dig up mines and other generally unpleasant tasks. To his surprise, Hall saw a German, in his uniform, walking into the village market to buy a piece of garlic. He nudged the interpreter and pointed. "Oh, him," said the Partisan calmly, "he's not going any place". It appears that in the villages the Germans are given a certain amount of liberty. They are allowed to walk in certain streets and while they are in those streets they are tolerated. They rub shoulders with the people and you would never guess that a few months ago the people of that village had been engaged in a bitter Partisan war with the Germans and that a few miles away people in other villages are still engaged in a bitter Partisan war. These people have gone through so much that they have passed beyond hatred. They realise that the Germans are human beings and they are tolerated as such - in certain defined streets. But if ever a German prisoner were foolish enough to go in another street he would almost certainly be shot on sight.

So much, of course, is not about Unrra, but in writing stories or radio scripts about Unrra in Yugoslavia we should, I think, try to write against that kind of a background. Jack Fasteau's story, for example, about his interpreter meeting his mother whom he hadn't seen for more than a year and who had been one of the first woman partisans in that area, is typical of hundreds of other cases. John Hall's interpreter has his wife and two children in Zagreb, which is still held by the Germans. He doesn't know whether they are alive or dead. As a matter of fact, he reminisced with Hall as they sailed across to one of the islands that twelve months ago he would have thought it crazy to imagine that by this time he would be ~~aviv~~ alive to see his particular part of Yugoslavia liberated, with him alive to enjoy a sail over the bay in the warm sunshine. He tried to give Hall a picture of what it had been like to keep fighting morale alive while the Germans were occupying their country, with the Russians driven back to Stalingrad, and Rommel pushing on Cairo. And, when the Germans had put on a push against the partisans early in 1944, of how they had waited desperately for the Allied invasion of Europe to take the load away.

In their tour of the islands Henry Pribram and Sam Rosenberg came on the graves of two American aviators, whose plane had crashed on the island and whose bodies the Partisans had discovered. The island is called Sveti Klement just off the island of Hvar. The Partisans pulled the bodies clear of the wreckage and buried them there, one on June 7, 1944 and the other the following day. The names on the little crosses which the Partisans put over the graves are Easton Duval and James Williams. Duval, apparently, carried no dog-tag for no number was inscribed on the cross, but Williams'

number was 18166957. As far as we can find out locally, no confirmation of their deaths was ever sent from this side, so I send it to you so that Washington can find out from the Army Air Corps and, if it is merited, send out a story. Presumably their plane crashed on June 7, the day their bodies were discovered, since that area at that time was being contested by both sides, but the Partisans who took Pribram and Rosenberg to the graves had no sure knowledge of it. None was there at that time, and those who were there are either in other fighting areas or dead.

At various points on their trip Pribram and Rosenberg also met some Yugoslavs who had been in our camp at El Shatt in Egypt. One was an old man who is now the president of the town council at Jelsa on Hvar. He liked El Shatt and had many pleasant memories of it and wonderful stories to tell the people of the sand that enveloped everything, but he was glad to be home, and everywhere they went Pribram and Rosenberg got the same story. Shortage of labour is such that the people in the camps are badly needed on the islands. Most of them came from the islands whose populations now are very much depleted by men being away at the front, by mass executions by the Germans and Italians, and by forced evacuations. The island of Brac, for example, had a pre-war population of from 19,000 - 20,000. It is now 12,000 and 3,200 of its former inhabitants are now in El Shatt. Hvar has 2,200 in El Shatt and only 9,000 living on the island out of a pre-war population of 15,700. At Vrgorac, near Metkovic, they also met three girls who had been trained as nurses at El Shatt and who were now proudly working as full time nurses in the local hospital. They, too, liked El Shatt and were grateful for the training they had had, but they were glad to be home again. Some may ask why people should want to leave a camp where they are housed, clothed, and fed and return so immediately to an area where their homes have been destroyed, and where there is a shortage of almost every essential. The answer is that they know the work of rebuilding their country has started and that they want to take part in it. Unrra receives enormous credit for its work (see John Hall's report). In fact Unrra right now is receiving credit for supplies that are ML supplies and many of our observers have tried to explain the difference in vain.

On at least half the island of Brac, all the houses have been completely burned down by Italian punitive expeditions. Since that the war at present prohibits tourists, the sole remaining livelihood of the inhabitants is derived from their vineyards and fishing. The yield from the vineyards is small due to lack of fertilizers and insecticides. Fishing is greatly restricted because many boats were destroyed by the Germans before they left. Food is scarce and prices are high. When Pribram and Rosenberg were there, the people of one town on the island were bringing down wood from the hills. The wood was not sold because it did not command as high a price as salt (you must come here to appreciate what it is like to do without salt in your food for months on end). Instead it was used as fuel to boil sea water, from which the townspeople extracted salt. The salt was then bartered for food.

The island of Solta has an even story to tell. During the German occupation the island was apparently one of their front lines of defence against an Allied attempt to liberate Split. Nevertheless the fisherfolk on the island worked hand in glove with the partisans and used their boats to bring supplies over to the partisans. Eventually the Germans handled the affair with their customary thoroughness. They evacuated the entire population, but before they

went the people were made to dig extensive dug-outs for the Germans. They were made to demolish their houses and use the roof timbers as supports inside the dug-outs. Then they were sent away. When the island was liberated and the people returned, they found the dug-outs the best habitations on the island. Not only had their houses no roofs or floors, but the furniture itself had been used to make the dug-outs more comfortable. The Germans had even used the fishing nets to camouflage their positions and now the nets are no longer usable. (The need for nets or for material to repair nets is one you will doubtless hear of from other sections in the mission.) Before they left, the Germans lobbed hand-grenades into all the fishing boats so that most of them cannot put to sea. And they took with them or destroyed every piece of crockery and every cooking utensil on the island. They butchered and ate all the sheep they could find and killed all they could find when they were forced to leave. Out of the 2,000 sheep that the people of Solta owned before the war, there now remain only ten, ten that somehow were overlooked and managed to live in the woods. Out of 800 draught animals (horses, mules and asses) only 350 are left. Nothing else was left. Nevertheless out of the 3,400 people who lived on Solta, 2,000 have returned to build up life again. The other 1,400 are in El Shatt. In case this seems incredible, let me add that they will certainly succeed in doing what they have set out to do. Helping people to help themselves resolves itself in Yugoslavia to providing the wherewithal. These people have a bottomless capacity for perseverance. (Look at Duane Wilson's story of the woman who carries her hen ten kilometers every few days so she can find a rooster to get fresh eggs.) Near Metkovic, Rosenberg watched the delivery of grain to sub-depots and saw girls of from 12 to 15 years of age carrying sacks of grain weighing 140 lbs. They were not carrying them from a truck to a nearby warehouse. They were carrying them to a warehouse five kilometres away.

John Hall has the best story so far. In Sibenik he was talking with a Serb who fought in this war as a Partisan and who fought against the Germans in the last war. The Partisan began to tell him what this war against the Germans has been like in Yugoslavia. One story led to another and eventually John got so enthusiastic that he tried to translate that piece by Patrick Henry, the part that goes, "Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of slavery? Fodbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death". When he had finished (or rather when the interpreter had given an accurate translation), the Partisan thumped his knee and cried, "That man must have been a Yugoslav." The Reader's Digest may like that!

I'm also enclosing some material on the co-operatives which are now fairly active in Dalmatia and which Rosenberg suggests Washington should show to Lincoln Clark, who he understands is handling our projects with the co-operatives.

I hope this will give you-all some material for stories. Since the Boat sails for Bari tomorrow morning, it's too late for me to write any of the details into stories at this stage, but I'll do so on the trip and will send them to Rome for placing there.

I'd still like to have your comments on the previous reports and stories. So far the only response is from Cairo.

On organisational matters, I had a talk with the Brigadier today. The question of having reporters or cameramen to cover our operations is still in abeyance, and it has not been possible for him to obtain a decision here. He and Colonel Whitley, the U.S. Deputy Commander of ML Yugoslavia, are going to Belgrade on Monday "to clear up some outstanding matters with the Yugoslavs", of which my problems are part. I have asked him to request the Yugoslav authorities to designate some official here with whom I can discuss matters. There is, for example, an excellent public information room in this town, also one newspaper, the Partisan newspaper, "Sloboda Dalmacija". There are also local photographers; and some very excellent local photographs are on display in the windows of the information office, none of them, I am afraid, touching on our work. It should therefore be easy to organise work on this side once some responsible Yugoslav official is designated. I also had a talk today with a Mr Roshin from the JSCML Liaison office and raised the question of having some section with which I could work. He

exap explained that there is no such section at present, that all responsible officials are away from here, most of them in Belgrade but they hope to have someone appointed as a result of the Brigadier's representations. It is clear that the matter can only be settled in Belgrade and we must make a point of doing this at as early a date as possible.

I notice in a letter from Louis Birk to Al Fields that Morse Salisbury is anxious to establish a norm of operations for this mission. My own feeling is that for the first six months, at least, of our operations in Yugoslavia, the three positions laid down in the budget will be essential and that we shall certainly need at least one photographer as well. On the latter point, I feel we will probably be able to obtain such a man from the Yugoslavs. I would go further and say we shall probably be able to obtain a team once we have shown the Yugoslavs on the top level what our aims are. I am anxious, however, for Morse to come to Bari so that we can discuss this in greater detail upon which he can base his final decisions.

BILL MORRELL.

Enclosures:

1. Observations and Human Interest by John L. Hall.
2. " " Irving J. Fasteau.
3. " " Duane Wilson.
4. Personal Experiences as a Technical Observer.) by S. A. Rosenberg.
5. Interview with Officials of Dalmatian Cooperative Alliance.)
6. Letter to Alan Hall from Nick Rezak.

March 14, 1945

OBSERVATIONS AND HUMAN INTEREST

TRIP FROM SPLIT TO SIBENIK, DRNIS, BIOGRAD AND ZADAR AREAS BY JOHN. L. HALL

It is interesting to note that everyone seems to know of UNRRA and it was necessary to explain to many that the supplies received to date are ML supplies and that UNRRA was assisting ML until the UNRRA period began. The people everywhere are hopeful for UNRRA and feel that Yugoslavia as a part of the United Nations has a part in UNRRA. They feel that UNRRA will help them to get back on their feet. While they need food now and need it badly, they are asking for fishing nets, agricultural tools, seeds, belts for their mills, blue stone to help protect their grape crops, transport, machinery, and other things which will enable them to better help themselves. They say, give us wheat and we will grind it into flour.

One old man in a small village (selo) in the okrug of Sibenik apologized for their asking for food. He said it was not good and that his people were not in the habit of asking for food; but it is so bad now that when the men and women go to the fields to work, they can not work well, they are too weak, they must rest much of the time, and as time goes on, their condition gets worse. Many of the adults have gone without food in order to give a little more to the children.

Several days ago we met a man unloading a wagon which was stuck in the middle of the road on a hill near Karalici. It was a reasonably long steep hill, but the load didn't appear to be very heavy. The man explained that his two horses were weak and couldn't make the grade. He would take off half the load to the top of the hill and come back for the other half. It would take longer, but there was no other way. He was glad to have his horses.

While in Kistanje on the 12th of March we met a slow moving ox cart drawn by two large gaunt oxen. It was moving at a snail's pace into Kistanje. It had come from a small village (selo) some thirty kilometers away. It carried a burden that was not pleasant to see. In it was a man who had fallen into a vat of boiling water and was severely burned about the head and shoulders. He was badly swollen and infected. His family was bringing him into Kistanje to the hospital. In my opinion the man's chances for recovery are slight. In this village the best transport which could be obtained was an oxcart, and even this was obtained at a sacrifice to the village for the oxen had to stop plowing in order to make this trip and they were sorely needed for this purpose.

Several of the small islands off Sibenik are hard pressed for man power among other things. Women do much of the work on the olive presses, in the vineyards, and on the few small fishing boats left, many of which are patched up. On these boats one man who has had some fishing experience takes the necessary number of women as helpers. These women row the boats, spread the nets, haul them in, and clean and pack the fish. They do very well. The island of Zlarin had a prewar population of 1500. Now it has 850. Many men from this island are fighting the enemy. There are 170 children on the island under the age of 15. Many of these children are working along side of their mothers.

On the island of Zirje they have no typhus, they are keeping clean, and yet they have no soap. When I asked them how people managed to keep clean one chap handed me a chunk of clay. This chunk of clay, dug out of the sea with long handled hoes was their soap. The secret lay in washing in salt water for the clay will not work in fresh water. It is impossible to get any soap for any purpose now or for the past several years.

On the road from Sibenik to Drnis (in the selo of Pakovo) there is a one room school. One teacher and 106 pupils. The classes are run in three two hour shifts. The first period for the youngest children, the second period for older children, and the third period for adults who want to learn to write and read. The children are given one meal a day (soup, pasta, some milk and sugar). The little room was cold and yet friendly. The children sat on long benches about ten deep. All were wrapped up, some in rags. There were only a few pencils and children brought any kind of paper they could get a hold of for writing. Some wrote on newspaper, leaf's torn from old books, old wrapping paper, and even sticks of wood. They had one small black board.

In one small selo, the president of the council made a statement which was expressed several times by other okrug and katari officials. On meeting him I explained my visit and pointed out that I was an Observer loaned by UNRRA to ML to see first hand

how supplies were being handled, what the need was, etc. This town was hard hit and needed so many things the supplies delivered to date barely touched the surface.

He said, "We are honored that ML and UNRRA see fit to send a representative to our small town and are grateful for the help we have received. Everything is yours to see and I hope you will tell us if we are not doing what is right in record keeping, etc." The records, as usual, were especially good, all food distributed.

Many of the small selos have no newspapers as we know them, but have several devices by which the citizens may be kept informed. Everywhere I went I found that people knew of UNRRA. The chief reason was the "Talking Newspaper". A man in the village gets official and news notices which he reads in the public square regularly. All those who can't read or who are interested attend these talkie newspaper sessions. One old man told me he had heard via the talkie of UNRRA several months ago and was glad to see us.

OBSERVATIONS AND HUMAN INTEREST

by Irving J. Fasteau

Place: Klis

Date: 5 March 1945

After inspecting warehouse facilities for this town several suggestions were made for the purpose of preventing loss of food from spoilage, handling or fire. They were accepted graciously. The President of the Town Comm. asked us to return later in the day to pick up the statistics, which they were preparing.

When we stopped back later in the day we were taken to the warehouse. Every suggestion offered had been followed. The floor had been swept and watered down, the sacks of grain and flour were neatly stacked and identified, recovery equipment was arranged in orderly fashion, the weighing scale shined, a no smoking sign posted, and a barrel half filled with water had been placed immediately outside the door of the building.

I commended the manager of the warehouse on his diligence and thoroughness. He beamed. The townfolk who had trailed along to the warehouse to watch my reaction beamed and smiled with pride at their town official. I saw several of the men playfully poke the manager in his ribs or pat his back in approval of what he had done. The woman then brought in some smoked veal, wheat and corn bread and wine. We ate and when we were finished, I was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Place: Brocanac

Date: 3 March 1945

Brocanac is a small town lying at the foot of a mountain. It depended on its' flocks of sheep and goats for his livelihood. It had suffered severely during enemy occupation, had lost 90 per cent of its livestock and more than one-third of its population. Poverty, extreme poverty, was apparent to the most casual observer.

We had finished our conference with the President of the town. It was about 1:30 P.M. and we were invited to lunch. I was asked what we would like to eat. I was at a loss. I know that there is so little food, all of which is so badly needed. Everyone I saw in the town looked undernourished. We had our rations and I suggested that we eat them. Not only the President but all the people of the town who had gathered around us would not hear of it. I was their guest and there was an old proverb that "A guest in town was equivalent to a God in Town".

A meal of boiled eggs, corn and wheat bread, raw onions and wine was served. There were no utensils, no dishes, we ate with our fingers, and drank wine from a two liter bucket, which was passed from person to person.

At the finish of the meal, a girl about 14 years old presented me with a small bouquet of violets. She had picked them while we were eating. Having said our good-byes, I reached for my bag. The President of the town got to it first and over my protests, carried it very carefully to the car, where he went to great pains to tuck it securely in a corner furthest away from where I was sitting. As we shook hands he told me he was sorry that the town could offer so little in the way of hospitality and assured us that I would always be welcome and that if it were at all possible that I come back to visit with them.

When I opened my bag in my billet, I found eight eggs, individually and carefully wrapped. This was a gift from the town. They had given as a gift what was most precious to them. Eggs represent a means of exchange and of barter. It is at this time almost their only means of exchange.

What impressed me most, more than the gift itself, was the sensitivity of these people. They felt that I would refuse a gift, certainly a gift of food. They therefore used a method of presenting me with their gift, which made refusal impossible.

Place: On the road in mountainous country near Split

Date: 6 March 1945

An old woman in peasant costume, heavily burdened by a sack tied to her back, was walking slowly up the mountain road. My Yugoslav guide asked that we stop. He leaped out of the car as he shouted greetings to the woman. They beamed at each other, they embraced, and held each other at arms length looking long and earnestly into each others face. I was introduced as a member of UNRRA, and a friend of Yugoslavia. She was his mother. They had not seen each other for more than a year. She had lost her husband and five of her children to the Germans and the Utashi. She was the first woman Partisan in this area and for two years had been a courier, crossing enemy lines with messages, food and ammunition. For two years she had been the leader of the underground movement, organizing resistance and maintaining the morale of the population.

She spoke to me of her family, her home, her work against the enemy. She expressed deep and sincere appreciation for the aid that was being provided. When we were bidding her good-bye, she reached for our shoulders, and as I bent forward, kissed me on the cheek.

OBSERVATIONS AND HUMAN INTEREST

by Duane Wilson

During the past ten days I have by "Jeep" traveled the Oblast of Dalmacia from Zadar to Podgora, a small coastal village approximately six kilometres south-west of Makarska. During this time I have visited the largest city in five of the seven Okruzi of Dalmacia, and have passed through many of the smaller towns and villages, both in the mountains and along the coastal plain.

While making this tour I have had the opportunity to talk, through my excellent interpreter, with several members of Zavnoh (the governing body of Croatia) and the various Okruzi. I have also talked with two members of the Oblast Dalmacija (the governing body of Dalmatia). On several occasions I have talked with those not connected in any way with the existing governing bodies. These groups included such individuals as successful pre-war business men, and some who have been and others who are now prominent in their communities. One such individual is a native Slovenian, the Commanding Officer of several Slovenian companies stationed on the north Dalmatian coast.

On two particular occasions after dinner, when the liquor loosened tongues, I have listened to Croatians, Orthodox Serbians and Slovenians express their opinions without restraint.

From these experiences, my personal observations and the reports of our technical specialists, I have come to the following conclusions:

- (1) The shortage of food which now exists in Dalmatia will continue until the harvest of 1946. Note that this conclusion is contingent upon certain factors:
 - (a) The time it takes to liberate northern Yugoslavia.
 - (b) The damage the Germans do to the E-W railroads in northern Yugoslavia.
 - (c) The M.T. available.
 - (d) The crops (1945) in eastern Yugoslavia.
- (2) Many of the top positions in the governing bodies in Croatia are held by conscientious, energetic, capable young men.
- (3) There is a conviction and determination among those of influence and those in key positions that there will be a united, democratic Yugoslavia.

That the shortage of food now existing in Dalmatia will continue until the 1946 harvest is the belief of all those with whom I have talked. The young man who is in charge of food for Zavnoh is thoroughly convinced of this fact. The reasons given are (a) the shortage of labor, as so many of the peasants are now in the Army and will remain there until hostilities cease. (b) The great shortage of draft animals and other stock because so many have been taken by the Germans or are now used by the Partisan Army.

To illustrate the existing situation, one official told me how one woman carried her hen ten kilometres to the nearest rooster every few days so as to get fertile eggs for hatching.

I also noticed the scarcity of draft animals in the fields where most of the plowing was being done by hand. In many instances, where wagons and implements were designed for two animals, the one end of the double tree was secured, and one animal pulling the vehicle on one side of the tongue. This was very noticeable, as it gave the vehicle a lop-sided appearance.

The youth, sincerity and seeming ability of many of the top officials in the various units of government was very noticeable. I inquired as to the age of some of them, and found it to be in the twenties. Most of these young men had previously served in the Army, and all of them looked tired. When I inquired, they informed me that their usual work day was fourteen to sixteen hours. I noted that their offices were always

filled with people waiting to see them.

When I jokingly told one of these young officials that he should marry and raise a family to help rehabilitate his country, he laughed, but seriously reminded me that he had more important things to do right now. He also jokingly said that Croat men often became the fathers of children after they are sixty years of age.

The serious attitude of the youth of the country is also evidenced in the lack of profanity among young people. It was explained to me that previously the young men were very profane, especially in the Army, but that now very little profanity or rudeness was tolerated. The reasons given were that they wanted to show respect to the women serving with them, and also that they employed a system of public reprimand by publishing accounts of any unseemly remarks or actions on the part of their soldiers or other personnel.

The strong conviction and determination of all those with whom I came in contact - that there must and will be a united Yugoslavia - was evidenced all along the line. I made it a point to get their reaction to this question, and it was always the same. I listened for hours to Croats, Slovenians and Orthodox Serbs, sitting together, who spoke with great sincerity and emotion upon this subject.

They are determined to become the little democratic brother of England and the United States, and they are most anxious to make a favorable impression upon those of us who represent these countries and UNRRA.

Miscellaneous. Some additional observations which I made are listed below:

The cities of Zadar and Makarska have suffered terrific destruction. Zadar is probably 95% destroyed, and Makarska 50% rubble. In Zadar they are clearing out some of the narrow streets, and are removing the bodies of the dead. They do not know how many are buried in the ruins or when the bodies will be recovered.

Many small villages in Dalmatia have been completely ruined. The walls only are standing in village after village. It was explained to me that the Italians and Ustaci especially would spread gasoline or kerosene on the floors and set them afire. The burning floors would set fire to the rafters, and the roofs would collapse, taking all else with them.

The Yugoslavs are doing a very good job with the available machinery in repairing highways. Wherever possible they have repaired bridges, culverts and ledges that have been blown up by the retreating Germans.

There are many areas in which the mines have not yet been removed. These are generally wired off or marked.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the people of Dalmatia are most hospitable. They insist on giving us their best, sometimes to our embarrassment. Dalmatian rakije and wine are excellent and most Dalmatians are better men than I am when it comes to the drinking of liquor. I have to explain to them that it is the custom in my country to drink a little water - occasionally.

Monuments and Fine Arts

The one large building in Zadar which has come through the bombing seemingly intact is the old Roman Forum which has been used as a museum. This may be due to the massiveness of the pillars and the structure in general. The Yugoslav authorities have appointed a wounded soldier who is now unable to do any more fighting as custodian of the museum. This very serious individual with the aid of an assistant who seems to know the historical background of Dalmatia and the proper arrangement of museum exhibits are doing their best to restore the various exhibits in the proper manner.

It was very interesting to note that these exhibits were arranged as to the area in Dalmatia from which they came - and that some of them dated back to the stone age. It was also very noticeable, as it was pointed out by the custodian, that the Germans had looted the museum of all items of intrinsic value which they could

easily carry away, such as the precious stones.

This work is already being attempted while the enemy are still only a few miles away.

The ancient and famous cathedral at Sibenik is intact.

Schools

It is a noteworthy fact that the Dalmatians are opening their schools as soon as it is possible after an area is liberated. The "gymnasia" in Sibenik was enrolling students on 11 March and were beginning instruction the following day. The Okrug official in charge of Education informed me that he had great difficulty in procuring teachers and would have to use some who had been students when the school (gymansia) closed because of German invasion in 1941.

The elementary schools in many cities and villages have been operating for several weeks. I believe it is noteworthy that the two languages which will be taught are English and Russian, instead of those previously taught - French, German, and Italian.

We have had many requests by government officials for small textbooks by which they could learn the English language. I have asked both ML G Branch and Administration, UNRRA, to procure some such materials if possible.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AS A TECHNICAL OBSERVER

by S. A. Rosenberg

March 9, 1945

At last we were on an assignment in Yugoslavia - and as a Technical Specialist. Nobody knew very much about what we would encounter in the way of opposition or unfriendliness on the part of the people whom we would be observing.

Our first stop was at Makarska on February 28, and we had our dinner at the town officials' mess. There were about a dozen of us seated around a long table. After dinner we heard many exploits of what had happened in this area when it was occupied by the Germans. We were listening to heroes who had saved the lives of many of our aviators who had been forced down. Story after story was told which showed the courage of the whole people.

We told them about UNRRA and we had a very interested group of listeners. Later on we all sang Yugoslav songs and by the time we left the mess hall, there was a fine spirit and a feeling of camaraderie amongst us.

In spite of the fact that there is little food in Yugoslavia and especially in Makarska which has been very badly damaged, we had fresh meat for dinner and a beautiful green salad - the first one I had seen or eaten in about a month. They must have combed the countryside to prepare such a dinner.

Such excellent hosts are hard to find. They would not let us drink water - wine was the order of the evening. They told me that water would make bubbles in my stomach.

Mr. Jelaska, accountant for D.O.P.H. who had driven up to Makarska with us was just grand. He told us many stories of his deeds during the occupation of Split and of his work there as an underground agent. On the journey from Split to Makarska he told us many stories of his deeds during the occupation of Split and of his work there as an underground agent. On the journey from Split to Makarska he was rather cool to us but at the close of dinner we were bosom friends.

We had the best rooms to sleep in that Father Pavlinovic's home afforded. Soft beds and warm covers - what hospitality! Father Pavlinovic is a Catholic Priest and an ardent Partisan. No where have I met up with such genuine real hospitality and fellowship. We marvelled at the treatment we were receiving.

For breakfast next morning we received a shock - bacon and eggs. We still don't know where he found such a treat for us; perhaps the whole town participated in furnishing our meals. We were their guests - from another country and even if they had very little, they would and did out do themselves.

The treatment we experienced was just wonderful. The Yugoslavs are really fine "people" - real people!

Friday saw us travelling to Imotski. As is usual, we were occasionally stopped by armed guards who examined our passes to see if they were in order. At every such stop people would jump in the car for a ride to the next town or even to where we were going. Our driver told us that in one place a group of people got in his truck. It was dark at the time. When he reached his destination he stopped and went to the rear of the truck to tell the people to get off as this was his destination. As he said, "I was really surprised. In my truck I found a donkey". They told him that the donkey was tired too and enjoyed the ride.

That evening we enjoyed excellent sleeping accommodations in a private home. The regular occupants slept elsewhere and gave up their beds to us - mere strangers. Never had we experienced such treatment.

We found much destruction in Vrgorac but the spirit of the people is second to none. They treated us to wine just before dinner and then we had a feast which must have set them back a pretty penny. There were four meat courses, chicken soup, potato and onion salad (which was excellent) wine and rakja. When we were through we could hardly move. It certainly made up for the rough and dusty ride we had had that morning.

After dinner we watched the children dance at the recreation center - folk dancing including some of the Montenegrin origin. Children from 6 to 60 and over were dancing round and round a circle. Some had pistols, others hand grenades on their belts; still others had both. Their rifles were parked on the stage. Some were in military clothes, others were fairly well dressed and still others were in rags. The singing was led by a 12 year old boy. Within three minutes of our arrival we were pulled into the dance and were participating in their fun. Our driver was dancing along with the rest and having the time of his life. Everybody there was enjoying himself to the full. It was a grand sight.

Usually the lights go out at 9:00 p.m. in Vrgorac but when the President of the Food Distribution Committee saw us dancing with the others he sent a note to the operator of the power plant to keep the lights on for another half hour. Where else can a person find such true hospitality. I never knew that such people existed.

The next day we visited a water mill owned by a blind man who had been blinded while living in New York City. Remember - we were merely strangers trying to observe the workings of his mill. The time was 10:00 in the morning. We tried to leave at about 10:45 a.m. but he insisted that we go up to his house. There we had ham and eggs and bread (made of wheat, corn and oats). Wine flowed freely and he talked to us for an hour and a half. He was literally happy to hear English spoken.

Later we returned to Vrgorac where we saw flour being distributed from a kotar to a sub-kotar warehouse. Transport is scarce here and what we saw is hardly believable - 140 lb. sacks of flour were tied to the backs of girls about 12 or 14 years old who were carrying them five kilometers and there didn't seem to be any stir about it as it was an accepted practice.

These are real people who are living in a history making era and are part of the flowing current.

We returned to Makarska on Monday and Father Pavlinovic treated us like long lost friends. He welcomed us with open arms and an open heart. The room we had before was waiting with clean sheets and warm covers.

At dinner we were surprised to find the menu included wild duck cooked in olive oil. It was a treat and we licked our fingers and our "chops". Makarska is probably the worst damaged city in the whole okrug that we visited and in spite of that we as guests were treated to better than the best that the city afforded.

The next morning we made ready to leave for our headquarters. Just before the truck left, Father Pavlinovic came over to us and kissed us on both cheeks and told us how happy he had been to have us as his guests. I experienced a sort of soft spot in my heart for this man who was so fine.

On the way back our driver told us that he wouldn't know what to do when he returned. Said he, "I've gotten used to clean, cool sheets and now I shall have to go back to just blankets".

Such are the experiences of a Technical Specialist in a war ravaged country where people are seeking democracy at the price of their lives and whose ideas of hospitality to a stranger in their midst are unbelievably wonderful.

INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIALS OF DALMATIAN COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

Through the Yugoslav Liaison office in Split, we made contact with the Zadruški Savez, which has been in operation since 1907. A two hour conference took place in the office of the Zadruški Savez with Ivan Kuzmic and Peter Segvic and two other Yugoslavs, one of whom was a woman.

They told us that cooperatives on the Dalmatian coast had been looted by the Italians and the Germans during their occupation of the region. Of the 600,000 inhabitants of the Dalmatian coastal area, 110,000 were in the armed forces and 40,000 were in Italy or Africa. Of those who remained 5,000 were white-collar workers, 10,000 were industrial workers, and the remainder were engaged in agriculture. This occupation was hazardous in certain areas, due to mines planted by the Germans.

At the present time the cooperative movement in Dalmatia is in the process of organization. Of the 650 co-op organizations on record before the war, some 200 are again operating, though on a very meagre scale. Of the 200, 120 are consumer-producer associations. Credit cooperatives are ready and eager to operate, but there is very little money, and finances in Dalmatia are in a chaotic condition. The kuna is the monetary unit, and may be bought with lire at the legal rate of 8 for one. The "safe" rate is 10 for one. An American paper dollar is probably worth anywhere from 5000 to 7000 kuna. Also, the Germans continue to issue kuna, which only makes conditions worse.

Cooperative organizations exist also for fisheries, olive oil, dairy products, perfume oils, wine, fruit, honey and dried figs. There are now 15 olive oil co-ops going, and about 6 dairy co-ops, of which one is in Split and two or three in Šibenik. There is one active doof distributing co-op in Split. The rebirth of these organizations is remarkable considering the very poor communication and transportation facilities. Plans are now under way for cooperative producing groups in Split to exchange their products for produce from farm cooperatives.

The spirit of cooperatives is in the minds and hearts of the officials with whom we spoke, and is an important factor which will lead to the successful growth of this type of economic effort. The attitude of farmers toward cooperatives is best demonstrated by their present efforts in exchanging goods between villages cooperatively on a barter basis. There is a spontaneity in their efforts to organize cooperatives in spite of the fact that there is very little knowledge of what is taking place even ten miles away.

It was the expressed hope of the Yugoslavs present at this meeting that the entire economy of their country would be fashioned along cooperative lines.

There are about 20 health teams operating along the coast in the fields of hygiene and sanitation. These are now under government control but may become cooperative undertakings when resources are available. Groups have been organized in practically all communities to teach reading and writing to adults. These are similar in organization to the hygiene teams.

Much help is needed by the cooperatives in order to function effectively. They need equipment such as wine presses, nets, boats (some of which can be built in Dalmatian shipyards, given the equipment and materials), fertilizers, seeds, tractors, shovels, hoes, forks. All these items are lacking. There is a very real need for small 25 hp. tractors which are worked by hand. The estimate for cooperatives in this area was 300 such tractors. At least 50 wagon-loads of pesticides, 50 wagons of sulphur and 60 wagons of copper sulphate are needed. Seeds of all kinds are a priority essential. The varieties mentioned include red beets, Egyptian beets, musk melon, celery, cauliflower, red radishes, endive salad, spinach, carrots (Nantes variety) cabbage, kohlrabi, cavolo navone (Italian) cucumbers. These minimum needs have been requested by the Zadruški Savez of the national government, which screens overall needs.

COMMENTS: Producers cooperatives will be an important means of increasing production by the most effective use of available equipment.

Credit cooperatives can be of real assistance only when the financial situation has been more or less stabilized.

Cooperatives can be used to disseminate information about UNRRA, especially by making use of their classes in education.

Plans are now being formulated to organize projects such as canning, and small industries.

COPY.

12th March, 1945.

Dear Alan,

I think that you will be pleased to know that things are going rather well in the field from the USMA point of view. The attitude of the Yugoslav Officials has been extremely cordial and I think within the limitations of their present degree of organization very cooperative. There is, contrary to the opinion expressed by General Hughes, a very friendly feeling towards USMA, and as you walk around the streets in the towns in this area (Dubrovnik-Drag-Trebinje-Mostar) you hear people say: "USMA - they are the ones who are bringing in the food". In Mostar whenever we walked on the streets we were surrounded or followed by an embarrassingly affectionate crowd - that shook our hands and patted our shoulders.

In this letter I will not try to give you any specific information about conditions in the field as they are covered in our weekly reports. I do think, however, that the sooner that we get our technicians into the field the better. Up in Mostar the other day I had quite a chat with both the Directors of Agriculture and of Rehabilitation of the Chiland of Herzegovina. Both are very eager to review their problems with someone, and it is now when they are meeting both their problems of operation and of organization, that our technical people can be of the greatest service. Incidentally, one of the major problems encountered has been, as was anticipated, the shortage of belting; both for machine shops and for flour mills, particularly the latter. Many mills in the area are immobilized because of this shortage while some can operate only a few hours at a time because the belting is in such bad shape.

One of the operational problems that is hampering our current liaison with the JUCE is the matter of the coordination of this liaison, on which the Commander seems to have a blind spot. We discussed it with him when he was here and he gave us some extremely unsatisfactory answers, that were all based on the premise that Split (ML HQ) would handle all necessary coordination. With all due respect to the Commander, no central office, no matter how well organized can handle the coordination of the work of a unit that is a full day's journey away. This is particularly true because of the nature of our work that requires that a large proportion of our staff must be in the field at any one time. As examples of what we are running into may I present the following two instances:

(1) Liaison with the JUCE is carried on by every small unit in the outfit. About a week ago, Gordon and I went over to get some information about distribution centres. We met Barry White and another officer coming out. They had been discussing warehousing and the movement of goods out to the sub-depots. Later Major Hyde talked with him regarding sub-depots in Montenegro. At least three different conferences (and possibly more that I did not know about) all about related subjects that could and should have been discussed with the commission at one sitting. The same kind of thing occurred last Saturday when Sachlin and I went over to discuss with Mandic (Chief of the Dubrovnik branch of the Commission) several matters. (D.P. allocations to sub-depots, Bridge at Alex in Ban. etc.) Outside of his office waiting for conferences were Sanderson and Langley (Movements), the Lieutenant in charge of R.S. stores, and several ORs. We got in line. It is the same story every time we go over, and while we criticize the

Commission for its lack of organization, we are doing pretty well in keeping its officers from doing a job by our own disorganization.

(2) Another point that needs attention is the method for keeping one organizational unit aware of what others are doing. For example, the other day we were discussing distribution with the (B)laine officials in Mostar. They mentioned a Bridge at Alex in Ban and brought out how essential it was for the movement of supplies to Konjic and Sarajevo. They also reported that all the details had been given to a British Captain who has been through there about a week ago. We had never heard of this visit, or of the fact that the bridge was out. We have checked with Jerry Marshall down here in Dubrovnik, and he did know that the bridge was out but did not have it on any kind of a priority basis. I think you agree that a field worker covering an area must have available all possible intelligence concerning that area. And he shouldn't carry the responsibility of clearing with six or more units for such information each time he returns from the field unless he has something specific to report or discuss with them.

What we have here in Dubrovnik is a Branch Office that should be allowed a certain amount of autonomy and authority to operate with in established policy. Such autonomy should include setting up a mechanism that reviews all field reports and relays to the field worker information from all sources about his area. In the same way I don't think it is particularly desirable for various units to send in representatives on reconnaissance trips without clearance with the worker in the field. Observer or Technical Specialist or whatever you call him, is inevitably drawn into discussions that are on the periphery of distribution. Either he knows what is going on and does a good job of representing the Mission, or he runs a bluff that may trip him in the end, or is honest and tells the official that he doesn't have the facts. The latter two are damaging to future relationships, particularly when the official may know that another MI/USIA Officer has the information required. It may not matter too much during the next few weeks of the MI period, but I still feel that we will probably inherit organizational lines as well as job, and I think we should keep hammering away to build the set up on a workable basis.

From my other reports you have probably gathered that I am finding the job very stimulating, particularly so after our long months of relative inactivity. I think there is a job for USIA beyond the mere observation of food distribution, but we must get in our technicians to begin their work now.

I suspect that you have already heard about Gordon's illness in Buha. He is in the hospital suffering from pneumonia. Dr. Garfield has gone down to see him, but has not at this writing returned. At all odds he probably won't be able to work again for several weeks. That is unfortunate as Montenegro is as well organized as any of the Federal States (more so in fact) and should receive a good bit of attention at this time.

Little else to report now except to ask for an occasional new-letter from you.

Sincerely,

(Signed) RICH WALK.

File
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UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14 May 1945

TO: Shelby Thompson
Public Information, Room 1018

FROM: Joel Gordon

SUBJECT: Data on Conditions in Yugoslavia for Use of
U.S. Private Relief Agencies

Pursuant to our discussion, I am listing material which would be of interest to private agencies for relief to Yugoslavia.

- 1-OK 1. Special Release to Women's Program Directors, No. 4, 2 May 1945 ✓
- 1-OK 2. Letter of Morrell to Salisbury, 25 March 1945, re tour of Dalmatia, Montenegro and Hercegovina. ✓
- 1-OK 3. Excerpt from Report of Morrell to Salisbury, 9 March 1945, containing data on conditions in Split and Dubrovnik. ✓
- 3 — 4. Story of Ella Mendich, Texan. -OK after June 1 ✓
- 3-OK 5. Story of graves of American Aviators. (without names) ✓
- 1-OK 6. Report of Morrell to Salisbury, 15 March 1945, attaching human interest stories of Hall, Fasteau and Wilson. ✓
- 3-OK 7. Talk by Hubert Harrison, 9 Jan. 1945. ✓
- 1-OK 8. Report by Leff and Moon transmitted by Barrett-Brown, 20 Feb. 1945. ✓
- 1-OK 9. Letter from Berry White, 15 Feb. 1945. ✓
- 1-OK 10. Letter from E.P. Moon, Excerpt of 20 Feb. 1945, report as at 2 Feb. 1945. ✓

As agreed, will you check the status of the release of the above material indicating for each which of the following categories it falls in:

- (1) Already released - (Indicate date by which it could be made available to the above groups)
- (2) Not yet released but planned for release - (Indicate probable date of release and date available.)
- (3) Not planned for release - (Indicate suitability for release and any restrictions)

If your staff has any difficulty in identifying any of the above material I shall be glad to assist. I should like us to be able to give a reply to Yugoslav relief groups by 15 May if possible.

23rd March, 1945. 41

FROM JACK EASTMAN.

I have visited several Children's Homes. One in particular stands out vividly.

Located about 20 km from Sinj, in one of the most devastated areas of the country, where more than 70% of the homes have been destroyed by the Italians, Ustaši, Germans and Chetniks over a period of four years, this institution is using a former monastery for its purposes. It is just about the only building of any size that has all walls standing and a roof through which one cannot see daylight. The windows are broken; many window frames had been removed either for use as fuel or to make rough furniture for the military units of the occupying forces. Repairs were being made and it is expected that within a few weeks much of this building will be weather proof.

At the time of my visit there were 132 children, 3 to 13 years of age living there. Preparations had been completed for the billeting, feeding and education of 40 more that were expected within a few days. These children are sent to this home, if they have no parents, if they have parents (one or both) missing for reasons unknown, or because they may be in enemy held territory, or prisoners in concentration camps, or doing forced labor in Germany. Relatives are given an opportunity to take care of them and if unable or unwilling to do so, they are certified by the Okrug officials to be cared for at this home. One child was at the home whose father was an Ustaši and retreated with the Germans and whose mother is now fighting with the Partisans.

They may leave the home, upon return of their parent or parents, or upon application of a relative. However, before any child leaves the home, some kind of investigation is made by government officials (Okrug level) and a determination is made with respect to whether the child will receive satisfactory care in his home. It was interesting to note that the officials, placed great weight on the desire of the child to live with relatives, in determining whether or not he should leave the home.

Although the furnishings, and equipment, was inadequate and crude (more about this later) the children seemed to be well cared for and quite happy. Their play was spontaneous, they smiled easily and laughed heartily. They were shy but curious, and responded quickly to any show of friendliness.

Some of them looked under-nourished; others had skin sores, which were responding well to treatment. They slept three, four, five, six and even eight in a bed, depending on the size of the children and the "home made" beds. Of the entire group only two children were ill at the time of my visit. These kids had the Grippe.

Their clothes were clean but in poor condition. All their clothes were washed once a week, at which time they were mended, if possible. If that was not possible, they were cut down and put together so that a smaller child could use them. Many of them were without shoes, but didn't seem to mind too much. They had not worn shoes for two or three years.

Happened to be there when a bathing operation was in progress. It was a sight to see. A fairly large room was set aside for this purpose. Windows were partially covered; there was a large bathtub, a stove and a long bench. The children would line up several at a time. There were five women doing the job on an assembly line pattern. The first would undress the child, the second would place him in the tub, the third would soap and scrub him, the fourth would remove him from the tub and dry him, the fifth would dress him and send him on his way.

There were two classrooms and two teachers. School equipment was almost entirely lacking. Little stationary, few books, some toys, very few pencils and no pens. School furniture was made from rough beams taken from gutted and bombed out homes.

The staff consisted of the Doctor and ten others. One girl had just returned after finishing a six months course in nursing. A baker was

in charge of the important job of making bread and supervising two women who made macaroni etc. Five persons were responsible for keeping the house clean. And what a job they did. The floors were scrubbed, the bed linens and blankets were clean. The straw mattresses (made at the base) were clean, the straw changed frequently. The kitchen was spotless, etc.

The entire staff participated in the recreational activities. The Doctor was a dynamic little woman, who had had some experience caring for children prior to the war, but no formal training. Nothing seemed to be too difficult for her to do. For example she decided that it would be better to have outdoor toilets during the summer, so she asked for some prisoners (Germans) and set them at the task of building saws. She had no beds. She obtained volunteers among the peasants to hunt for wood needed for frames. They covered miles of countryside and came back with what was needed. Tin cans cut in half are used as plates. Hand carved wooden spoons are used.

The people are hungry. This is obvious to the most casual observer. Yet I have heard a town committee debate quite seriously whether they should accept food before making sure that the army was not short of rations.

From my observations and that of the several men stationed in this State, I am convinced that food is being distributed equitably. When a food distribution operation reached as much as 90 to 95% of the population of a town, that food is reaching the people. This is not unusual.

The device of a town meeting is used to determine who shall receive food and whether full or smaller quantity shall be given to those having some provisions. It is an open meeting. A name is called. The person is asked whether he needs food. If no comments are made by his neighbours on his reply, he is placed in a particular category. If question is raised his case may be discussed at the meeting, or privately before the town committee. In every instance there is an opportunity to appeal a decision.

EXCERPTS FROM REPORT ON SPLIT DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1945 RECEIVED
FROM THE YUGOSLAV MISSION

UNRRA Yugoslav Mission

David N. Leff

Thursday 8 February: Six-thirty a.m. is a very cold time of day for Split; the water out of the tap is as chill as charity. But outside the hotel window (broken) kids are playing, people shout greetings, a little group of Partisan soldiers (both sexes) tramp briskly by in what sounds like a goose-step but isn't quite. The favorite greeting is "Zdravo!" (health!) but "Smrt Fasizmu!" is also heard. This means "Death to fascism!" and is the first half of the partisan password. The other half, "Sloboda Narodu!" means "Liberty to the People!"

Meanwhile in the public market place eggs are quoted at 800 kuna (one dollar) apiece; potatoes at the equivalent of \$1.50 a pound; chickens (on the hoof) about \$16.00 per each; and a box of matches (guaranteed 50 to the box) actually changed hands for 300 kuna -- 37-1/2 cents. The wrinkled old Dalmatian peasant women with their eggs and produce are not highway robbers; the tobacconist is not just making a good thing out of his penny matchboxes (though we noticed that he had perfected the technique of extracting a match for personal use without breaking the tax stamp which seals the box). The people of Split, when they offer bread at \$2.40 a pound are saying, "There isn't enough bread in Split. I really don't want your money; I want soap. But my neighbor who is selling soap for \$1.60 per erzats cake, doesn't want money either..."

Which means that Split -- that Yugoslavia -- is back in the Middle Ages economically, bartering what it makes for what it wants. The marketplace demonstrates this at a glance. Here are some women with an embroidered bedspread trying to come to terms with the vendor of some scrawny vegetables. We know that the bedspread can't have been made to sell; elsewhere in the market a tiny spool of thread is tagged 900 kuna or so. The bedspread comes out of a home -- a hungry home.

Split lies in a gorgeous setting. From the pinewood heights of Marjan Park, which nearly all the UNRRA party had climbed by this second day, there is a perfect picture - postcard view of red tile roofs, the bay on both sides, and far across the water the greyish-purple limestone bluffs and distant snow-peaks.

Near the railroad station an old old woman was spinning wool by hand. In one hand she held a carded skein; with the other she twirled a bobbin between her fingertips. When she saw us her eyes brightened and she babbled in a high senile croon, "Oh, you are Americanci; the Americanci have come. Now we will have bread; now we won't be hungry any more..."

Friday 9 February: Life for UNRRA in Split is not entirely a round of sight-seeing and staring at the populace as they go about their social revolution. This morning, for instance, there was a meeting with O i/c ML HQ Spec Group to discuss and define the duties of the "Technical Specialists," which most of the UNRRA personnel has been designated. And in the afternoon an even more specific session on warehouse accounting procedure. It looks as if somehow, in spite of College Park and Cairo and Maadi and Santo Spirito, UNRRA is going to do a job of work.

The spontaneous enthusiasm of the population continues to delight us. We were standing on a corner examining a small auto when from across the street a tall bony Partisan soldieress spotted us. She stalked straightway across the street and shook each of us by the hand with a hearty but deadpan "Zdravo!" Then she went off.

Again, a Partisan soldier on the street fell into conversation with one of us. Before we knew it, he had us in a bar ordering rakija all around and making a date with us for fishing the next Sunday. Rakija, by the way, tastes like perfumed gin -- not bad, not bad. While in this bar, which was also a grocery, we priced a ham on the counter.

Kuna 17,000 per kilo -- ten dollars a pound!

Saturday 10 February: Estimates vary as to how many of the 138 trucks which ML delivered to the Yugoslavs yesterday are in running order. The most optimistic say 50% Granted that "there's a war going on" and everything is in short supply, it hardly seems to the point to waste shipping on the project of making Yugoslavia a boneyard for worn-out vehicles. By the same token, what's the use of bringing a shipload of food and sundries in here every ten days unless the prime movers are in shape to move it around.

"Smrt fasizmu - sloboda narodu!" may be the Partisan motto but the kids here pronounce it "Da-me chocolate" as soon as they realize one is American -- which is soon. Neither the ML nor UNRRA programs include any allocation for candy though it wouldn't be a bad way in which to ship a portion of the sugar provided, so UNRRA is going to propose to the JS Commission that all UNRRA personnel pool their individual PX hard candy rations and donate this for the children of Split -- or rather some children's hospital or orphanage here.

Split swarms with children -- playing, dancing, singing shouting -- or standing sentry guard on the docks with a rifle bigger than the sentry and smoking a cigaret. However one must always remember that children here stopped growing four or five years ago; tiny tots of seven are really twelve and so on.

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ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE

There is a marked contrast between the bearing and carriage of the people here and those in south Italy. In place of apathy and indifference there is an air of confidence and briskness. In spite of the shortage of food, the people display considerable vitality. They enter eagerly into animated conversation, and are very ready both to sing and to laugh. A great many soldiers are to be seen in the streets, clad in a motley mixture of uniforms, some reasonably smart, others dirty and ragged. Both they and the civilian population are extremely friendly and, apparently, very pleased to see us.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

A good many of the people, both civil and military, look somewhat pinched and drawn, as though they have for some considerable time worked hard on short rations. Nearly all the poorer classes complain of lack of bread. They are at present subsisting mainly on maize porridge. All the children and even some adults evince a considerable desire for chocolate. Clothing varies. On the whole, the people, though shabby, appear to be reasonably warmly clad. But there are obvious signs of a serious lack of footwear. Women and children are to be seen with shoes made up of old pieces of belt or of sacking and string.

452077

(Sgd) E. P. Moon
9/2/45.

UNRRA INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: M. Salisbury, Room 1018

DATE 24/V/45

FROM: Jozo Tomasevich, Room 318

SUBJECT: Ministry of Information photographs picturing the
return of Yugoslavs to their homeland

These and similar pictures could be made available to
Serbo-Croat newspapers (of which you have a list) in
this country.

41
Mr. P. Weinstein
American Committee for Yugoslav Relief
58 Park Ave.
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to your request, we are enclosing material on conditions in and the needs for relief and assistance to Yugoslavia.

Our Public Information wishes to point out that:

- (1) the material contains a number of comments on the part of UNHRA staff which should be construed as purely personal and not reflecting an official point of view;
- (2) the story about Ella Mendich, Texan, is made available with the understanding that it will not be used until after June 1;
- (3) the remarks by Hubert Harrison should be used only with his permission.

We hope that this material will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours

Joel Gordon
Chief, Yugoslav Branch

JGordon/gh
21 May 1945

Clearances: Shelby Thompson



LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Public Information Pamphlet, "In the Wake of the Armies" - Issue 1, Apr./45
2. Public Information Pamphlet, "In the Wake of the Armies" - Issue 2, May/45.
3. Report of tour of Dalmatia, Montenegro and Hercegovina, from Bill Morrell to Morse Salisbury, March 25, 1945.
4. Copy of talk given at UNRRA Mess by Hubert Harrison, 9 January 1945.
5. Report on Split, David N. Leff and E.P. Moon, 20 Feb. 1945.
6. Excerpts from Report on Split dated 20 February 1945 received from the Yugoslav Mission.
7. Letter from Berry White, 15 February 1945.
8. Story of graves of American Aviators.
9. Story of Ella Mendich, Texan.
10. Excerpt from Report of William Morrell, Yugoslav Mission, to Morse Salisbury, 9 March 1945.
11. Special Release to Women's Program Directors, 2 May 1945.
12. Report of Morrell to Salisbury, 15 March 1945, attaching human interest stories of Hall, Fasteau and Wilson.

41
EXCERPT FROM FCC REPORT - SPECIAL SERVICE

From Russia in Serbocroat - 5/16/45

Tass reports first results of spring harvest in Yugoslavia. Belgrade May 15th Yugoslav radio reports first spring harvest results in Yugoslavia.

Besides great difficulties resulting from shortage of working (forces) seeds and (metals) results of spring harvest are satisfactory. In Vojvodina granary of Yugoslavia and which produces nearly two-fifths of whole harvest of wheat in Yugoslavia well as majority of other kinds of wheat sunflower and sugar root. Last autumn only 250,000 acres were sown. This spring it was decided to sow about two and half millions of acres. This due to peasants and help of state organs that harvest in Vojvodina is approaching.

In Serbia Macedonia Croatia and Herzegovina harvest has also been satisfactory. In some places population cultivated soil with spades because of shortage of driving domestic animals and because they did not want to leave single step of soil uncultivated.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

JUGOSLAV MISSION
c/o ML HQ (JUGOSLAVIA) CMF

TO: Morse Salisbury

12 February 1945

FROM: Bill Morrell

I spent most of today seeing off some more members of the Yugoslavia Mission, this time Dr. Lydia Edwards (American), Dr. Irina Zhukov (USSR) and Dr. Banks (Great Britain).

They left on a Partisan boat, the Ljubljana. We drove into Bari from San Spirito and threaded our way along the quays until we found her, a tiny vessel flying the Yugoslav flag from her stern, with the red partisan star in the middle of the white stripe. She couldn't have been more than 1,500 tons and had obviously been busy all morning embarking partisan troops who were returning to fight. In wartime, the Ljubljana had obviously been a passenger vessel. She had a little dining room surrounded with posters of Tito with Stalin and Churchill on his right and Roosevelt on his left. Pinned upon the walls were typewritten copies of the latest Partisan songs, proclamations of various kinds, all of which had a common slogan at the foot Death to the Fascists. The two ladies were given a cabin with two bunks without mattresses, the Partisan officer pointing out apologetically that those cabins with mattresses were for wounded men. We finally got everybody settled, with his or her hand baggage below, and the bedrolls, foot lockers and cases of rations stored on deck. A hasty message given us the previous day had said that food conditions on the other side were deplorable (I'm getting together some facts for a story) and we had managed to find eight cases of K-rations for our twenty odd souls who are now established there.

From ten o'clock until noon, there was a continual succession of trucks, some loaded with Partisan troops, others with civilians. The latter consisted of middle-aged and elderly women, children and aged men. Not one of them could possibly have born a gun, or he or she would have been in the other trucks with the Partisans. They were refugees from the camp at Santa Maria di Leuca at the tip of the heel. They were bundled up in countless layers of clothing. The women wore kerchiefs - some gaudy yellow, some red - on their heads. The clothes of all were ragged, and you had the impression that two weeks on the other side would leave them footbare. None of the children were over eight years old but looked much older. One little girl, who stood for some time at the foot of the gangplank, had a bundle of blankets in her arms. Dressed in odd assortments of clothing which swelled her girth to twice its normal size, with a solemn unsmiling little face and serious eyes, she looked at least twice her age. Some of the children were blind in one eye; and a Partisan to whom I was talking said that most of them were the victims of German booby traps. The Partisans were very mixed, in uniform, age and sex. There were men with great sprouting moustaches and boys barely in their teens. There were slim young girls and women in their late thirties. Some wore British battle dress, others had British battle dress trousers with the U. S. tunic. Some wore ski boots, others GI rubber-soled boots. A few wore the green forage caps of the Italian army, obviously captured in Yugoslavia, with the red star of the Partisans pinned on the front. The only thing in common was their equipment - Sten machine guns, revolvers and rifles. Some were lithe and active and others were hobbling about on rough-hewn crutches. Two or three, I noticed, were blind in one eye. Everyone who is fit to fight or who is in the convalescent stage from some war wound is returned to the country by the Partisans. Pretty soon the board deck was crowded with them, the lucky ones sitting with their equipment in the boats.

On board also was a Major Inskip, an American member of ML, who was returning to Split after a twenty-four hour reporting visit to Bari. He told me about some of the conditions in the town. I shall have to fill them out from other sources, but here is the picture as he gave it to me leaning over the rail before sailing time. Every now and then, an empty corned beef can would come sailing past us from the boat deck where the Partisans were having their lunch and throwing the empty cans overboard into the harbour. On the Dalmatian coast, Inskip said, money has literally no value. Everything is done by barter; and although everything has a price, it is in money terms that make no sense. The official rate of the kuna (Croat Quisling money which is still officially accepted as currency) is 800 to the dollar, 3,200 to the Pound. On the black market, however, the rate is 4,000 - both to the dollar

and to the pound, thus placing the dollar and the pound on a par. Inskip went into a shop where they had some Johnny Walker Black Lable. The shopkeeper's price was \$40.00 a bottle, but nevertheless he offered to sell Inskip a bottle for a carton of cigarettes. In the public markets, all the business is by barter. The buyers bring in clothing, bedspreads, radios, phonographs, rugs, sheets - anything they have to offer. And every evening the little pony carts of the peasants returning to the hills are piled high with these articles, luxuries they have wanted for years but have never been able to afford. Now they can acquire them for a few chickens, and they take all the townspeople have to offer, including radios, even though there is no electricity in the hills. In the main markets of Split, where two thousand people were trying to buy their day's food, all that Inskip was able to see - besides a few potatoes, some shrivelled cherries and vegetables that he could not identify - were four pigeons, two chickens, one game bird and about 500 lbs. of corn. There was also some local tobacco at 6,000 kuna for a package weighing about a quarter of a poind.

While Loutit was taking some pictures, I also talked with a young Partisan soldier. He was born in the port of Susak, which is still occupied by the Germans, had been captured by the Italians and imprisoned near Bari for nearly two years until the town was captured by the Allies. The Italians in Jugoslavia, he said, had behaved just as disgracefully as the Germans and he could not understand the present Allied treatment of Italy. "The Allies are treating the Italians too gently," was his theme. I have heard this opinion expressed before by Jugoslavs, and I think we must be careful not to overplay in our public relations work what UNRRA is doing for Italy, or at least to make it plain that our programme in Italy is a very limited one.

I have seen correspondence from Cairo to Washington which seems to assume that all the ports on the Dalmatian coast are either functioning or will function shortly. There are four ports for practical consideration - Sibenik, Susak, Split and Dubrovnik. In actual fact, the only port functioning at this time of writing is Split, which, I am told, has ceiling of about 20,000 tons a month without lighters. Susak is still in German hands and when liberated will probably be left in a condition that will take months of repair. Although cleared of mines, Sibenik cannot be used in the absence of lighters, and the Allies have not yet received permission to clear Dubrovnik (a job that will take some two weeks when permission is received.) After the fighting in Greece, the Partisans - rightly or wrongly - are extremely touchy about Allied forces in their territory; and although the obstacle in this case possibly rests with some comparatively minor official on the Dalmatian coast who is afraid to take the responsibility of a decision, it will obviously take some time before permission to clear this port can be obtained.

The ML Supplies for the two months February-March are also subject to fluctuation depending on war conditions. However, I have been able to obtain these figures, not for release. The port concerned is Split, and the figures should be read in three columns as I have set them out - one, already shipped; two, expected to be shipped during february; three, expected to be shipped during march.

Food	3775	4385	13200
Clothing	2	100	1910
Agr. Rehab.	7	701	947
Ind. Rehab.	Nil	15	688
Med. Supplies	87	Nil	106
Fuel	1433	Nil	1149
Totals	5304	5201	18,000

All long tons, plus 139 trucks. April shipments are not yet certain. Dubrovnik, as I said, is not yet open, but the programme will be probably similar to that for Split.

Negotiations are also going on between AFHQ and Belgrade for communications out of there. It is probable that these will be functioning within the next month, although only to London, whence relay to Washington will have to be RCA or cable and wireless. Whatever set-up is arranged, I am told by the Public Relations Officer from AFHQ that communication out of Belgrade will only be as far as London. It is possible, therefore, that as the Mission sends its spearheads into Belgrade, we shall, wherever urgency dictates, be splitting our public information operation in two -

one from Belgrade direct to London for relay to Washington, and the other in Bari, covering the remainder of Dalmatia and whatever further areas are added by that time, always assuming that at that time communication between Dalmatia and Belgrade is still impossible.

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19 May 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: George Xanthaky
Country Mission Affairs, Room 312

FROM: Joel Gordon

SUBJECT: Information on Sinking of Refugee Ship

The following facts on the sinking of a refugee ship with UNHRA personnel aboard have been obtained from a letter from Richard Yoder of the Menonite Central Committee who was on board the ship (Letter to O.O. Willer, Menonite Central Committee, May 5, 1945 from Italy.)

The sinking occurred at 2 a.m. on a cloudy and somewhat stormy night -- either May 1 or 2. The ship, apparently a British one, was returning to Cairo when it was hit by a "high explosive." Apparently there were no refugees aboard but there were UNHRA staff returning to Cairo after completing the repatriation of refugees. Only two passengers on the ship were lost -- one a British officer and the other an American nurse, Marie Fast, of the Menonite Central Committee, on assignment to UNHRA.

Although there were additional UNHRA staff aboard none were lost. Dr. Yoder referred specifically to the fact that 55 persons in the life boat in which he was located arrived on land seven hours after leaving the ship. He also stated that the ship was never out of sight of land, (presumably Italy or Yugoslavia).

Miss Fast and the British officer were being lowered in a life boat when one end of the boat suddenly fell free as it was being lowered, hurling both of them into the sea. Both had their life-jackets on and were seen again on the surface of the water. The British officer waved back and appeared to be calm and self-possessed and was floating by the side of Miss Fast. A life-saver was thrown and the officer was seen to take hold of it. Other life-boats were near to them but were unable to reach them. Both disappeared from sight and a thorough search was made for them.

The authorities presume that they are lost.

Copy to: C. Caustin
M. Salisbury

14 May 1945

TO: Shelby Thompson
Public Information, Room 1018

FROM: Joel Gordon

SUBJECT: Data on Conditions in Yugoslavia for Use of
U.S. Private Relief Agencies

Pursuant to our discussion, I am listing material which would be of interest to private agencies for relief to Yugoslavia.

1. Special Release to Women's Program Directors, No. 4, 2 May 1945
2. Letter of Morrell to Salisbury, 25 March 1945, re tour of Dalmatia, Montenegro and Hercegovina.
3. Excerpt from Report of Morrell to Salisbury, 9 March 1945, containing data on conditions in Split and Dubrovnik.
4. Story of Ella Mendich, Texan.
5. Story of graves of American Aviators.
6. Report of Morrell to Salisbury, 15 March 1945, attaching human interest stories of Hall, Fastesu and Wilson.
7. Talk by Hubert Harrison, 9 Jan. 1945.
8. Report by Leff and Moon transmitted by Barrett-Brown, 20 Feb. 1945.
9. Letter from Berry White, 15 Feb. 1945.
10. Letter from E.P. Moon, Excerpt of 20 Feb. 1945, report as at 2 Feb. 1945.

As agreed, will you check the status of the release of the above material indicating for each which of the following categories it falls in:

- (1) Already released - (Indicate date by which it could be made available to the above groups)
- (2) Not yet released but planned for release - (Indicate probable date of release and date available.)
- (3) Not planned for release - (Indicate suitability for release and any restrictions)

If your staff has any difficulty in identifying any of the above material I shall be glad to assist. I should like us to be able to give a reply to Yugoslav relief groups by 15 May if possible.

UNRRA INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: JOEL GORDON Rm 318

DATE

FROM: Marvin Beers

SUBJECT:

Attached are copies of the release sent to 800 radio stations throughout the country. This is the best material we have issued so far.

OK but gets tiring of time

(1)

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL RELEASE TO
WOMEN'S PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Washington, D. C.
No. 4
2 May 1945

YUGOSLAV WOMEN HELP UNLOAD 1st RELIEF SHIP

Bill Morrell, with the UNRRA staff in Yugoslavia, reports that the arrival of the first ship loaded with relief supplies was a great event. As the ship approached the port of the city of Split, the people came from their homes, their barren shops and offices, children left their schools and all gathered on the docks cheering wildly. The church bells in the city rang out a greeting as the vessel warped against the dock warehouses.....Men, women and children helped in the unloading of the supplies. Since there are very few trucks and no railroads to haul the supplies, the people had to carry them any way they could. One UNRRA worker saw girls of from 12 to 15 years of age carrying sacks of grain weighing 140 pounds. They were not carrying the grain from a truck to a nearby warehouse. They were carrying the sacks to a warehouse five kilometres away.

RELIEF SUPPLIES MEASURED BY THE BEAN

Mr. Morrell said that delivery of supplies has been delayed by the desire of the Yugoslavs to weigh everything meticulously before accepting it. "To those of us used to comparative plenty (or at least to sufficiency)", he said, "this may appear a trifling detail to worry over." But when you think how preciously every last item of supply is regarded, how the women sweep up the grains of wheat as they escape from the sacks being delivered, and how the driver of a truck is made personally responsible for the smallest wrench in his kit, it is not so trifling. In one district, for example, the distribution of canned meat and vegetables allowed each person slightly more than one can. Some cans, therefore, had to be opened and their contents apportioned out so that each person could have his or her exact allowance. By exact, I mean just that, Mr. Morrell added. If the scales wavered slightly over the mark, the weighing official took a spoon and removed one bean so that the scales showed the right amount had been given."

GERMANS DESTROY EVEN CROCKERY AND COOKING UTENSILS

The need for supplies of all kinds in Yugoslavia is universal. And the destruction is complete. Bill Morrell of UNRRA says in a recent report, "Everybody knows about the destruction of Cassino. But nobody seems to know that Yugoslavia has thousands of Cassinos..... Take, for example, the island of Solta, off the coast of Yugoslavia. This island was apparently used by the Germans as a front line of defense when Allied forces attempted to liberate the city of Split. However, even during the occupation, the fisherfolk on the island worked hand-in-glove with the Partisans and used their boats to bring supplies over to the Yugoslav fighters. Eventually the Germans handled the affair with their customary thoroughness. They evacuated the entire population of Solta. But before the people went, they were made to dig extensive dugouts for the Germans. They were made to demolish their own houses and use the roof timbers as supports inside the dugouts. Then they were sent away. When the island was liberated and the people returned, they found the dugouts the best living quarters on the island. The Germans had not only used the timbers from Yugoslav homes in their dugouts, but the furniture itself had been brought in to make the caves comfortable. Even the fishing nets were used for camouflage and are no longer useful for catching fish. Before the Germans left, they threw hand-grenades into all the fishing boats so that most of them can't put to sea. They took with them or destroyed every piece of crockery and every cooking utensil on the island. They butchered and ate all the sheep they could find and killed all that were left when they departed. Out of the two thousand sheep that the people of Solta owned before the war, there now remain only ten.....ten that somehow were overlooked and managed to live in the woods. Out of 800 work animals there are 350 left. Nothing else was left. But already, more than half of the people who lived on the island have returned to rebuild their homes and start life over again."

YUGOSLAV WOMEN TOO WEAK TO WORK IN FIELDS

John L. Hall, (from Allentown, Pennsylvania) another UNRRA worker assisting the Yugoslav authorities in the distribution of relief supplies, talked to many Yugoslav people in the villages between Split and Sibenik (See'ben-nick). He says, "While they need food now and need it badly, they are asking for fishing nets, agricultural tools, seeds, belts for their mills, blue stone to help protect their grape crops, transport, machinery and other things which will enable them to better help themselves. They say, give us wheat and we will grind it into flour"....One old man in a small village near Sibenik apologized to Mr. Hall for their asking for food. He said it was not good, and that his people were not in the habit of asking for food; "but there is so little to eat that when the men and women go to the fields to work, they can't work well, they're too weak, they must rest much of the time, and as time goes on, their condition gets worse. Many of the adults have gone without food in order to give a little more to the children....."

SEA CLAY USED FOR SOAP

Mr. Hall visited the island of Zirje (Zee-ree-ya)"....where they have no typhus. They are keeping clean," he said, "and yet they have no soap." "When I asked them how they managed to keep clean, one man handed me a chunk of clay. This chunk of clay, dug out of the sea with a long handled hoe, was their soap. The secret lay in washing in salt water, for the clay will not work in fresh water. It is impossible to get any soap for any purpose now, and has been impossible to do so for several years."

EIGHT EGGS

Irving Fasteau, (from Trenton, New Jersey) another UNRRA worker assisting the local authorities with the distribution of supplies in Yugoslavia tells of his visit to the town of Brocanac. (Brōtch-a-nots). He says, "Brocanac is a small town lying at the foot of a mountain. It depended on its flocks of sheep and goats for a livelihood. It suffered severely during enemy occupation. One-third of the population was killed and ninety percent of its livestock destroyed. Extreme poverty was apparent to the most casual observer...We had finished our conference with the President of the town", says Mr. Fasteau. "It was about one-thirty PM., and we were invited to lunch. I was asked what we would like to eat. I was at a loss. I knew there was so little food, all of which was so badly needed. Everyone I saw in the town looked undernourished. We had our rations and I suggested that we eat them. Not only the President, but all the people of the town who had gathered around us, would not hear of it. I was their guest and there was an old proverb that 'A guest in the town was equivalent to a God in the town'...A meal of boiled eggs, corn and wheat bread, raw onions and wine was served. There were no utensils, no dishes, we ate with our fingers and drank wine from a half-gallon bucket, which was passed from person to person...At the finish of the meal, a girl about 14 years old presented me with a small bouquet of violets. She had picked them while we were eating... Having said our goodbyes, I reached for my bag. The President of the town got to it first and, over my protests, carried it very carefully to the car, where he went to great pains to tuck it securely in a corner furthest away from where I was sitting. As we shook hands he told me he was sorry that the town could offer so little in the way of hospitality and assured us that I would always be welcome and that if it were at all possible that I come back to visit with them...When I opened my bag in my quarters that night, I found eight eggs, individually and carefully wrapped. This was a gift from the town. They had given as a gift what was most precious to them. Eggs represent a means of exchange and of barter. At present it is almost their only means of exchange...What impressed me most, more than the gift itself, was the sensitivity of these people. They felt that I would refuse a gift, especially if it were food. They therefore used a method of presenting me with their gift which made refusal impossible."

YUGOSLAV MOTHER IS UNDERGROUND LEADER

Another incident told by Mr. Fasteau occurred on the road in the mountainous country near the city of Split. Mr. Fasteau said, "An old woman in peasant costume, heavily burdened by a sack tied to her back, was walking slowly up the mountain road. My Yugoslav guide asked that we stop. He leaped from the car as he shouted greetings to the women. They beamed at each other. They embraced, held each other at arms length, looking long and earnestly into each others face. I was introduced as a member of UNRRA, and a friend of Yugoslavia. She was his mother. They had not seen each other for more than a year. She had lost her husband and five of her children to the Germans and the Ustashi (You'-stahsh-ee), who are the Yugoslav collaborators. She was the first woman Partisan in this area and for two years had been a courier, crossing enemy lines with messages, food and ammunition. For two years she had been the leader of the underground movement, organizing resistance and maintaining the morale of the population...She spoke to me of her family, her home, her work against the enemy. She expressed deep and sincere appreciation for the aid that was being provided. When we were bidding her goodbye, she reached for my shoulders, and as I bent forward, kissed me on the cheek."

41
PI

UNRRA SAN SPIRITO

23 APRIL 45

NEWS PICTURES

ROUTINE

JAM GEORGE FOX 93 DOG

RESTRICTED

A. HALL

CAIRO

UNRRA

JAM GEORGE FOX NINETY THREE DOG PD FOR FULLER FROM MORRELL PD.
FURTHER TO OUR JGF EIGHT SEVEN D PD MIHANOFF PROCEEDED ROME PD
SENDING PICTURES DIRECT WASHINGTON PD RETURNING BARI FOR
INSTRUCTIONS

Distribution:
Mr. A. Hall
Sir. L. Mason
Washington

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~~So follow up~~
~~M.A.~~

UNRA SAN SPIRITO

23 APRIL 45

NEWS PICTURES

ROUTINE

JAM GEORGE FOX 88 DOG

RESTRICTED

A. HALL

~~SS~~
PI

ROSE

UNRA

JAM GEORGE FOX EIGHTY EIGHT DOG PD FOR SAVARD FROM MORRELL
FULL PICTURES RETURNING REFUGEES FROM MIDDLE EAST TAKEN BY
HOPKINSON APPU HERE AIRMAILED AMH PD CONTACT STOPFORD APPU
AND ARRANGE RADIO FOTOS AND MAILING WASHINGTON LONDON

Distribution:
Mr. A. Hall
Sir L. Mason
Washington ✓

A pretty, rosy cheeked American girl who was trapped in Belgrade during the German attack on Jugoslavia four years ago, is now working among the Partisans in the hills of Montenegro, organizing Yugoslav women and children into choirs to sing their own national songs.

Mary Ella is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mendich of 1020 Avenue E, Galveston Texas. She came to Belgrade in 1939 on a scholarship to study music at Belgrade University.

In the spring of 1941 the Germans marched into Jugoslavia and from that time until a few weeks ago when some UNRRA observers met her at Cetinje, the capital of Montenegro, her parents have had no word from her.

The two UNRRA observers were having lunch at the local Partisan headquarters when Mary Ella walked in, dressed in the khaki Partisan uniform, her cheeks rosy with the wind from the mountains, a forty-five automatic dangling from her belt. The two men, both Americans, rose to their feet to say good-morning in their best Serbo-Croatian and were metaphorically bowled over when Mary Ella gave them a Texan "How are you-all?"

When they recovered their breath, she told them her story. After the German occupation of Belgrade, she escaped from the city and set off to walk across the country. Eighteen days later she reached Kotor on the Dalmatian coast where her aged grandmother was living. At that time the Italians were occupying this part of Jugoslavia and she had no news of her fiancée, a young Yugoslav engineer named Tomanovich. Later, when Marshal Tito began his operations, she heard he was in the Partisan forces but by this time her grandmother was too sick to be left. In 1944 her grandmother died, and Mary Ella escaped to the mountains to join the Partisans.

A few months ago the province was liberated and Tomanovich was posted there as vice president of the Department of Public Works. They were married shortly afterwards.

But although the fighting was over there was still plenty of work to be done. Mary Ella set herself the task of setting to music the local folk songs and of teaching the women and children of Montenegro how to sing them in choirs. Once a week her women's choir gives a concert over the Cetinje radio station and the children's choir gives an open air concert each week-end.

"Their enthusiasm is something to see", she explained. "They have almost no clothes to wear and many of the children have no shoes, yet all winter long they came out to rehearsals without any thought of complaining. And we get deep snow in these hills.

"These people are so proud that someone can actually go to the trouble of putting their songs into music that they would walk miles across the mountain to rehearsals if need be. I'd like the people back home to see them, and to know how badly needed are supplies of shoes and clothing, especially for the children.

"Schools are beginning to open again in this province and that means many of the children will have to walk miles each day. On top of that, most of them put in many hours voluntary work each day in tidying up the streets and clearing away the rubble which has been left behind after the fighting. The men are away at the front, but the women and children are hard at work on the home front, remaking the homes for the men to come back to.

"Nowadays Texas seems very far away. When the war is over and things have settled down, I'd like to go back for a visit with my husband. But in the meantime there's too much reconstruction to be done here to think of going away, and mother and dad and every other Texan would say that this is where I belong until that job has been done."

OK - now our names 41

The graves of two American aviators, lost over the Adriatic since June of last year, were recently discovered by two UNRRA observers on a lonely island off the Dalmatian coast. The following extract from their report has been given by UNRRA to the War Department for forwarding to the next of kin of the two airmen:

Let me just try and tell you how it all happened:

We never had any intention of visiting that island at all. A comparatively small and not regularly inhabited island does not offer much scope for UNRRA's technical specialists and we could not have hoped to find there any valuable information which would have justified our stay there. As it happened, however, we would have reached Hvar, our destination, just at lunchtime. We were not expected there and no meal would be prepared. So we, Sam Rosenberg and I, decided to ask the crew of our motor boat, which had been lent to us for this purpose by the Yugoslav government, to land somewhere in the neighbourhood so we could prepare our own food.

They took us to the place I have mentioned before - on the maps you will find it called Sveti Klement. This is a typical example of one of the smaller islands all along the Dalmatian coast, low hills with a rocky coastline and bushes with occasionally larger trees among them; a little bit of soil - not really fertile soil, but just enough to make it possible to raise a modest crop. On the top of one of these hills stands a tiny chapel and nearby are a few small houses. Two or three families from Hvar live there for a part of the year, now almost only women and children. We saw a few of them working in the field nearby.

As usually, we were greeted like friends, in this case all the more so as one man of our crew had his wife and a little son among the island people. All the children were enjoying the uncommon sight of visitors (and the American candies which Sam gave them) and soon the preparations for our lunch were in full swing. It was a veritable picnic arranged out of our Army rations - the usual canned meat and vegetables, crackers, butter, cheese and

tea - and the local contributions (bread, fish and Proseko, the famous sweet and heavy Dalmatian wine). We all had a lovely time, sitting there, thankful for the warmth of the sunshine, eating and looking again and again at the blue waters of the Adriatic and the pleasant landscape of the Isle of Hvar just opposite.

Then that member of our crew who had his family on the island asked us whether we would care to take a short walk and visit the graves of two American airmen who had been buried last year about 5 to 10 minutes walk away. We had had no inklings of death in such a pleasant spot and you can imagine our feelings on the way. We asked for details, but it was evident that our friends had only a limited knowledge of what had actually happened. What they told us was more or less this: At the time when German troops occupied the large Dalmatian islands the Partisans stationed a group of technicians on Sv. Klement. They installed a small radio station and were apparently in communication with the Allies who assisted by dropping supplies for them. Either on one of these occasions, or while merely flying over the island, an American plane crashed into the sea nearby. The partisans tried immediately to save the pilots, but their efforts were in vain. They managed in the end to retrieve the bodies of both of them, it seems, only after a long search, and brought them to the island, but in both cases it was too late to save their lives. The only thing was to give the bodies a dignified burial. It was impossible to arrange for transport to another island, so the partisans decided to bury them there.

Let me describe the place as well as I can. It is a small bay with no sign of human life nearby, just an old fishing boat lying idle on the rocks. As everywhere here, it is a rocky coastline, but a few yards from the water the vegetation starts, grass, low bushes intermixed with rosemary plants with blue blossoms. And just there, where the stone ends and the vegetation begins, a

few short steps from the sea, were the two graves - two simple wooden crosses facing each other, the graves covered with a number of small pieces of rock, the whole neatly tended; and a dry wreath which still lay there showed that the Yugoslavs appreciated what they owed to the fallen among their Allies in the struggle against the common enemy. Take in addition the view on blue water and blue sky with some island silhouettes far away, and you have the picture of a resting place for the long sleep, as peaceful as any I have seen.

The inscriptions on the crosses were short:

"EASTON DUVAL, buried 7th June 1944"

and

"James WILLIAMS buried 8th June 1944".

That was probably all the Partisans knew about them. In the case of Williams, his identification tag was fixed to the cross and enabled us to establish his military number - 18166957.

It was an effort to leave the peacefulness and solemnity of that place and both of us will keep that scene well in our memory.

Naturally enough, our words turned to the problem for which the two had fought and died. Sam called it a fight for democracy, and I maintained it is more than a fight for democracy, but a fight for life itself. Not even the life of a slave is safe under Hitler rule. We asked our Yugoslav friends for their opinion. They thought we were both right in a way. For the Yugoslavs, this is a war of liberty, and for them liberty means both life and democracy.

But the two men who had earned for themselves the best right to state their opinion could not do so any more. Would they agree with us? I thought I could feel their enthusiasm, their earnest desire for all these things, life, liberty and democracy, and their wish that they may not have died in vain.

We made a sketch of the location of the graves and shall send it with our report and all necessary details to the military authorities, who, I presume, will arrange in due course for a reburial in an Allied military cemetery.

R. H. PRIBAM
UNRRA JUGOSLAV MISSION

TO: Morse Salisbury
Leonard Ingram

UNRRA
Dubrovnik

FROM: Bill Morrell

March 25, 1945.

I have just finished a seven-day tour of Dalmatia, Montenegro and parts of Hercegovina, travelling with Bill Harris and Milton Bluestein and am waiting now for the earliest passage back to Bari, although whether this will be via Split or direct to a heel port I do not yet know. However, while waiting, this seems as good a time as any to rough out a report on the results of the journey.

We watched food being unloaded from a Liberty ship in Dubrovnik, and in the country districts we saw food from earlier shipments being carried away to the village distribution centers by truck, mule, donkey and (as was often the case) on the backs of women and girls, and I think the most striking impression I received as far as public information is concerned is that we have an enormous and urgent job to do in making known the needs of this country. I have seen enough to convince me that it is almost impossible for UNRRA to fail in Yugoslavia. Relations with the Yugoslavs are improving constantly as their earlier suspicion melts and officials of both ML and UNRRA assure me that the difference in three weeks is most noticeable. The Yugoslavs themselves are tackling the job with their usual enthusiasm and energy, and wherever civilian effort shows any tendency to break down (as for example in the ports, where they have not yet developed the science of unloading, and moving the goods away from transit warehouses as quickly as should be done) the army is brought in to help. Distribution is taking place efficiently, and, as far as anyone can possibly check, fairly. The needs are enormous and the situation is so bad that it can only improve, so that UNRRA is bound to derive some credit. Short of declaring an economic boycott on the country, it will be almost impossible for UNRRA to do anything to stop success. What is most vitally required, however, is a public appreciation of the needs.

Never forget that for the last four years this country has suffered a more ruthless occupation than any other European country with the exception of Poland. For four years we knew nothing of what the occupiers were doing here. True, in some respects Yugoslavia was in the same position as France, Belgium, Holland and the rest. But to-day these countries are being liberated. Vast armies of Americans and British are in these countries and, apparently, vast armies of correspondents, too. To-day we know a great deal about what happened in France and the Low Countries and we also know a great deal about what the "red hot rake of war" has done to Italy. But there are still very few correspondents in Yugoslavia. Furthermore, they are all in Belgrade. And, most important of all, their stories are not very good copy compared with the news from other fronts. Everybody knows about Cassino. But nobody seems to know (I certainly did not know until I came here) that Yugoslavia has thousands of Cassinos, each one more dead than Cassino itself. A few families have returned to live in Cassino, but the destroyed villages of Yugoslavia are completely dead and long since cold.

The reasons are fairly simple. Partisan commanders with whom I have talked have explained their methods of warfare. They were to isolate the enemy in the towns, to cut off the towns from each other. This was accomplished very easily for Yugoslavia is a wild country with towns few and far between and the roads winding tortuously between endless chains of rocky hills and mountains (except, of course for the fertile east.) It was an easy matter to mine the roads and ambush the truck convoys as they came through, and while the face of the landscape today is scarred with burned and destroyed villages it is also covered with the litter of wrecked enemy equipment which caused these retaliations. The three provinces I have toured are like a drawing room the morning after a wild party. Wrecked German and Italian trucks and tanks and cars, stripped down to the steel skeletons, line the roadsides, tipped onto their sides to clear the roads. Ten minutes drive from anywhere on this coast you can pick up enough German helmets and gasmasks to satisfy any souvenir hunter. Nobody has had time to do any clearing other than the repair of the roads for traffic. Everything else has been left where it is or (if it was on the road) shoved to one side out of the way. Between Metkovic and Dubrovnik, the road winds away from the coast and passes through a valley behind the hills. In one of these valleys, the Partisans trapped 1,500 German in an armoured column only a few months ago and slaughtered the lot. The dead are still buried in mass graves on the shoulder of the road. Higher up the hinterland, between Gacko and Mostar, where more recent fighting took place, the dead are still lying under the snow and now that the snow is melting, arms and legs stick out grotesquely above the surface. As I said before the only work of reconstruction

undertaken in liberated areas has been to repair the roads.

While the Partisan war was on, the Germans and Italians quite logically retaliated by burning the villages. It was the only thing they could do. They lived precariously in the towns and the villages were centers of resistance. In an attempt to drive the Partisans into the hills and forests, where they trusted life would be untenable, the Germans and Italians made sporadic raids into the countryside and destroyed all the villages. Everything was done quite scientifically. Effort was not wasted in demolishing the squat houses. Gasoline was merely sprayed over the contents and then the roof was set on fire. In some cases such as on the Dalmatian islands where timber was scarce, the roofs and furniture were saved for use in the German dugouts. In Montenegro and Hercegovina, a hard, stony, mountainous land, where the peasant made a precarious living on his tiny terraces, punched and patted laboriously out of the mountain side, harrows were dragged over the small vines and the stores of fertilizer were scattered to the winds. In other words, within the space of four years the Germans and Italians (everyone agrees that the Italian behaved just as badly as and in most cases much worse than, the German) reduced the rebellious areas to deserts through which were sprinkled the towns with their garrisons of enemy troops. In some cases, this fitted in with the partisan method of warfare which was to force the population to fight on their side. The only way in which the peasants could live, other than in the towns (where they would have had to rely on enemy charity) was within the ranks of the Partisan organizations in the mountains and forests. But the enemy was too stupid to see this, or, if they did, too pressed for time and manpower to devise any other system of warfare. Now that the ordeal is over, however, the country is in a pitiable state. The only tolerable places are the towns, especially such towns on the Dalmatian coast as Split, Dubrovnik and Kotor, where the enemy lived fairly safely and from which his retreat was too precipitate to permit scorched earth tactics. All else is ruin and desolation. No one lives in the mountains where the empty sockets of the cottages stare up to the sky, nearly all the men are away at the front, and women and children are left to carry on as best they can, there are no communications except for the lucky few who manage to be at the right spot when the infrequent trucks come along (generally laden already with troops and arms), the bridges over the gulfs and mountain streams are blown, the railroads do not function. Yugoslavia is probably the only country in the world where you never need to slow down at a railroad crossing. There are no trains. So far as I have been able to ascertain, the narrow gauge railroad that connects Dubrovnik with Sarajevo (and thence with Belgrade), and with the interior, has only eight locomotives. Three of these are down the coast at Zelanika and cannot be used because the bridges between Zelanika and Dubrovnik are blown and cannot be repaired in months. ML are talking about bringing them out by ship and putting them on the Dubrovnik-Mostar stretch if the bridges on the latter stretch can be repaired.

The situation in the hospitals has to be seen to be fully comprehended. We took advantage of our stay at Niksic, which town is in the hills about eighty miles behind Dubrovnik, to visit the local hospital. For such a wild and primitive part of Europe, the building itself was not bad, although it would not have formed even the basement of any hospital in New York. There were three low stone buildings, white-washed walls, spotlessly clean floors, the whole containing forty-four beds. The beds themselves were ancient affairs, and the mattresses were very old and very stained. To accommodate that number of patients, the beds were crowded close together in the wards. There were three beds, for example, in a ward the size of ShelbyThompson's office. To take care of the patients were three partisan nurses and three doctors of whom only one was a surgeon. He was an Italian doctor who had fled to the hills at the time of the Italian capitulation and had joined the partisans there. He had by no means sufficient medical instruments to perform major operations and only local anesthetics. Furthermore, he was being repatriated within two

days and there was no possibility of replacement. This would mean that the Niksic hospital, which is the only hospital for the whole district, comprising about 70,000 people, would be left with only two doctors, neither of whom is a surgeon. As I write, the Italian surgeon must now be on his way back to Italy.

Dr. Macphail and her unit expect to be posted any day to Montenegro, here they are to open a home for orphaned children. There is a possibility that they will be allocated the house which King Alexander gave Queen Marie on her birthday shortly before he was assassinated in 1934. About ten miles below Budva on the coasts, a few miles north of the Albanian frontier, the house is in a beautiful location, but was stripped of all its furniture and minutely mined by the Germans before they left so that it is still uninhabitable. At present she hopes to be able to get sufficient equipment from ML (beds, bedding and so forth) to set up her unit as soon as the house is turned over to her. This brings up a problem which will face us increasingly on the medical side. During the last war, as you probably know, the Serbs appealed to the Allies to set up so many hospital units containing so many beds, and this was done. We brought in complete units and did the job. The present proposals to turn over equipment to the Yugoslavs and then to ask it back in order for our people to function does not look by any means so workable. (I am talking solely of the medical people at present.) In theory, of course, the Yugoslav authorities are the people who should know where and how much supplies are needed. On the food side, they are certainly in a much better position than we to know. But on the medical side they are desperately short of trained doctors and officials, who can assess the situation and allocate priorities as to areas. From my purely layman's point of view and from the talks I have had with U.S. P.H.S. doctors and with the unit doctors, it appears that the most workable system would be to divide our medical side into two sections. The individual doctors of the Public Health Service can and should work as individuals with and for the Yugoslavs, going where they are told to go by the Yugoslavs and functioning with the supplies turned over to them by the Yugoslavs. The units, such as Dr. Macphail's "Save the Children Fund" unit, should be equipped to go into action as units immediately they are asked for by the Yugoslavs. The present system, it seems to me, will cause great delay.

The food supply situation in this region, which has Dubrovnik as its port is improving rapidly in spite of the fact that the harbour is not yet cleared of mines. To date five vessels have arrived here since the port was opened on February 28th, and the situation is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tons of Supplies</u>	<u>Vessel</u>
February 28	1635 plus 100 vehicles	Samleven
March 2	130	Aida (schooner)
March 6	2320 plus 99 vehicles	Nailsen Moor
March 7	1640 (POL)	Titus (Dutch registry)
March 17	3000	Sasfinn (British)

A sixth ship, the Samdauntless, arrived yesterday afternoon carrying about 4,000 tons of grain, some more motor transport and the first fifty agricultural tractors to reach this country since 1941. A minor crisis has arisen due to the fact that the unloading of the Sasfinn and the clearance of the dockside has not been yet finished. The commission authorities here are by no means as efficient as those in Dubrovnik and little system seems to have been used in the unloading and clearances to the warehouses. Down at the docks yesterday I counted as many Yugoslav officials just standing around checking the supplies as there were dock workers. Plenty of chiefs but no Indians. However ML are holding a meeting with the commission today and laying down some sort of system. One thing that has been giving the ML people here some grey hairs is the fact that several thousand tons of gasoline in barrels have been standing in the open quay for the last few weeks within stones throw of a

sunken German ammunition ship. After much prodding, the Commission began clearance of this fuel yesterday. Three more ships are due here within the twenty days, bringing the total of supplies in Dubrovnik between February 28th and April 13 (approx) to about 17,000 tons of supplies, excluding motor transport.

In our talks with the local officials during this tour, Harris, Bluestein and I obtained the following list of priorities in needs,

1. Materials to repair roads and road bridges.
2. Transport (railroads are well down on the list as these are clearly a long-term project.)
3. Food
4. Clothing
5. Medical supplies
6. Copper sulphate (for the vineyards)

Everything in this part of the world is done by barter. Money has almost no value except for such things as a shoe-shine, a hair-cut (if you can find a barber - most of them are working for the partisans) or a glass of rakija in a cafe. The peasant women (in talking of civilians, you should always remember that I mean women or children in their teens) walk incredible distances carrying incredible loads in order to barter. The breakdown of the economic system is so complete that a drastic shortage of a commodity in one district may not exist in another fifteen miles away. Consequently you see civilians hitch-hiking with sacks of potatoes to a village some miles away where potatoes were not grown before the war and where they consequently do not exist now, in order to barter them for olive oil or wine or flour, which may be unobtainable in their district. Harris and I worked out the following example which may interest you and which might be usable as a story. On his last trip to Italy, he bought twenty kilos of oranges for five dollars. Oranges are very scarce here and are selling in Dubrovnik for 4,800 kuna a kilo, so that he could have realised 96,000 kuna on his oranges, had he sold them. For 96,000 kuna he could have bought a rug in Dubrovnik that would have sold in New York for at least 500 dollars, thus realising 500 dollars on his original five dollar purchase. However, he could have obtained his oranges in Italy for three packs of American cigarettes, which would have cost him 15 cents at the PX. On a barter system therefore, it would have been possible to realise 500 dollars for an original outlay of fifteen cents.

Some facts about distribution may be of interest. In the Srez, i.e. District, of Niksic, to take a fairly typical example, there are about forty thousand people. So far the only food supplies that have arrived are forty thousand kilogrammes of flour. (In this respect, however, the district is not typical. Other, more accessible districts have received other supplies besides flour and received them much earlier.) To proceed, however, the average prewar consumption of flour was about four hundred grammes of bread a day, making a total of about hundred and eighty thousand kilogrammes, or four hundred and eighty tons a month. In other words, the supplies received are enough for about one twelfth of a month if all the population of this particular Srez were to be fed. All the population is not being issued these relief supplies, however, we were informed. The town commander told us that the practice in the war has been to take from those who have and give to those who have not, "consequently", he went on, "we ascertain which people have enough food to last them for another fortnight or who have possessions they can barter for food," (The barter system and, to a certain extent, the black market, is apparently winked at by the authorities,) "and give only to those who have absolutely nothing." "There would be no sense," he went on, "to issue relief supplies to everyone only to take it back next day from those who already had some stocks of their own."

The precise method of determining who should receive food seems to vary from district to district. At Zelenika, on the coast below Dubrovnik, the local official in charge told us that the people were divided into two sections, those who have absolutely nothing except their lives and the clothes they wear and those who have no money but houses which they may be able to put into shape in a few months time and thus be able to pay. These received food, the first category free, and the second on credit. About ten per cent received no food. They, he admitted, had no flour but did have, say, some oil or wine which they were told to take to the nearest village and barter. You will thus see that, willy nilly a great levelling out process is taking place in this country. Only the foodless with no immediately realisable possessions receive food, the question of credit depending upon whether or not they may eventually be able to pay. Those with possessions of any kind which can be used for barter at this moment, whether it be olive oil or wine or clothes or private possessions are told they must barter them on the open market. I hesitate to give any opinion on the merits of this system since it is apparent that supplies received so far are not sufficient for all the population in the areas which have been liberated.

Whether or not relief supplies are being used as a political weapon no one can say with certainty. My own firm opinion at this moment is that they are most definitely not being used in this way and that it is time for us to stop looking for the partisan in the woodpile. Dave Leff told me of a conversation he had with the mayor of Budva, a delightful old man in his sixties named Petar Lusetch. Dave had spent some time at the University of Arizona and discovered that Petar had also attended it when it was the University of Tucson, class of 1901, so they had some common ground to meet on. Dave asked whether relief supplies were being given to the families of Chetniks. The old mayor was most offended, "we do not make war on women and children" he said. "The Chetniks whom we know have committed murders we intend to kill without mercy, but so long as I am mayor of this town their women and children will receive the same food as the families of the partisans." There was no doubting his sincerity.

On the supplies themselves, I think some section of UNRRA should give urgent attention to the labelling of condensed or dehydrated foods which have to be mixed with water before consumption. One of the stock jokes about the Hoover Relief Commission after the last war told how the peasants of Buthenia, never having heard of cocoa, mixed it with water and painted the walls of their cottages with it. I thought we had learned from that story. Yet only the other day Dave Leff came on a partisan mess, was called to one side by the perplexed cooks, shown some cans of pea soup powder, and asked what they were supposed to be. The detachment had just received thirty kilos of the stuff, enough for 200 men. Not being able to read the English label, they had first tried making cakes with it and then, in some desperation, puddings. The results, even to war hardened soldiers who have lived on roots in the forest, were neither appetising nor digestible.

It would perhaps be preferable, at least in the early stages, to reserve such condensed or powdered foods for communal consumption, such as in hospitals or orphanages. Failing this, however, I think every case of such food should have enclosed with it a label of instructions in Serbo-Croatian so that local officials can instruct the recipients on the method of preparation when it is being distributed. I finally managed to get some pictures today. Up to the present nothing has happened to alter the original system laid down by the Brigadier whereby we could take all the pictures we wanted in Italy but not on this side. I reported to you from Split my unsuccessful attempt to persuade local members of the Commission to take a decision on this and how the responsibility had been passed back to Belgrade. It may be that the Brigadier raised this in Belgrade on his recent trip, but I have not yet received any notification of any new decision. However, walking through Dubrovnik the other day, I noticed a display of photographs in the local partisan

propaganda office and saw that they were pictures of ML food supplies being unloaded here. I went into the shop and managed to buy a selection. They cost me 250 kuna each and, unfortunately, are only single prints on not too suitable paper, but they are at least a start. Later in the day I was down at the quayside and saw a photographer in civilian clothes wandering around, it transpired that he was the man who took the original photographs. I have made an arrangement with him whereby he will take photographs for us, turning the negatives over to us, in return for payment or, preferably, food. There is little doubt in my mind that the fact that the Commission had no information division with which we could work is because it is composed mainly of men who have dealt either in shipping, dock work, transportation, or merchandising of some kind, have had no experience in public relations, have not comprehended its necessity and have been scared to touch it because, in the new political system in this country, public information is synonymous with propaganda, which is a very high-level affair indeed. I am inclined to think that by dealing with the local propaganda office (we can rest assured that there is one in every community, large or small), we shall get more results.

In this particular case I held the interview with the photographer in the office of the local head of the Commission and the latter readily agreed to my obtaining photographs locally. He explained that he had already sent prints of the photographs to the Commission Headquarters in Split, but understood when I explained to him our need for obtaining negatives as well as prints. As things stand at present in this district, therefore, we can use the local photographer by applying for him through the Commission, and may even have him accompany our people on two-day trips into the countryside. We shall, however, need to supply him with 35 millimetre film and I am taking this up with Morse Salisbury when I reach Bari.

Yugoslav Mission
(Mr. Xanthopoulos)

YUGOSLAVIA

Data on Distribution and Prices

Excerpt from Report of William Morrell, Yugoslav
Mission, to Morse Salisbury, 9 March 1945.

As of this date, relief distribution is being made from eight centers in Dalmatia -- Drnis, Split, the Islands, Sinj, Sibenik, Biograd, Makarska, and Solin. Today's situation report from advanced HQ at Split deals with distribution on the Island of Solta. It reports many mine fields, little money or food on the Island, but adds that distribution began satisfactorily.

Split and Northern Dalmatia

In northern Dalmatia life has been reduced to its essential. The people want needles and thread and buttons to mend their clothes. They need leather and nails and boot laces to make their old pairs of boots serviceable. They still have a number of donkeys, mules and horses but there is a great shortage of fodder, as the pasture is still largely under snow. They need nails for horseshoes, although iron for the shoes themselves is not so scarce. They need nails and screws and glass for repairing their homes. There are a few pots and pans and other household utensils but many more will be needed.

Split and area received a terrific pounding. Railroad yards, bridges, docks, warehouses, public buildings near the waterfront and the cement factory have been badly damaged, also the cranes at Split harbor. The local people are attempting some repair work but have little equipment or material for this purpose. The highways seem usable with detours but the shoulders are mined.

The farmers are plowing their small acreages in good days. They use small stocky horses which are not in very good condition.

Robert Pribram of the Mission reports the following on the arrival of the first large shipload of supplies:

"When the ship came into sight, the whole population of the port and the adjoining villages came to the port to watch her arrival. Then as she drew closer, we saw she was a Yugoslav ship with the flag flying. Enthusiasm knew no bounds. The church bells were ringing and people were cheering. They had had other ships arriving and with supplies but this was the first Yugoslav ship from abroad since the outbreak of the war. It was fitting that she should be our first food ship.

"The unloading of the goods began early next morning and work continued daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. until the last sack and box from the ship were lying neatly stacked in the warehouse. This was a great task for the Yugoslav workers who had had to exist on very small rations for a long period. They started the work with great enthusiasm but in the afternoon their speed slackened due to lack of stamina. They were given food at the dock, consisting of bread and corn beef, but most took their food home to their relatives. All of the workers whom I asked stated without exception that they had not had any breakfast and were holding out till midday for their first meal of the day. Cooperation was extremely agreeable. During the unloading we had the bora, the icy wind that lashes this coast in winter and the underfed and by no means sufficiently clothed workers suffered quite a lot. Nevertheless the speed never slackened seriously and a few hours after the unloading had finished and the ship had left, a number of trucks entered the warehouse and the distribution began. As I write, most of the goods had already been transferred to the various districts and the population will get its first supplies of urgently needed provisions.

The following extract, describing the distribution of food, appeared in Slobodna Dalmacija, 27 February 1945. "In conversation with members of the National Liberation Committee, we have learned that the food supplied by our Allies will begin to be distributed on Wednesday, 28 February. For the town of Split, the following quantities of food had been fixed: 160,337 kg. of white flour; 28,800 kg. of wheat; 12,419 kg. of conserved meat; 2,761 kg. of sugar.

"The food will be distributed on the basis of personal cards by tearing off coupon no. 6. Each person will receive: 5.80 kg. of white flour at 400 kuna per kg; 1 kg. of wheat at 300 kuna per kg; 0.45 kg. of conserved meat at 1,400 kuna per kg; 0.09 kg. of sugar at 1,400 kuna per kg.

"In this way, each person will receive 7.34 kg. of food and will pay for it 3,376 kuna. Those who have not any monetary means will get the food on credit in the following way: They will get a special credit note on the strength of which they will take the food on credit and will be debited with a corresponding sum. Credit notes will be obtained at the shops at which they get the food and for each note they will pay 10 kuna. Citizens are asked to pay if they can because indebtedness through credit notes must be made good as soon as anyone is in a position to pay. Wealthier citizens who give up this food should hand in their personal cards to the district Noo where coupon no. 6 will be extracted."

Mr. Moon of the UNRRA staff in Split reported the following on 23 February 1945:

"Up to date I am confirmed in my original belief that the functions of the technical specialists (distribution observers) will be little more than nominal. Some of them, when they get out into the field by themselves, may be able to make the job into something of value but I do not think that they will find it at all easy to do. Further more, it is quite apparent that we already have over here more than sufficient technical specialists to cover all the country which supplies will reach in the next month or two. I would go further and say that we already have over here as many as we are really likely to need at any time. This is, of course, only a surmise which the experience of the next few weeks will confirm or rebuff. It may, however, be useful for you to know the position as it appears over here, especially in view of the prospect of a number of new arrivals from Cairo."

The following additional information on reduction in prices is available from a report from UNRRA personnel in Dalmatia. Reductions in food prices amounting in some cases to 30% have followed the distribution of Anglo-American relief supplies on the Dalmatian coast. So far, approximately 15,000 tons of supplies have been landed and distribution has been made to eight centers in Dalmatia. Prices in March have fallen markedly compared with February prices. Maize dropped from 900 kuna to 700 kuna. Eggs have fallen 30%. Potatoes 20%. And wheat and bread 15%.

Dubrovnik

The ML reports from the Dubrovnik area indicate that reception by the Yugoslavs was a free one and that cooperation has been given freely although accomodation appears to be very crowded and the transport problem is urgent. There is an acute shortage of food and barter is prevalent, money having no value. The Imperial Hotel, formerly much frequented by tourists, is being used as a Partisan hospital and beds and bedding are so scarce that some of the wounded are lying on the floor in their uniforms. In the children's wards, many of the children have been injured through playing with German booby traps, and in some of the men's and children's wards, patients were lying 2 and 3 in a bed due to the lack of blankets.

Delivery of medical supplies in territory still held by the Germans

The following report is not to be quoted:

Urgently needed medical supplies for Yugoslav civilians in territory still held by the Germans have been delivered through the German mines. The supplies were delivered by Yugoslav authorities after they had been brought to Dalmatia by ML. They consisted mainly of surgical instruments, dressings, and drugs. To reach the town the supplies had to be carried in pack sacks over mountain and forest trails nearly 300 miles. All of the hospitals and dispensaries in the area to which these supplies were delivered had been emptied of their stocks by the Germans and hundreds of patients were unable to undergo operations because the doctors had not even the most rudimentary instruments.

Yugoslav Branch
30 March 1945

452660

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

~~6 SHARIA BAR EL SHEA GARDEN CITY CAIRO~~TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
UNRRA-CAIROTELEPHONES:
47816-41317JUGOSLAV MISSION% ML HQ (Yugoslavia)
APO 512, % Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

20 February 1945.

TO: Mr. M. A. Menshikov
Deputy Director General
Washington, D. C.FROM: Mr. M. Barratt-Brown *MBB*
Special Assistant to
Acting Chief of Mission
Jugoslav Mission

Attached please find further reports from Split for
your interest and information.

Attachments.

B.A.-DO - Rm 5-3

D.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

JUGOSLAV MISSION
c/o ML HQ (JUGOSLAVIA) GMP

15 February 1945

To: Morse Salisbury -- Washington, D. C.
From: Bill Morrell

Attached is a copy of an article on the UNRRA Yugoslavia Mission. I have placed this with Bill Robinson, acting chief of publications for PWB who wants it for the OWI fortnightly magazine "Danas", about which I wrote you two weeks ago. PWB are sending down a photographer on February 18th to do photographs of the Mission and its personalities (an itinerary was sent you in my last letter), and I shall send you prints as soon as I receive them from Rome.

I am due to leave for Cairo tomorrow for about five days in order to make the necessary arrangements for staff about which we cabled you, but am due back in Bari in eight days. Nothing will be breaking in those eight days, I hope, which would require my presence here. The only pending release is that of the full agreement between ML and Marshal Tito, but permission to make the release will take at least ten days to negotiate.

At the present time, I have the odd feeling that I am shooting all my mail off into blank space (at least as regards Washington) because I have no clear perception here of how our bags to Washington are being routed. I am taking a certain amount of stuff with me to Cairo, including the negatives of the photographs I have had taken, and will send them off to Washington from there. Please note, all concerned, that these are single negatives, and that London will need to be supplied with whatever prints it requires from Washington.

We have just received the first mail from the eighteen who went over to Split on February 6. Some of them are extremely good, and I am sending full copies to Washington, London and Cairo.

Dr. Katharine MacPhail has just returned from her informal trip to Belgrade. Although this was a personal invitation from the Partisans, the material she brought back was so good that I placed an interview with the local BBC man, John Nixon. I shall write up my own account when I reach Cairo. Incidentally, it may appear that I am weighting things unduly towards BBC as regards copy placed at this end. I did, however, teletype Rome and offer the interview to the correspondents there. Having received no reply, as Dr. MacPhail is due to go into Dalmatia with her team almost immediately, and as Nixon is the only correspondent in Bari, I therefore had no choice but to place it with him.

10691

15/2/45

I hear from Allan Fields that the US Minister in Rome, Mr. Kirk, is querying the amount of stuff I am sending to Rome for transmission to HQ. He wants all this cleared with AFHQ, by which he presumably means Caserta. This is really too much.

- a. Brigadier Forestier-Walker, Commander of ML, already has the sanction of AFHQ to screen all public information material about relief operations.
- b. My own arrangements with the army public relations is that all material must be censored by the local army censor at Bari before it can pass over the army transmitter to Rome where it is mimeographed.
- c. The army censor in Rome passes on all this material before it is mimeographed.

I am running my feet off in Bari getting all material approved by ML and then censored by the army censor. Fields, presumably, is seeing that the army censor in Rome also approves. I am, therefore, totally at a loss to understand why Mr. Kirk wants Caserta to pass on material for policy reasons, when this authority has already been delegated to the Brigadier by Caserta and when the copy is also twice censored by the army for security. I have asked Fields to point this out to the US Embassy in Rome and to see that the point is dropped. If Mr. Kirk insists, however, the only way out will be for Washington or London to establish press collect facilities for me at AFHQ Rome.

As a matter of fact, and as a matter of planning ahead, I do suggest that these facilities be established for me by London. It will thus be possible for me to file releasable material of an urgent nature to London, and London will be able to pass on this material immediately to Washington. Please let me know your views on the practicability of this. The copy, as I see it at present, would not amount to more than 1,000 words a week and much of it can be taken care of by my present arrangements.

Another item in the planning-ahead series (these things come up spasmodically in the daily press of business) is to see that the public relations division has a jeep of its own when we move into Yugoslavia. Even here in Bari (or rather six miles from Bari) it is quite apparent that the work of the division could be speeded up incalculably by having its own transport instead of having to hitch-hike. When we move into Yugoslavia, those correspondents who attach themselves to our activities will be totally -- but completely -- dependent on us for transport. It will not be fair to have to sneak transport away from other divisions, and I can foresee lots of sarcastic comments unless we have our own means of getting the correspondents around.

cc: Washington
Cairo
London

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

JUGOSLAV MISSION
c/o ML Hq (JUGOSLAVIA) CMF

15 February 1945

Mr. Tom MacFadden
PWB
Bari

My dear Tom:

Here is the article on UNRRA Yugoslavia which I promised Bill Robinson for use in "Danas". Will you please send it to him by pouch and acknowledge its receipt to me by mail. I shall, I hope, be in Cairo by the time you receive this, and I would like to know when I return that it is all buttoned up.

I have also heard from my Rome office that a PWB photographer will be down here on Sunday in order to take some photographs of the Mission and its personalities. The itinerary I sketched out for him and which you sent by teletype to Rome should be enough, I think. For your reference, here it is:

- i. Shots of UNRRA offices near Bari
- ii. Conference of UNRRA divisional directors, with Partisans if possible.
- iii. How UNRRA Mission personnel live -- shots of interiors of billets, many of them formerly the private homes of Fascists requisitioned for use by the military.
- iv. Shots of Voluntary Society units with their mobile transport units.
- v. Personality shots showing the international make-up of the UNRRA Mission.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Michael Barratt-Brown, personal assistant to the acting Chief of the Mission, in order that he can arrange for the set-up to be ready if you will get in touch with him when the photographer arrives and fix some day for him to come out to San Spirito.

Best,

cc: Washington (with art.)
London " "
✓Cairo " "
Barratt-Brown

Bill Morrell
Bill Morrell

BM:amk

UNRRA JUGOSLAV MISSION

The steadfast courage of the Yugoslav people during their long and bitter years under the oppression of a ruthless invader constitutes an epic in the history-long struggle for freedom.

To Military Liaison Headquarters (Yugoslavia) -- ML -- representing the peoples of the British Commonwealth and the United States of America, falls the task of offering assistance and repairing the ravages of enemy occupation.

In the face of world shortages of commodities and shipping space, ML begins now its task of providing such essential materials and services as are now available in order that Yugoslavia may lose no time in pressing forward with its national restoration.

The Allied Military Liaison Headquarters coming to Yugoslavia at the invitation of the National Government of the country, is composed of British and United States Army personnel. Its sole purpose is to bring food, clothing, medical supplies and other forms of assistance at the earliest moment possible. It is a military organization because at this time civilian channels are not open. The ports must be cleared of mines and wharf facilities restored; bridges must be rebuilt, railways and roads repaired. Use of military facilities and supplies makes it possible to bring relief supplies and assistance to Yugoslavia now instead of waiting for restoration of conditions that would permit a civilian agency to function effectively.

ML (Yugoslavia) is the forerunner of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which is now represented in Yugoslavia by a certain number of personnel as the agent of ML. As soon as conditions permit, ML will withdraw, and UNRRA, an exclusively civilian organization, will remain as the representative of the United Nations in the provision of relief and rehabilitation supplies in Yugoslavia.

Commanding Military Liaison Headquarters (Yugoslavia) is Brigadier J.F. Forestier-Walker of the British Army. The Deputy Commander is Col. F. L. Whitley of the United States Army. Its personnel includes technicians in the fields of relief and rehabilitation. Their services will be available to the Yugoslav government.

for initiating the task which UNRRA later will assist in completing.

UNRRA's Relation to Military Liaison

The Yugoslav Mission follows the pattern of the other Balkan Missions in its relationship with Military Liaison. By an agreement of April 3, 1944 with the GOC of Military Liaison and his American counterpart, the Director General of UNRRA attached the three Balkan Missions for Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania to Military Liaison as its agents until such time as UNRRA should take over full responsibility for relief operations in these countries. Military Liaison had been established much earlier, first as a British and then as an Anglo-American organization, with two tasks -- firstly, to estimate and procure the relief supplies needed in the Balkan countries during the first six months after their liberation and secondly, to provide certain relief services to assist these countries with their immediate relief problems. The responsibility of the military authorities for estimating and procuring supplies was fixed in all theatres to last for six months, after which UNRRA would become responsible in conjunction with the governments of the countries concerned. The responsibility of the military authorities for the provision of relief services was planned to last only until such time as UNRRA could take over and was expected to be less than the six months' period of supply responsibility. Military Liaison would be responsible for the initial tasks of opening up ports, cleaning road and railway communications, establishing emergency medical assistance and, where necessary, mass feeding arrangements and refugee movement control. UNRRA has to take over responsibility as soon as possible for providing assistance with relief and rehabilitation operations after reaching its own agreement with the government of the country concerned. In the meantime, UNRRA is responsible for assisting Military Liaison in its tasks and for preparing to take over from Military Liaison by working alongside ML officers during the first period.

UNRRA's Tasks

As soon as UNRRA takes over full responsibility for assisting the Yugoslav government, it will have four main tasks:

Procuring Supplies.

UNRRA's first task with all governments is to assist them in obtaining their fair share of the world's supplies for the relief and rehabilitation of their countries. UNRRA's experts in Washington, London and in the Yugoslav Mission have for months been helping the governments with the preparation of estimates of the supplies which they will require and which represent a fair share of the total available supplies and with their presentation before the world's supply and shipping allocation agencies. Soon the Yugoslav Mission experts in different commodities will go into Jugoslavia to work with the government authorities on determining priorities, establishing shipping programs and reporting back immediate supplementary requirements.

Paying for Supplies.

UNRRA's second task is to cover the cost of some or all of the relief and rehabilitation supplies allocated in the case of those countries which have themselves no foreign exchange available to pay for these supplies. Jugoslavia is one of these. To watch the interests of the contributing countries, which have made available these supplies or the foreign exchange with which to buy supplies, UNRRA will have its representatives in the country. They will also coordinate the work of the UNRRA technical specialists in their areas and be able to examine and support the requests of the local Yugoslav authorities for supplies to meet general and particular needs in their areas. In this way, they will assist the supply experts in carrying out UNRRA's first task.

Technical Advisory Services.

UNRRA's third task is the provision of technical advisory services to assist any government which asks for this help in dis-

charging its own primary responsibility for relief and rehabilitation operations in its country. Jugoslavia has asked for such help in general. Details remain to be worked out. But the UNRRA Mission, as at present constituted, includes a health, a Displaced Persons and a Welfare Division, an agricultural and an industrial Rehabilitation Division and a Distribution and Transport Bureau, with a number of technical specialists in Transport, Distribution, Warehousing, etc.

International Cooperation.

UNRRA's fourth task is to encourage international cooperation on health matters, on the return of displaced persons and in the inter-state exchange and transport of available supplies.

The Government's Responsibility

The Yugoslav government will be solely responsible for carrying out the distribution of relief supplies. UNRRA will assist if required, but has no responsibility for distribution. The Yugoslav government, along with all the other governments which form the Council of UNRRA, has agreed that in this work of distribution it will insure that all supplies are distributed throughout the country according to needs and with no discrimination of race, creed or political belief. The Yugoslav government will also be solely responsible for its own health, welfare and other technical services. UNRRA will assist in Jugoslavia, as in other countries, to the extent and in the form requested by the government.

UNRRA's Main Problems

No Agreement on the New Government of Jugoslavia

Until the agreement reached between Marshal Tito and Dr. Subasic last November and supported by the Russian and British governments, is accepted by King Peter, UNRRA has no firm government to negotiate with concerning its work in Jugoslavia. However, preliminary agreement on almost all points has already been reached between the UNRRA Headquarters in Washington and Dr. Bicanic, the representative on the UNRRA Council of the

Royal Yugoslav Government, and one of Marshal Tito's trusted friends. It is not expected that anything will stand in the way of reaching complete agreement as soon as the new United Yugoslav government is formed in Belgrade.

World Supply Shortages

Many of the relief supplies most urgently needed in Yugoslavia are those in shortest supply throughout the world, either owing to the demands of the Allied Forces or as the result of the devastation and destruction in other producing countries. Clothing, leather, and boots are among the most urgent needs in all parts of Yugoslavia. Materials for rebuilding villages and homes devastated by the Germans come second only to clothing -- nails, hammers and other tools. Fortunately, there is plenty of timber in Yugoslavia. Industrial equipment is vitally needed for restarting the cement factories, flour and timber mills and the mines and essential public utilities which have been destroyed by the Germans. Yet these are the very types of needs which have been created by enemy destruction in other countries and which are in greatest demand in the all-out war effort of the United Nations. UNRRA will have to press hard to obtain a fair allocation for relief purposes of these vital supplies so that the great promises of the leaders of the United Nations of the help that will be given on the day of liberation to the nations which have resisted German occupation so magnificently and for so long may be fulfilled. 7

Transport Dislocation

Over and beyond all the other great needs of Yugoslavia, the greatest is the reestablishment of transport and communications. Allied bombing, artesian bridge and railway blowing and enemy scorched-earth policy have destroyed the vital rail and road systems of Yugoslavia. In addition, the continued presence of large German forces along the main central and northern lines of communication deprives the Yugoslav authorities of the use of what roads and railways remain. In all foodstuffs, Yugoslavia could be self-sufficient, but the breakdown of communications

makes it impossible to move the large supplies of grain from the rich Danube Valley in the northeast even quite short distances, let alone across the great mountain ridge to the coastal belt on the Adriatic, which is in peacetime a deficiency area, and has suffered worst from the war and the enemy's depredations. Yet, UNRRA is necessarily limited in the task of providing motor transport, rolling stock and repairs to bridges and railways by the fact that these are among the supplies most vitally needed in the conduct of the war. UNRRA may have for some time to make a part of its contribution to Yugoslavia in the form of grain shipped from the new world to the starving people on the western coast. Yugoslavia has lost half a million people to the factories of Germany; and in her splendid resistance to the enemy has suffered great internal movements of population. In the resettlement of so many people, vast problems of health and temporary care and shelter will arise. UNRRA will be prepared to assist the Yugoslav authorities within the limits of the household and camp stores and the medical equipment and personnel available.

The Yugoslav Mission Structure

The Yugoslav Mission is composed of four main groups. The strength of these groups and their responsibilities are at present no more than tentative and will be changed according to the wishes of the Yugoslav government.

The Headquarters Staff and Regional Field Liaison Officers at present number eight for headquarters and fifteen for the regions and the field, but these could be increased to eighteen and thirty respectively. Headquarters will consist of a general coordinating and negotiating staff under the Chief of Mission and a reports and operations staff under a Senior Deputy Chief. Regional officers and field liaison officers will represent UNRRA with regional and local Yugoslav authorities and will observe on the distribution of UNRRA's supplies. They will also coordinate the work of the different UNRRA divisions in their areas and help to determine the nature and scope of the UNRRA assistance required.

Finance and Administration Personnel will be attached to central, regional and local officers as required to look after their domestic needs -- administrative services, quartermastering, transport, secretarial. Thirty members of the Mission are already concerned with these duties in Italy and up to eighty may be needed.

The Supply and Requirements Staff will be concerned with working with the Yugoslav ministries to estimate requirements and priorities, to call forward supplies, to work out shipping programs and to justify supplementary requests. The staff will be made up of a requirements, a shipping, a food and an agricultural and an industrial rehabilitation division. Work has already been begun by the sixteen present members of the staff, and a total staff of forty, with seven local agricultural advisors and ten industrial advisors, is planned for.

Technical Advisory Services will be provided in the fields of distribution and transport, health, welfare and displaced persons.

The Distribution and Transport Division now numbers 16 and may number as many as 60. Rationing and price control experts at the center and technicians at the ports and main distribution centers will advise on technical problems of distribution, warehousing and road and rail transport, and will help to ensure the distribution of supplies to the places of greatest need.

The Health Division now numbers 22, including medical specialists on epidemic control, tuberculosis and children's health; a pathologist, sanitary engineers, highly skilled public health nurses and medical supply experts. This number is expected to be increased to 50 or 60, and expert personnel in typhus and malarial control can be called upon from UHRA headquarters.

The Welfare Division has a number of experts in the field of relief to indigents; mass feedings; child welfare; care of the homeless, the crippled and the orphaned; information and advice services, etc. A total of 30 are already available for assistance to the Yugoslav government, if required.

The Displaced Persons Division, being organized on an international basis, is designed to assist and advise the Yugoslav authorities on the complex problems of repatriation -- of Yugoslavs returning home to Yugoslavia, of other nationals in Yugoslavia and of others passing through Yugoslavia back to their homes. Three specialists are already attached to the Mission and four more are due to arrive later.

Voluntary Society Units

British Voluntary Societies have provided a large number of skilled personnel to work with the UNRRA Health, Welfare and Displaced Persons Divisions. Most of these personnel have added to their experience in medical, social and civil defense work in England by working for the last few months in camps for Yugoslav refugees in Egypt. Many are now working among refugees in Italy until they are required by the Yugoslav government for work in Yugoslavia.

Hygiene Units

Attached to the Health Division there are three mobile hygiene units and a mobile medical clinic, together with a mobile bacteriological unit and a medical stores transport unit. These total in all about 60 persons and have been formed from British Voluntary Societies -- Save the Children Fund, the British Red Cross and Friends Ambulance Unit. The doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, hygiene workers, mechanics and other specialists who form these units are equipped with transport and supplies for dealing with different aspects of the control of infectious and general diseases.

Refugee Units

In addition to the technical, welfare and displaced persons staffs of UNHRA, three British Voluntary Societies -- the Friends, the Catholic Committee for Relief and the British Red Cross -- have each provided a relief and refugee unit. These total 30 persons and are ready with transport and emergency camp equipment to help with the problems of internal refugee movements, and with the return of displaced persons in Yugoslavia.

UNHRA Personnel

An International Body

The Yugoslav Mission is international. Its staff already includes a number of Czechs, several Yugoslavs, a Soviet citizen, two Poles and three Palestinians, as well as British and American personnel.

Personalities of the Yugoslav Mission.

The acting Chief of the UNHRA Yugoslav Mission is an Australian, Mr. Alan Hall. Born in Sydney, he is the son of the Honorable David Hall, who for many years was Attorney General of New South Wales. He was educated at Scots College and Sydney University and worked in his father's legal firm in Australia. There he married an American girl, Miss Alice Keith Elliott, who was born in Cleveland, Ohio, whose home was in New York City.

In 1933, Mr. Hall left Australia and for two years was in business in Italy and South America. In 1936, with his brother, he founded a small but successful firm of restaurants in London. These restaurants, known as "Quality Inn" were based on American methods. They served American food such as pumpkin pie, apple pie with cheese, hamburgers, American coffee -- and a complete innovation in Britain -- second cups of coffee were free.

In 1942, Mr. Hall joined the American Red Cross of Great Britain as its Director of purchasing and director of food.

As such, he was responsible for organizing the first program for leave and recreation centers for American troops in the United Kingdom. He was in direct control of a program for billeting 40,000 men a night and feeding 3,000,000 snacks and meals a week. Mr. Hall joined UNRRA in Washington in March, 1944, as Chief of local purchasing in the Balkans. He was later requested by Sir William C. Matthews, head of the Balkan Mission, to assume the position of observer of the Yugoslav Mission, which was formed in August. He was appointed acting Chief of the Mission in December, 1944.

One of the most important sections of an UNRRA Mission is its Distribution and Transport Division, whose function is to assist the government (in this case, the government of Yugoslavia) in bringing food for civilian population. The director of this division in the Yugoslav Mission is an American, Mr. William T. Harris, who, before he joined UNRRA, was a lawyer in New York City. Mr. Harris was one of the members of the advance UNRRA party which Military Liaison sent into Yugoslavia early in February, and is now based at Split.

Marian Strumillo, the Finance Officer of the Mission, is a representative of Poland. Educated at Warsaw University, he entered the Polish Ministry of Finance in 1931 and was assigned to the bureau whose duty was to supervise the Polish banking system. When his country was overrun by the Germans in 1939, Strumillo escaped from Warsaw and, running the gauntlet of Stuka dive bombers, managed to reach Kovno, capital of Lithuania. From there he escaped to Sweden and Norway and embarked on a Norwegian vessel for Britain, where he planned to join the Polish forces. The ship was stopped by a German U-Boat but was so close to the British coast that the U-Boat captain, afraid to risk his boat, contented himself with enquiring by blinker messages whether the ship carried any contraband. Although

there were British and Polish passengers on board, the Norwegian captain refused to hand them over, and so Strumillo reached British soil and rejoined his government. He was assigned to the Polish Treasury, at that time in France, and again Strumillo had to flee when the German blitzkrieg against France rolled up to the gates of Paris. He escaped to Britain via Bordeaux and next year, after the German attack on Russia, was sent to Moscow as financial adviser to the Polish Ambassador. He travelled to the Soviet Union on the second convoy of aid which Britain sent on the dangerous run to Murmansk. When the Polish Embassy was withdrawn from Russia in May 1943, Strumillo was ordered to teheran and, after six months, to Cairo, where he worked with the Polish Ministry of State to the Middle East, dealing with financial affairs. When the UNRRA Balkan Mission was established in Cairo in the early summer of 1944, Strumillo left the service of his government for the first time for thirteen years.

Robert Innes, a sturdy Canadian who still puts down his nationality as Scotch (both his parents came from Scotland), is a specialist on the resettlement of displaced persons. Born at Kentville, Nova Scotia, fifty-two years ago, he joined the Canadian army immediately on the outbreak of the last war and, at 24, was one of the youngest lieutenant colonels in the Canadian army to take his battalion overseas to the European front. In 1917, invalided back to Canada; he was loaned by the Canadian government to organize and direct the Ontario Soldiers' and Sailors' Agricultural Land Settlement scheme. This was a scheme to assist returning Canadian veterans and, after them, men from Britain in settlement on the land in the province of Ontario. After his demobilization from the army in 1919, he was given the much larger job of directing a similar scheme throughout the whole Dominion in the capacity of

Director of Agriculture, the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board of Canada. Four years later, he was sent to India as a special representative of the Canadian government and the Canadian Pacific Railway in order to assist British officers of the Indian Army, many of whom wished to settle on farms in Canada.

At the outbreak of this war, Innes -- a lieutenant colonel on the Canadian general reserve of officers -- felt so urgently the need for fighting men in Europe that he offered his services in any capacity and was eventually granted an emergency commission in the British army with the rank of 2nd lieutenant. Three months later, in July 1940, he was promoted to major. In 1942, when all officers over the age of 45 were transferred from active service, he changed to the Royal Air Force, rose to the rank of wing commander; and in May 1943, he was appointed to senior defense officer in south east England to organize the shooting down of the V 1 "robot bombs". Next year, when the "robot Bomb" was no longer a menace, Wing Commander Innes found life too dull and was one of the many who, believing in the great international ideal of UHARRA, applied for work with the organization. His present function in the Yugoslavia Mission is agricultural specialist.

Sergei Bruynsraede is a Belgian, despite his first name, which was bestowed upon him in Riga, where he was born forty-six years ago. His father was a Belgian businessman in Russia, and afterwards in Britain, where Bruynsraede went to work for the Banque Belge pour l'Etranger. Most of Bruynsraede's working life, however, has been with the large British firm of manufacturing chemists, Parke, Davis and Company, with whom he worked for seventeen years until he joined UHARRA in 1944, first in Britain, then as representative in Spain and Egypt. In Yugoslavia, he will be a medical regional specialist. His wife is a Slovene girl from Celje, whom he married in Cairo ten years ago.

Dr. Irina Zhukov, the senior bacteriologist of the Mission is one of the most colorful personalities on the staff. She was born in Leningrad and, after the revolution, distinguished herself by her work in the cholera epidemic which swept the city in 1919. She studied at the Robert Koch institute in Berlin, the Marie Curie institute at Warsaw, did work in the Volga famine in the early twenties and also worked at Baku in the south of the Soviet Union for a time.

In 1930, Dr. Zhukov went to Britain to do post graduate work at Cambridge and became a devoted worker to the cause of Anglo-Russian friendship. She continued in her medical work as director of the Glasgow Royal Hospital Research Department and was made a fellow of the Winney Howell Institute, Baltimore, Maryland. She is a member of the Scottish Women's Committee for Friendship with the Women of Soviet Russia and is well known in Glasgow for her work in this connection.

She speaks several languages in addition to her native Russian, including English, French and German.

Dr. Kenneth Sinclair-Loutit -- this 31-year-old British doctor has practiced in London off and on for the last ten years. He obtained his degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, and entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

In 1936, he volunteered for service with the Republicans in the Spanish civil war and was the administrator in Spain of the Spanish Medical Aid Committee's units, later becoming medical officer in the famous International Brigade, being mentioned in Republican dispatches in Spain. Returning to London, he reentered St. Bartholomew's; and at the outbreak of the war in 1939 was sent to France as medical officer of the Polish Relief Fund, dealing with refugees coming out of Poland.

After the collapse of France, and the German blitz on London, he became medical officer for Civilian Defense in the Finsbury district where he was in charge of the casualty clearing stations. His district was one of the most severely bombed in London, and Dr. Loutit and his colleagues devised new methods of dealing with the thousands of casualties trapped in the wrecked buildings, setting up clearing stations for their speedy treatment. For this work, he was decorated in 1941 with the M.B.E. He joined the Ministry of Health in the London region and was medical officer of the Staff School of Lecturer at the Staff College of Home Security. He also did research on night vision, using London ambulance drivers in his research, in which were discovered many things about night vision of great interest to the British Air Ministry which was then organizing its night fighter system. For a time, he was also a Labor member on the Holburn Council and is well known in the local government circles.

15 February 1945

To: Dr. Hostie

From: Joel Gordon

Subject: Excerpt of Talk Given by Hubert Harrison

"The West of Yugoslavia is the 'Karst' area, which has never been able, throughout the whole of the history of the Balkans, long before the country of Yugoslavia existed, to feed themselves. It has always been an area which has had to import food from other districts; whereas the Eastern part of Yugoslavia, what was known as Serbia and the Vojvedina and Macedonia, even at the present time has food enough to supply itself, and in case of urgent need could spare enough to feed practically the whole of the country — if it were not for the problem of transport. But every road, every railway, has been blasted and even the rivers are full of mines — British mines and now German mines — which make navigation impossible; apart from which, if you go to Belgrade you will notice that the river is one great mass of sunken barges, sunken steamers; there is just nothing left to transport goods up and down the Danube and other river communications which at one time sufficed to carry the wheat of the Vojvedina to many parts of the country."

Hello Everybody:

I think I've written most of the news but as I seem to be in the writing habit I'll try again. Haven't had any mail since arriving in Yugoslavia so I suppose when my mail catches up with me I'll have some nice reading to do. I'm sorry but we can't make pictures here right now so I'll have to wait a short while but in the meantime I don't have films so I can't very well any way. Mailed you a post card and I hope you get it some of these days. Since being here I know we are really in the war. Jerry paid us a call the other morning with a bunch of torpedoes, the kind that are put overboard and a man rides and guides it at the target and jumps off before it hits. I woke up with the first explosion, then the guns opened up and two more torpedoes exploded. My window and room is only about a hundred yards from where the playing started so I was close enough. The windows shook and when I got up and opened the door the hall was full of people from the floors above who thought it was an air raid. I thought so too at first; so I went back to bed, I figured if my number was up it was much better to go comfortably. It was a German E boat that had slipped down the coast, put off three men and torpedoes (before day) the men had ridden the torpedoes into the harbor, sighted them and jumped off. One hit a ship but glanced off and was exploded by big gun fire. The others were exploded the same way before they hit anything and there was quite a racket. The three torpedo riding cowboys were caught by the Partisans and are in for a few headaches I'm sure. Well such is war, the Jerrys are still in there pitching. That's about all except a bunch of about 10,000 came down from a point inland and blew up a bridge on a main highway down the coast a short ways from here and withdrew. Of course the Partisans helped them withdraw in their own persuasive way. Well as to the war at the moment, that's about all that I can tell you except I'm going over that same road in a few days but will have to use a pontoon bridge. Since UNRRA has come in with supplies, I'm of the opinion Jerry might pay us another visit in the way of a raid, either to blow up or capture the supplies....Was given a package of fifty cigarettes that were made in South Africa, rations you know, and they are really good. On the package is printed "With the best wishes of the Victoria League of South Africa, Imperial Comforts Fund." People all over the world are in this show to win and see that their people are given everything possible. In being here I've seen how people at homes all over the earth feel about their men. It's a great and wonderful thing. You get it here, near the lines, where you don't get it at home as people there more or less mask their true feelings but when it gets here, it shows that which is down deep. I've seen and talked to a lot of our boys, some to me were just kids (altho 20 years and up) that were shot down or had to jump and were rescued by the Partisans and after thirty to forty days reached here by marching over snow covered mountains, trails, almost impassable roads,

and bitter cold, being fed and cared for by these people en route. The injured were brought in after being given all medical aid possible from their too scant stores or supplies (their own soldiers are not too well fed, in fact I'd say by our standards, very very poorly and their uniforms aren't very good and shoes just fair) how they put up the fight they do and do everything to get our fliers back is amazing. They recently rescued two of our men who had jumped and landed in Chetnik territory. They sent out a patrol and brought them in even with loss of life to their own men. There isn't anything greater than that and I'm proud to be useful to them thru UNRRA and the Military Liaison in a small way and the only way I know, and Mr. I'm going to do this job. If people in States really knew what was going on here or see what I've seen, there would never be the slightest murmur about UNRRA and the Yugoslav mission. I wish I could express it so the entire and clear picture could be brought home but I'm sure I can't paint that sort of picture with words. It would take an expert. When talking to our boys after they have been deloused, had baths, fed, given cigarettes, new clothes and rested by U.S. Army, it's like talking to youths born again, it's like youngsters coming back from the dead, and without the Partisan Army's help, they couldn't make it in many cases. They tell me the soldiers give them anything they want that they have, share their scant meals and blankets and simply will not take anything in return until they are positive our men don't need it and convince them that it's a present and they are wanted to accept it. I find the Yugoslav's a friendly people and a very sincere people and I've been received by them as a friend and when leaving this country they say "dobro drugi - dolaziti apet, hvala" - I'll feel I've done some small part in making them feel they have the appreciation and friendship of our people. They deserve all we can do for them. I also feel that the few UNRRA people now in Yugoslavia feel the same way I do. Tomorrow at seven a.m. we start unloading the first real ship load of food stuffs to arrive and distribution will start immediately. I've been more fortunate, I think, than most of UNRRA people, as I was the first over and have been working day and night with their committee setting up the accounting system, meeting their accountants, material checkers, truck drivers, warehouse men, secretary's of Government committees here and other points, found wholehearted cooperation along with their requested assistance, also their doctors, lawyers and leading business men, priests of various communes, etc., other of UNRRA will work into this in the various points they will operate in but as my work will more or less cover the entire field in which we operate, I feel I'm getting an unusual break. It means we simply must not fall down on the job. A lot of faith and money was put behind UNRRA and to some it might not seem justified but by being here, I know it is... The guns are now quite plainly being heard and I think I'd

better see what's going on, sounds more like a bombing and it's (here's where John Hall, Duane Wilson, Nick Resic and myself went out on the water front to see the show), shooting down there, the big guns did their stuff, search lights, flares, machine guns and A.A. opened up, evidently Jerry was trying another E boat stunt but now everything has quieted down. The maid came in, turned down my bed covers, said "Loker nauch" Departed, - and things are quiet again. The alarm clock is set for six thirty a.m. and we start unloading our first cargo at seven and life goes on ... While I didn't intend this to be such a long winded letter, I wanted you to know this is rather a far ways from College Park days and I'm glad I'm a part of it.

While this is a personal letter to you and Jim, I wish you would mail it to Mrs. Wadsworth, care UNRRA, Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C., as she might want to get some notes from it for Public Relations and to her, I want to say "Thanks, keep the home fires burning, and we will do the best we can."

Yours,

Berry White

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

JUGOSLAVIA MISSION
c/o ML HQ (JUGOSLAVIA) CMF

12 February 1945

TO: Morse Salisbury

FROM: Bill Morrell

I spent most of today seeing off some more members of the Yugoslavia Mission, this time Dr. Lydia Edwards (American), Dr. Irina Zhukov (USSR) and Dr. Banks (Great Britain).

They left on a Partisan boat, the Ljubljana. We drove into Bari from San Spirito and threaded our way along the quays until we found her, a tiny vessel flying the Yugoslav flag from her stern, with the red partisan star in the middle of the white stripe. She couldn't have been more than 1,500 tons and had obviously been busy all morning embarking partisan troops who were returning to fight. In wartime, the Ljubljana had obviously been a passenger vessel. She had a little dining room surrounded with posters of Tito with Stalin and Churchill on his right and Roosevelt on his left. Pinned upon the walls were typewritten copies of the latest Partisan songs, proclamations of various kinds, all of which had a common slogan at the foot Death to the Fascists. The two ladies were given a cabin with two bunks without mattresses, the Partisan officer pointing out apologetically that those cabins with mattresses were for wounded men. We finally got everybody settled, with his or her hand baggage below, and the bedrolls, foot lockers and cases of rations stored on deck. A hasty message given us the previous day had said that food conditions on the other side were deplorable (I'm getting together some facts for a story) and we had managed to find eight cases of K-rations for our twenty odd souls who are now established there.

From ten o'clock until noon, there was a continual succession of trucks, some loaded with Partisan troops, others with civilians. The latter consisted of middle-aged and elderly women, children and aged men. Not one of them could possibly have born a gun, or he or she would have been in the other trucks with the Partisans. They were refugees from the camp at Santa Maria di Leuca at the tip of the heel. They were bundled up in countless layers of clothing. The women wore kerchiefs - some gaudy yellow, some red - on their heads. The clothes of all were ragged, and you had the impression that two weeks on the other side would leave them footbare. None of the children were over eight years old but looked much older. One little girl, who stood for some time at the foot of the gangplank, had a bundle of blankets in her arms. Dressed in odd assortments of clothing which swelled her girth to twice its normal size, with a solemn unsmiling little face and serious eyes, she looked at least twice her age. Some of the children were blind in one eye; and a Partisan to whom I was talking said that most of them were the victims of German booby traps. The Partisans were very mixed, in uniform, age and sex. There were men with great sprouting moustaches and boys barely in their teens. There were slim young girls and women in their late thirties. Some wore British battle dress, others had British battle dress trousers with the U. S. tunic. Some wore ski boots, others GI rubber-soled boots. A few wore the green forage caps of the Italian army, obviously captured in Yugoslavia, with the red star of the Partisans pinned on the front. The only thing in common was their equipment - Sten machine guns, revolvers and rifles. Some were lithe and active and others were hobbling about on rough-hewn crutches. Two or three, I noticed, were blind in one eye. Everyone who is fit to fight or who is in the convalescent stage from some war wound is returned to the country by the Partisans. Pretty soon the board deck was crowded with them, the lucky ones sitting with their equipment in the boats.

On board also was a Major Inskip, an American member of ML, who was returning to Split after a twenty-four hour reporting visit to Bari. He told me about some of the conditions in the town. 'I shall have to fill them out from other sources, but here is the picture as he gave it to me leaning over the rail before sailing time. Every now and then, an empty corned beef can would come sailing past us from the boat deck where the Partisans were having their lunch and throwing the empty cans overboard into the harbour. On the Dalmatian coast, Inskip said, money has literally no value. Everything is done by barter; and although everything has a price, it is in money terms that make no sense. The official rate of the kuna (Croat Quisling money which is still officially accepted as currency) is 800 to the dollar, 3,200 to the Pound. On the black market, however, the rate is 4,000 - both to the dollar

and to the pound, thus placing the dollar and the pound on a par. Inskip went into a shop where they had some Johnny Walker Black Lable. The shopkeeper's price was \$40.00 a bottle, but nevertheless he offered to sell Inskip a bottle for a carton of cigarettes. In the public markets, all the business is by barter. The buyers bring in clothing, bedspreads, radios, phonographs, rugs, sheets - anything they have to offer. And every evening the little pony carts of the peasants returning to the hills are piled high with these articles, luxuries they have wanted for years but have never been able to afford. Now they can acquire them for a few chickens, and they take all the townspeople have to offer, including radios, even though there is no electricity in the hills. In the main markets of Split, where two thousand people were trying to buy their day's food, all that Inskip was able to see - besides a few potatoes, some shrivelled cherries and vegetables that he could not identify - were four pigeons, two chickens, one game bird and about 500 lbs. of corn. There was also some local tobacco at 6,000 kuna for a package weighing about a quarter of a poind.

While Loutit was taking some pictures, I also talked with a young Partisan soldier. He was born in the port of Susak, which is still occupied by the Germans, had been captured by the Italians and imprisoned near Bari for nearly two years until the town was captured by the Allies. The Italians in Yugoslavia, he said, had behaved just as disgracefully as the Germans and he could not understand the present Allied treatment of Italy. "The Allies are treating the Italians too gently," was his theme. I have heard this opinion expressed before by Yugoslavs, and I think we must be careful not to overplay in our public relations work what UNRRA is doing for Italy, or at least to make it plain that our programme in Italy is a very limited one.

I have seen correspondence from Cairo to Washington which seems to assume that all the ports on the Dalmatian coast are either functioning or will function shortly. There are four ports for practical consideration - Sibenik, Susak, Split and Dubrovnik. In actual fact, the only port functioning at this time of writing is Split, which, I am told, has ceiling of about 20,000 tons a month without lighters. Susak is still in German hands and when liberated will probably be left in a condition that will take months of repair. Although cleared of mines, Sibenik cannot be used in the absence of lighters, and the Allies have not yet received permission to clear Dubrovnik (a job that will take some two weeks when permission is received.) After the fighting in Greece, the Partisans - rightly or wrongly - are extremely touchy about Allied forces in their territory; and although the obstacle in this case possibly rests with some comparatively minor official on the Dalmatian coast who is afraid to take the responsibility of a decision, it will obviously take some time before permission to clear this port can be obtained.

The ML Supplies for the two months February-March are also subject to fluctuation depending on war conditions. However, I have been able to obtain these figures, not for release. The port concerned is Split, and the figures should be read in three columns as I have set them out - one, already shipped; two, expected to be shipped during february; three, expected to be shipped during March.

Food	3775	4385	13200
Clothing	2	100	1910
Agr. Rehab.	7	701	947
Ind. Rehab.	Nil	15	688
Med. Supplies	87	Nil	106
Fuel	1433	Nil	1149
Totals	5304	5201	18,000

All long tons, plus 139 trucks. April shipments are not yet certain. Dubrovnik, as I said, is not yet open, but the programme will be probably similar to that for Split.

Negotiations are also going on between AFHQ and Belgrade for communications out of there. It is probable that these will be functioning within the next month, although only to London, whence relay to Washington will have to be RCA or cable and wireless. Whatever set-up is arranged, I am told by the Public Relations Officer from AFHQ that communication out of Belgrade will only be as far as London. It is possible, therefore, that as the Mission sends its spearheads into Belgrade, we shall, wherever urgency dictates, be splitting our public information operation in two -

one from Belgrade direct to London for relay to Washington, and the other in Bari, covering the remainder of Dalmatia and whatever further areas are added by that time, always assuming that at that time communication between Dalmatia and Belgrade is still impossible.

JUGOSLAV MISSION

c/o ML HQ (Yugoslavia)

CLF

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8 February 1945

Mr. Morse Salisbury
Director of Public Information
UNRRA Washington

Reference is UNRRA advance party in Dalmatia.

Attached is an extract from the first letter we have received from an UNRRA official in Dalmatia. The man is Berry K. White, who was sent to Split on February 2 to establish warehouse facilities. I am not trying to place this story locally, as it is of local interest in the States, and does not carry any information for the war correspondents here.

Incidentally, I understand that starvation conditions on the coast are really bad and since the picture is not conveyed by this letter I am arranging to meet Major Inskip, who is referred to in the letter and brought it back here yesterday. Will let you have a full report on what he says and what I did with it.

Bill Morrell

Attachment

cc: Leonard Ingrams, London
R. C. Noble, Cairo

5 February 1945

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM BERRY K. WHITE, UNRRA

Well, UNRRA has landed and gone to work. I'm billeted with Col. Marks and Major Inskip (two U. S. Officers with ML), exceptionally comfortable, single room, hot and cold water in my room three lights (one working at present), rugs on the floor, iron bed with springs and mattress. I use my own sheets and blankets, one wardrobe, two chairs and a table, maid service, bath two doors down and hot water all the time. These boys really did well by me. Eating at the American Mission at the present. Good food - eggs (regular, not powdered) for breakfast, coffee, bacon, butter, not bad, my boy, not bad. Right now I'm sitting in the writing room in my bathrobe, the coal stove keeps it nice and warm; getting this note away after a good dinner. Now since you know how the other half live I'll give you the news on Split and Sibenik.

Landed yesterday after a peach of a trip over. Major Montmorency and I shared a cabin. There were 600 Yugoslav troops on the same boat, that sang all the way over. I had a big time with them. Col. Marks met the boat and fixed me up as I mentioned. Had to go by the Yugoslav port authorities office and met Lt. Roffles of the Partisans. He spoke excellent English, had been in the States and hopes to go back after the war. He had been in New Orleans, so we hit it off together right away. Saw him later at a party given by Col. Marks at the American Mission and a big time was had by all - international relations were cemented. He also issues the passes to go from place to place, so I have a fifteen day pass. The Colonel also has one instead of having to go by and apply each time. Nothing like having friends in important places.

So Today I went with the Colonel to Sibenik, called on the local committee and we were treated royally. We had x-rations but they insisted we have dinner with them. We did. The dining room was on the third floor overlooking one of the most beautiful bays I ever saw. We were served good soup, well seasoned, corn beef, hot beans, vino, well prepared vino (exceptionally strong and good - two glasses will knock you for a loop), a good dessert and coffee. Then we inspected the hospital, formerly an 800 bed setup, modern, until Jerry bombed it. Now it is a 300 bed place, heating system is out and no equipment, some water pipes still in operation and very meager stock of supplies. Also checked warehouse facilities for medical supplies. They can handle all we can supply.

We were shown every consideration and I believe now, more than ever, we are going to do a good job and there is plenty to do. Am checking warehouse and port facilities in Split tomorrow. Think we are to use an ex-cement factory here. That is not so good, but passable. We will get by, I'm sure. Expect to go by boat to Dubrovnik this week and check up warehouse storage there and set up the accounting system for each port and sub-depot.

Also saw a few supermen who weren't so super. They were a sorry looking lot, from 16 to 65 in age.

The road between Split and Sibenik is very good, paved part of the way but trucks and cars can get over it alright. The grades are not too steep for trucks. It took us an hour and a half to go via jeep.

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Caval 849
15 Feb.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Balkan Mission Headquarters, Intelligence Division
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Intelligence Report No. 35.

9 February 1945.

Subject: Jugoslavia: Talk given at UNRRA (Jugoslavia) Mess
by Hubert Harrison, 9 January 1945

SUMMARY

Following is a Transcript of a Talk given to the UNRRA (Jugoslav) Mission Mess at Bari on 9 January 1945 by Mr. Hubert Harrison, Reuter's correspondent in Yugoslavia. As in the case of the talk by Mr. Pribicevic (given in Intelligence Report No. 8) members of the Partisan delegation were present.

The talk touches on the food situation, the delay in the arrival of ML food ships, Partisan administration in Belgrade, the personality of Marshal Tito and the currency situation.

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TALK GIVEN AT UNRRA MESS

by HUBERT HARRISON

Tuesday, 9 January 1945
at 8.00 p.m.

Mr. Alan Hall:

Ladies and gentlemen, I take pleasure in introducing to you tonight Mr. Hubert Harrison, Reuter's distinguished war correspondent, a man who lived in Yugoslavia for many years before the war and who until a very few days ago has been there. Mr. Harrison both knows and loves Yugoslavia. There have not been many war correspondents in Yugoslavia during the war — at no time as many as a dozen, either British or American. Mr. Harrison has been one of that very limited number of war correspondents. As I say, he was there for 14 years before the war, and I think he can give you the inside story on that country. He had the privilege of having a long interview with Marshal Tito not many weeks ago. He has been moving around the country there, and as I mentioned he came out only a few days ago, and I am sure what he has to say will be of the greatest interest to you. Mr. Harrison.

Mr. Harrison:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I do not believe you want any set speech on Yugoslavia, and so what I propose to do is to make just a few leading remarks, especially from the point of view in which I think you are most interested — the point of view of the food and the supply situation in Yugoslavia, and I will leave it to you after that to ask me any questions you like and I will give you the best replies I can.

I don't pretend to know the full situation in Yugoslavia. It is quite impossible for any one observer to know the whole situation. It is especially impossible because of the enormous difficulties of transport in Yugoslavia, and that is also one of your greatest difficulties: the fact that in Yugoslavia the transport system has been deliberately blasted to pieces by the saboteurs of the Partisan movement, by the (M.A.A.F.) centered here in Bari, and finally by the Germans through their destructive units who stayed behind the main units to blow up every possible bridge and road and to make transport impossible. Now that is your great problem.

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The West of Yugoslavia is the "Karst" area, which has never been able, throughout the whole of the history of the Balkans, long before the country of Yugoslavia existed, to feed themselves. It has always been an area which has had to import food from other districts; whereas the Eastern part of Yugoslavia, what was known as Serbia and the Vojvodina and Macedonia, even at the present time has food enough to supply itself, and in case of urgent need could spare enough to feed practically the whole of the country -- if it were not for the problem of transport. But every road, every railway, has been blasted and even the rivers are full of mines -- British mines and now German mines -- which make navigation impossible; apart from which, if you go to Belgrade you will notice that the river is one great mass of sunken barges, sunken steamers; there is just nothing left to transport goods up and down the Danube and other river communications which at one time sufficed to carry the wheat of the Vojvodina to many parts of the country.

Now, under these circumstances it is obvious that the feeding of the Western parts of Yugoslavia, which in addition to being the parts which must be fed from outside are also the parts of the country in which for three years the tide of battle has been rolling backwards and forwards -- those are the districts in which village after village is nothing but ruthless wrecks. There is not an inhabitable house for sometimes hundreds of miles along the roads as you go up and down the coast of Yugoslavia, as I did recently. I got back a few days ago from a trip up and down from Split to Dubrovnik, etc., and sometimes for 50 miles there is not one inhabitable house, and no people. It means that those impoverished fields around the villages can no longer be tilled. There are thousands and thousands of acres of land which at one time were more or less fertile, but which today is nothing, and the people of all those villages have naturally gravitated to the bigger centers -- Split, Dubrovnik, etc., where there are still houses in which they can live, and are a burden upon the already impoverished population of those districts.

I collected statistics while at Split. I went to many local authorities. As far as I can make it out, it is something like this: that between the 22nd of November 1944 and Christmas, 43, people died of starvation in Split and district alone. Split is a great center of communication -- ships going up and down the coast -- it is the center of a number of big roads and even has a railway which at present is already beginning to work, with an occasional train going into the interior. But that is all. Think, then, what the situation must be up in the mountains, where the roads have been blown, where there is no transport at all, and where the villages are wrecked and the fields have been made uncultivable. The people up in the mountains there are in an infinitely worse situation than the people on the coast.

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While I was in Split, Colonel Easton and a number of people came over. They came to bring news which was of the greatest good tidings to the people of Split and the whole of ^{the} coastal area, that the food ship was arriving. That was nearly a month ago. As soon as this was announced, the people of Split -- the poorer people -- used to guard the quays there and sit all day looking out to watch for the arrival of the food ship, and day after day it didn't come. Day after day we were informed the ship had been put to sea and would soon be coming, for nearly three weeks, and when I left Split the food ship had not yet arrived. And it was during that period that 43 people in Split and district died of starvation. This does not improve relations between the Yugoslav people, who are one of the most loyal and courageous of the United Nations, and the Western Allies, who had promised that as soon as boats were available these people would be fed. Dozens of people -- not just one or two -- told me so. "We don't understand the situation, because we were told at one time, 'we cannot bring it to you now, but as soon as ports are open we will bring you food.' " Well, it is three months now since the biggest ports were made available for ships and it is only a few days since the first small schooner with 500 tons of food and medical stores arrived, and it is things like that which are adding greatly to the difficulties of the various missions which are trying to maintain good relations between ourselves and this extremely loyal and courageous ally.

There is another point which has to be remembered in connection with -- I don't like to call it "relief work" because it smacks too much to me of the organizations we had in England for the relief of paupers. That sort of idea must be blotted out of our mind when dealing with the relief of the starving and other necessities of Yugoslavia, because we have to remember that had it not been for Yugoslavia there is a very considerable doubt as to whether we should be in the position we are at the present moment with regard to winning the war. I don't want to make too elaborate a case, but if I just say that in 1941 when the Germans and the Italians were at the gates of Alexandria, had just a few more divisions come across from the Balkans and landed in North Africa, it is doubtful now whether we could have held Egypt, and if we couldn't have held Egypt we had every possibility of losing Palestine and Iraq and possibly the war. It is equally possible that had a few more divisions been available to the Germans a few months later in 1941, when they were at the gates of Moscow, the Russians might have lost Moscow -- they would have gone back to the Urals -- and the war might have been lost to us. Years would have been added to the length of the war, and years added to the length of the war would have meant the loss of hundreds of thousands of people in Europe; every winter would add to the toll, every summer to the hundreds of thousands massacred; it is doubtful whether we should have won, and if we had whether it would have been worth winning. But Yugoslavia stood firm -- a certain section at least of the people of Yugoslavia stood firm and fought against the Germans when no one in this part of the world or even in the bigger countries was prepared to fight against them. It was at a time when France had already fallen, when the prospects of the British empire looked extremely small. It was at that time that Yugoslavia stood

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firm and refused to give way. That element is at the present time dominant in Yugoslavia. That is the element to which we owe a very great debt, and that is the element which I feel should have our support.

I understand that various questions have been raised in connection with our support of our great ally, Yugoslavia. The question has been raised as to whether the food will be properly distributed. Personally, I just don't understand how a question like that arises when there is starvation in the country. When someone asks you for food in the street, you don't say to that person, "Are you going to eat it fairly?" You just give him food because he is starving, and why in the case of a gallant ally like Yugoslavia we should quibble as to how the food will be distributed, I cannot imagine. But now that 500 tons have at last arrived there, I understand that the authorities are absolutely satisfied with the way it has been distributed. It could have been distributed two or three months ago. It could have saved a great many lives and prevented an enormous amount of disease due to malnutrition which has grown up among the children and others of the whole of this "Karst" area of Western Yugoslavia, and that is why not only British observers but the Yugoslav people just don't understand what the question has been about. These questions which arise in conferences in New York, Washington, London, Bari, seem extremely academic to a people who are starving. They don't understand what is stopping the ships from coming over, and I am afraid a lot of very serious questions will have to be answered by British and American representatives in the whole of this part of Europe when the war is over, owing to the fact of this enormous difference of the principle upon which relief is to be given and the practical situation of a starving population wondering why the food does not arrive. That is one of the problems we are going to have if we want to restore good relations between the various countries of Europe.

I think the best thing I can do now is to let you ask me questions on the situation in Yugoslavia -- I have been both in Belgrade and Western Yugoslavia -- and I will try to answer any questions you care to ask me to your satisfaction.

.....

- Q. What is the feeling in general in Belgrade toward the Partisans?
- A. Belgrade and one or two other of the bigger cities in Yugoslavia are to some extent problems for the new Partisan administration. First of all, you remember the Partisans have been fighting for the past three years mainly in the districts far removed from the towns -- guerilla warfare -- which cannot be conducted in big towns and cities. In those mountain areas there are underground committees, and the moment they arrive in a village they become the administrative authority of the village, with the result that the administration goes on smoothly. There was never any difficulty

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whatever when the Partisans took a village -- it was better administered than it had been either under the Ustachi or others. When they came to Belgrade, however, they found a very different situation. In Belgrade there was a very small group. Tito himself had visited Belgrade -- many more times during the war than was known to anyone -- and had a skeleton organization, but only a skeleton organization, because Belgrade is a fairly big place and its population had been greatly swollen by people from other parts of the country in the last two or three years. The result was that when the Partisans took over in Belgrade they had not so efficient an organization as they had in the smaller villages. There was a considerable period of disorganization and it was made all the more serious because seven days before they took over there had been street battles. Some of the fiercest battles took place in Belgrade during those seven days, and the main proof is that 22,000 German corpses were taken out of Belgrade and buried after that. That didn't add to the ease with which the Partisans took over Belgrade.

Another problem which was added was that Belgrade had been the center for three years of the pro-German, anti-British, anti-Russian organization of Nedic and Mikhailovich. The Chetniks had for the three months previous to liberation come into Belgrade whenever they wanted, and taken away the leading citizens of Belgrade by force. A number of my very good friends, only two months before liberation, were taken away by the Chetniks under threat. Now since Belgrade had been the center for these three years of support for the Germans and other enemies of the Allies, it is obvious that when the Partisans entered there they had to be more than usually careful with whom they would deal. In a village in Croatia, for instance, they knew exactly who was who, but in Belgrade it was difficult to say. And so for a period of two or three weeks after liberation the relations of the Partisans and the people of the city were very strained. It was difficult to trust anyone or work with anyone. Already after one month of occupation, when I left Belgrade, relations were becoming much more cordial. There had already been an amnesty declared for all except those who had been criminally involved -- and apart from the amnesty there was also growing collaboration between the civilians of Belgrade and the Partisan units, -- a growing number of people were voluntarily going out to bring in the harvest, an increasing number were voluntarily bringing coal in for keeping the electric generating station going and supplying the town, and bringing in the wheat which the Russians had sent into the town. And so the whole situation had in a month changed enormously. When I first arrived it was the most desolate and despondent city I had seen in my life. A month later it was already beginning to be -- not the old Belgrade we knew, of course -- but it was already beginning to be a place which was comparatively happy and was beginning to show signs of tremendous energy, and attempts were being made to clean the streets, clear away the wreckage, and tremendous energy was shown in bringing in food and fuel which was most essential at that time to supply the population of the city.

So that, while at the beginning relations of the Partisans and the civilian population of Belgrade were strained and suspicion was present, by the end of one month the situation was already beginning to be infinitely better.

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- Q. Will you give us your opinion of Tito as (1) a soldier, and (2) a national leader?
- A. I never met Tito until two months ago in Belgrade, so all I can say is from the information which we derive from the many officials who worked with him during the war and those who are now working with him in Belgrade during this period of reconstruction.

During the war Tito was just one soldier among the rest of his people. He never tried to stand out above the mass of his people. He lived with them -- there are thousands and thousands of Partisans who can claim they have eaten at the same table or lived in the same cave or hiding place as Tito, for a long period. Already in 1941, immediately after the downfall of the official Yugoslav regime, Tito was in Belgrade meeting with people like D. and S. They were there at the risk of their lives; anyone caught by the Germans would have been shot by them on the spot, without any trial or any chance of escape. They, Tito and the others, met; they made their decisions and carried them out, and there are two things which should be borne in mind. One is that Tito was an avowed Communist and had behind him the secret, underground organization of the Communists. It was a good thing that he did. It was the only organization capable of working under those circumstances against the Gestapo, Medic, the Ustachi, etc. who were all over the country. They were used to working against one of the most powerful and ruthless secret police of the world. Secondly, you have to take into account that apart from this core of resistance, this organization center, the great masses of the people of Yugoslavia were behind him. Had they not been, they could never have withstood German occupation. The whole mass of the people fed them, provided men for them, got arms for them and ammunition, until the time came when they were able to get their own arms and ammunition by destroying the Italian and later German units and taking their ammunition. It was this support of the great mass of the people of Yugoslavia, a support which was based on the fact that the people, especially of Serbia, but also to a somewhat lesser degree of the other parts of Yugoslavia, over centuries of attempts of foreign aggression have never given way yet to foreign aggression. And it was this spirit which gave the people of Yugoslavia the incentive to support Tito and his small corps of resisters from which has grown the nation wide movement of national resistance. In that movement you will see to this day those two currents: in the center the hard core of aggressive, brilliant organizers, who are the former Communist Party, and who depend for their success and continued existence on the broad masses of the Yugoslav resistance movement, and which covers every class and every district of the whole of Yugoslavia. Tito is merely one of many great leaders that that war has thrown up in Yugoslavia. Colonel Jones, who was in Slovenia for over a year, surprised me when he came back, by saying, "Tito is an extremely great man, one of the greatest men this country has produced in Europe, but if Tito had been killed it would not have been a tragedy. The question would then be not of finding a successor for Tito, but of finding one from among the many who could be the best successor."

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Tito as a leader in time of peace has yet to be proved, but anyone who reads the speeches which Tito made during the war must be impressed by the enormous breadth of those speeches and the tremendous tolerance which they show. And in talking with him at the time I had that same impression -- an impression of a man who was big enough to be kindly and decent even to his enemies. A man who was prepared to forgive an enormous amount and who was prepared for the sake of the well-being of his whole country not to bear malice against parts of the country and sections classes of the people who had been most bitterly against him. And the impression which I got in that interview was borne out most strongly even within a few days by the announcement of that amnesty which gave to his most bitter and remorseless enemies, people who had slaughtered many thousands of his best followers, absolute amnesty so long as they had not been criminally involved, so long as they had not betrayed their people to the enemy.

So, I think that on the basis of what we have seen of Tito's leadership during the war, and just these beginnings of his post-war work -- this amnesty and the various other measures declared in Belgrade -- I think we can hope that Tito will prove himself to be after the war as broad and tolerant and great a leader as he showed himself in time of war. There are still dozens of candidates for the post of leader of the Yugoslav people, and the Yugoslav people are very liberal and democratic and will not any longer tolerate any dictatorship. They are tired to death of dictatorships. They would not stand a dictatorship even of Tito himself. Of that I am firmly convinced by my recent experience in the country. And, therefore, I think that in view of the extreme political wisdom Tito showed during the war he will not attempt a dictatorship. I am quite convinced that Tito and his followers will attempt to establish in Yugoslavia a very broad base of democracy. If they don't they will fail and the people of Yugoslavia will assert themselves. Of that I am convinced.

.....

Q. What is the financial situation?

A. The financial situation is complicated by the fact that at the present time you have nine different currencies in circulation: the old dinars, the Nedic dinar, the Ustachi dinar, the leva of Bulgaria, the Kuna, Albanian currency, lire, the mark, and also in Montenegro you have the pre-war dinars over stamped with a Montenegro Independent State stamp. Now, even that is not the end of the complication. You have this fact, that the Italian lire left by the Italians in Montenegro is now worth practically nothing. People don't like to take it. But up in Slovenia, where the Italian lire can be smuggled across the border, it is still a very valuable form of currency -- ten times as valuable as in Montenegro. Then, the kuna in Dubrovnik is worth only

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half of what it is worth in Split, and in Split half of what it is worth in Zagreb. It is obvious that under those circumstances it is quite impossible for the Yugoslav government to take any steps whatever to settle the currency problem, and without settling that you just cannot touch the financial problem. I talked to the Slovene Minister of Finance, and he said the only thing they could do at the present time is just to let it run, you cannot do anything about it now. The coins of one spot cannot be used in another, because they have no way of knowing how much is being printed in those places. The only thing that can be done is to wait, first of all, until the country is fully liberated. When the frontiers can be sealed against the influx of foreign currencies, you can take a census of what currency is in the country, and on the basis of that you can buy back the various currencies at a fair rate, although that will be difficult owing to the varying values of the currencies in different parts... It is a thing which will have to be settled once liberation is complete, with the aid, undoubtedly, of loans from the Allies which will enable them to establish a new currency which can then be adjusted in the various areas to the value of the currencies then existing. For the moment, nothing can be done about it and the situation is one of absolute chaos.

In Split I went to the Christmas Eve market which at one time had all the stores piled high with excellent food-stuffs. At Christmas Eve this year there were a few peasants with a handful of figs, walnuts, some crude olive oil, etc. That was all on the market. People came to buy, not with money which is worthless, but with a pair of old pyjama trousers and a pair of old, long woollen undergarments, and finally got for that a part of what they were seeking to buy. The people have nothing to exchange -- that is the trouble. People don't go out. The people who have no money are the ones who remain at home in bed not to waste any energy; they simply stay at home waiting for something to happen. If they wanted to pay in money for those things which these people were buying -- I asked the prices -- I was shown a hen for which they wanted 8,000 kunars, which is nearly two pounds for one of those miserable little hens. If you wanted a liter of olive oil you had to pay 9,000 kunas, nearly three pounds for a liter of crude oil. (Citing further instances of high prices). It just ^{shows} the sad situation of the poorer people of Split whose income is practically nil. Even people who had a few hundred thousand kunas put away cannot get very far. Teachers and civil servants in Dubrovnik are not getting any salary at the present time because the government has not any currency to pay them in, so they are not getting any payment in money. They are getting a certain amount in kind, but not enough to keep them. Until the financial situation can be restored, trade cannot begin again, and the whole basis of normal economy cannot be restored, and so until such situation occurs, until the country can be fully liberated, Yugoslavia depends on her allies to supply the necessary food to keep her population alive until the financial and economic situation can be restored to normal.

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- Q. Getting back to the months of waiting for the food ships in Split, what was the reaction of the people, and did the government or the press try to make any excuse for this waiting, and who was blamed for the entire show.
- A. I cannot say that in any part of the country this problem has been aired in public, but in the Split area I must say that the tendency was to blame the Allies on the ground that it didn't matter what the conditions were, what the government may have refused to sign -- you cannot get away from the basic situation that "We have done an enormous service for the Allies, that we are in dire need of food, you have food for us which would cost you nothing to send over -- make your conditions later."

In Dubrovnik, which was a great Ustachi center, where until two months ago the people were supporting the Germans -- where the people who had been selfish enough during the war were able to live nicely, you found a lot of people who said, "Why doesn't our government accept these conditions, whatever they are. Why don't they get us food on whatever terms". But those are the minority in Yugoslavia, a tiny minority.

The mass of people of Yugoslavia are an extremely proud race. Even the children are too proud to beg, as the children do here in Italy. If their parents catch them asking for chocolate they will take them away. They say, "That is our shame, that is not a thing we should show the Allies."

.....

- Q. What, in your estimation, is the chance of the Yugoslavs of forming a united government shortly after the war.
- A. I don't think it will take that long. I think they will have a Yugoslav government within a few days, even, or weeks. All they are waiting for at the present time is for Churchill's consent to the agreement reached between Tito and Subasic. The latter is waiting in London for Churchill's consent, which has been withheld only because Churchill has been so busy with the Greek situation, and later in Paris, and has not had time to see Subasic, to give his consent, and so far as I know there is no other thing which is preventing this recognition by the British government of the Yugoslav government. And once that recognition is given the whole situation will be radically changed. That is one of the big difficulties in the way of re establishing those cordial relations which existed during the real fighting, when our people got on like brothers together.

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The situation has been changed, (1) because of the lack of recognition; (2) because of the Greek situation; and (3) because of the food situation -- the failure of our people to bring them food. Once the government situation is regulated, we recognize the Yugoslav government, and then the Greek situation is settled, as it may easily be within the next few weeks, and third, the food situation is remedied, there will be no question at issue between our two countries, and relations will really become friendly once again.

.....

Mr. Hall:

If you have no more questions, I think we should thank Mr. Harrison for his most interesting talk, and I am sure you were all delighted to have him and hear him here tonight.

Adjourned at 9.00 p.m.

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Herewith copies of two talks given
recently to the Yugoslav Mission which
may prove of interest.

*Cat Paws
Harrison, Talk
9 Jan - 45
1-7-14.*

J.S. Barker Capt. G.S.

Acting Deputy Chief Reports Officer
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TALK GIVEN AT UNRRA MESS

By Stojan Pribicevic

→ War Correspondent
for TIME Magazine } F x

Wednesday, 27 December 1944
at 8.00 p.m.

Captain Barker:

Ladies and gentlemen, we have been fortunate this evening ⁱⁿ being able to contact Mr. Pribicevic and Mr. Phillips. They left Belgrade last night and have very kindly consented to spend some of their valuable time with us tonight, to tell you a few things about what is happening there, ^{They} would like you to ask any questions on points of interest, and they will try to answer them if possible. Mr. Phillips has also brought some photographs of Belgrade, of the reconstruction going on there, and has consented to show them to you afterwards. Mr. Pribicevic.

Mr. Pribicevic:

Ladies and gentlemen, I came here to have dinner not to make a speech. That was a jump on me. My friend Phillips and I came back yesterday from Belgrade. Personally, I spent eight months in Yugoslavia ~~was~~, off and on, in Bosnia, Dalmatia, Serbia and Belgrade. I am not going to make a speech but only a few statements about facts which impressed me most, and after that you shall ask questions and I will explain anything I know.

There is a new world in the making there. I am not speaking politically. The spirit which I have seen there I have not seen in Washington, London, Cairo or Bari. I do not mean this as a joke. It is a true thing. According to preliminary statistics, out of 15 million people in Yugoslavia, 2 million are already dead. About 50% of the whole population is barefoot tonight, and there is no fuel in the city. I have lived for two months in Belgrade without ever having one second of heat or heating of any kind. Those whom

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I have left there will live so throughout the winter, and already the temperature is several degrees below zero.

One night, about two weeks ago, I came to my mother's house after curfew, and there as I switched on my flashlight, stood a Partisan guard with a tommy gun. We saluted and I asked him what was wrong. He said there was a truck outside with 25 Partisans wounded from the front (which was only 50 miles away); "they have been on the road for several days and I want to find someone who could put them up just for this night." So we woke up everyone in the house. We put them up for the night.

Only a few days before I left Belgrade I was stopped in a jeep by a Partisan guard at 5.00 p.m. He said, "Would you please go to the corner.. There is a wounded Russian. Could you take him to the nearest hospital." I told the driver to go there, and there was a man over 50 years, with a bleeding wounded right leg. He thumbed a ride all the way from the front to Belgrade and sat on the square to have someone pick him up to take him to the hospital.

Transportation is problem #1 in Yugoslavia. We think of Christmas packages, candy, chocolate, wheat, of meat to be brought into Yugoslavia. Well, no matter where you drop it you will not have done much good because the problem still remains: how is it going to be distributed? One thousand trucks with gasoline, with drivers, is enough help for the Jugoslavs to solve, let's say, about 50% of their own problems by themselves. Without that, no help will do much good at this time because transportation was the one thing that everyone was hitting in Yugoslavia in this war. The Germans hit it; the Partisans hit it; the Russians hit it; the Anglo-American air squadron hit it. There is nothing left of transportation. In cattle-breeding areas about 80-90% of the cattle has been exterminated; oxen, cows, bulls and horses. The most primitive way is lacking in Yugoslavia today. I used a jeep only twice or three times in

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Belgrade. I have done everything I could on foot and I was grateful when I could get a ragged horse for authorized trips.

There is in that country a terrific wilderness that is symptomatic of Europe. It is composed of the gigantic and dwarfs side by side. You will find mothers trying to get their sons out of the army. You will find others, who if their sons would not have died they would have slaughtered them with their own hands. None of you can know the kind of Europe that is in the making unless you go to Yugoslavia and spent not 16 hours, but 16 months there.

Now I will be ready to answer any questions.

Q. Can you tell us something about the reconstruction that is going on in the city of Belgrade?

A. The immediate problem is water supply. The Germans mined the water supply of Belgrade. Fortunately they did not succeed in destroying it and it was put in order in about a week. The water supply today is better than in Bari.

Q. What is the food situation?

A. In Belgrade, good for people with money. I arrived there 48 hours after the street fighting had ceased and the Partisan authorities invited everybody-- the peasants, shopkeepers, etc., to open up at the prices that they wanted. The peasant market, food market, started first; in fact, after two days you had almost everything on the food market. Of course, you had to pay a lot. For example, a government employee lives on 5 to 6,000 dinars a month. I paid 500 dinars daily for cigarettes only. A kilogram of beef-- which is a little over 2 pounds-- costs him now something like 6 to 700 dinars. Compare that with a salary of 6,000 dinars a month and you will see what I mean. I found food there I never could find in London-- except dairy products because of the cattle situation; otherwise you could find anything-- meat, beef, turkey, chicken,

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eggs, liquor-- anything you want, but at prices that just are not reachable for the people. The Partisan authorities have so far fixed only the prices of bread, which is 15 dinar per kilogram. Otherwise they have refrained from fixing prices. They have several currencies in the country and they have decided to go along with those currencies until they finally get diplomatic recognition, currency agreements, etc., so that the market that exists is only the black market.

Q. Did you see actual starvation?

A. Yes, I did in my own family. It is actually not starvation but under-nourishment for many years, especially in children, with lack of heat. Rheumatic fever is prevalent.

Q. The problem then is not one of bringing food, but of straightening out the currency situation, etc.?

A. I should think that all of those things are problems, but if one wanted to be efficient in Yugoslavia-- if I had the power to do something, I would first send in a few thousand trucks with which the Partisans themselves could solve some of their problems. If you don't do that, but send them food, medicine, clothing, shoes, etc., the problem still remains: who is going to bring it to the people? Of course, they need shoes, clothing, etc., but without transport it still does not do any good. This, I think, is the #1 problem. Near Belgrade there is a coal mine. A fraction of the output-- and it is working already-- could heat all of Belgrade. But Belgrade still has no heat.

Q. To what extent has Russia helped?

A. To the extent of 16,000 tons of wheat. They promised 50,000. They could ship only 16 because they are short of transport. I have seen columns of Russians day and night, with drowsing drivers, in ox cars, by horse-- the most primitive kind of transport, streaming to the front, and they monopolize whatever they can for military use, and justly so. Belgrade is still not far from the front.

Q. Is there any possibility of using the railroad?

A. Yes, the railroads are being repaired, and there are a good many railroad cars left behind - Yugoslav, Hungarian, German, French-- but they are not working.

Q. Coming back to the monetary condition, have you seen any effect on the kuna?

A. The peasant will sometimes take the currency in circulation and has more faith in that than in any currency the Partisans put out. The Partisans have more support among peasants than in the city- there is a financial reason. He has his homestead and does not depend so much on cash money. The provinces where it could have an effect are those that are now being liberated.

Q. Is there much unemployment in the city?

A. On the contrary, there is too much employment and sometimes without salary.

Q. Is there any available river transportation in the country?

A. Yes, there had to be some-- I had the figures the other day-- I don't know how accurate they are. Out of some 1,000 barges there are about 70 left. The rivers were mined by Allies and by the Germans, and the Germans also used to flood mines all the way from Budapest. Besides, the Danube is getting iced now and will be so for another three months.

Q. Are there any relief organizations functioning in the city?

A. Yes, public relief is being given and collections are being made, and people go around all the time to collect money, blankets, etc. There is no foreign relief.

Q. Who is running the relief organizations now? Who operates the collections of clothing, etc.?

A. The Partisan Government.

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Q. Are there many people from the country moving into the towns?

A. Not many; in fact, people who fled Belgrade some time ago are moving back and they are not many. In fact, there is a flow of city people out.

Q. Was there much destruction so that the housing is bad?

A. Yes, it is pretty badly shot up. I have seen worse, but after all Belgrade was bombed a great many times.

Q. Did you go into the villages in the country? What was the condition of the peasants there regarding food and clothing?

A. It depends on the region. In Bosnia, I simply cannot describe it; it is beyond imagination. Bosnia has had 3½ years of guerilla warfare, 24 hours a day. Serbia had it in 1941, and now again since last June or July, so that Serbia had, shall I say, 3 years of peace. Bosnia, which anyway was poorer than Serbia, had had 3½ years ^{of war} so that speaking of villages, I should tell you about Bosnia, Montenegro, Hercegovina, etc. I have seen people in Serbia, in villages, who would point out villages ~~and~~ burned down, and I saw certain huts burned down. I didn't want to tell them that I saw villages in Bosnia totally razed to the ground. Some villages are completely wiped out and the whole landscape had changed because of that; I didn't recognize certain places. I saw black spots here and there. You can walk sometimes for days, in Eastern Bosnia, without ever meeting a man, woman, horse, donkey or chicken. Grass grows where there used to be villages. Serbia has not had that. I don't mean to disparage it, but she just hasn't had that much warfare. There has been terrible destruction in Serbia, but I haven't seen total destruction as in Bosnia.

Q. What was the reaction on the Jugoslav people to UNRRA?

A. Yes, they know plenty about UNRRA. I would like you to ask me a really concrete question, rather than go into what they know and what they think.

Q. Do they want UNRRA help?

A. They do and they don't. They do under certain conditions and not under certain other conditions. That is why I told you about the spirit. They have decided they do not want to beg, and that is no phraseology. They have just decided to build their own country with their bare two hands. This spirit runs through the country. They have no money, no currency, no capital, but just two hands and can do anything that way. I am sorry to be so blunt, but that is the attitude which should be taken as a fact. I am not saying it is justified. But it is a fact.

Q. What are the "conditions" you mentioned?

A. (Off the record.) They are afraid-- at least some of them-- that UNRRA help might be used as an economic weapon for political aims. They are afraid that the UNRRA doesn't like the Partisan government and that it would like to help in spite of the Partisan groups to undermine Partisan groups in authority. I am telling you this so frankly-- I don't want to be quoted on it-- but that is the fact. Their fears may be totally unjustified; I hope they are; in fact I believe they are; but that is what they believe.

Q. Given supplies, would they utilize them for the common good?

A. They think it is not for a foreign government to judge, in the first place. My personal belief is that they will. I do believe-- after 8 months, I believe they have the majority of the population behind them, so that they could not harm anyone but the minority. They think distribution by foreign officials in their own country is a violation of the sovereignty

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of Yugoslavia, and the question of how they will distribute is not involved. But I think they would use it as properly as it is humanly possible.

Q. Do they think of UNRRA as an international organization? Or as an American and British organization?

A. Primarily American and British. They do look upon UNRRA as primarily an American and British organization.

Q. Who has allowed them to believe these things about UNRRA?

A. I don't know. It is connected with the whole background of the Partisan fight in Yugoslavia. There has been a lot of propaganda against them, so that it is a vast background behind it. I personally believed, and have always tried to express my belief firmly, that they have had misconceptions about UNRRA. There was misunderstanding about it.

Q. Can they appreciate the fact that the American and British public generally, who are paying the bills for these supplies, are entitled to an accounting of the distribution?

A. Yes; that is why they don't want the help. They say, "It is your supplies; keep them. We can reconstruct our country by ourselves, if we want to." That statement was made to me recently. I must say they have a tremendous amount of pride. If it is an American Santa Claus, they will not accept it as presents, and particularly presents for which they must be grateful. They say, "We have lost 2 million lives, we have not been supported by anyone in the fight. If necessary we can rebuild the country without any help." That is their attitude.

Q. You use the word "they" very often; whom do you mean?

A. I mean the people, because after 8 months I can tell you that the government has the people behind it, with certain exceptions. On the whole, I should think that even if King Peter's

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government held a plebescite today, the Partisan government would receive 70 to 80% of the popular vote.

Q. What is the feeling of the people toward Russian, as compared with American and British or both?

A. Generally, the national feeling is pro-Russian, which has nothing to do with relief. It is a traditional feeling. I remember as a kid there the people were always pro-Russian when the government was pro-Czar. It is pro-Slav. It is a sincere feeling and has nothing to do with the social regime. Another reason may be the good fight which Russia has put up in the war.

Q. Were you able to observe any of the relief operations yourself? What kind of activities were there: soup kitchens, emergency housing, etc.?

A. What you have in Belgrade is requisitioning of the houses for the troops that are coming in, or for poor families. You have soup kitchens. That is one institution only now starting to work in a big way. But what you have mostly is just help for the army and for the war. You see, the Partisans take this viewpoint: the war is not yet won, so just as the soldier goes to the front, the civilian has to do his part. One night, for instance, I was guarded by a man who was ^{barefoot} ~~half~~, and when I offered him my shoes, he refused to take them.

Q. When you say they won't accept gifts, does that mean that if they accept help from UNRRA they will pay for it eventually?

A. They will accept gifts if presented in a way which does not offend their dignity. In my opinion they have stiff necks. They are very touchy and proud and very often have attitudes that are not justified in our minds. But I can quite understand why. I can quite see why they feel so terribly proud. "We won the war and can win the reconstruction too." As I understand it, I don't know what the truth about it is, but that is the way it is being presented there, that UNRRA insisted on distributing

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help through its own officials; why not have the Partisans distribute it under UNRRA supervision? That is the story as it goes around Jugoslavia, and that is what they believe.

Q. Would the disassociation, separation, of UNRRA from the military make any difference in the Partisans' attitude toward UNRRA?

A. I don't think so at all. In fact, they are not even aware ~~of~~ *whether* they are connected with the military or not. It is the first time I have heard this. It does not matter at all. In all the discussions I had, that point never came up, so I don't think it matters.

Q. Were they discussing the negotiations that were going on in Washington or going on here?

A. The last time I asked about them, they said it probably was a bit of misunderstanding. On the other hand, there is a stalemate, but they said the winter is coming. I must say I didn't look very happy myself in Belgrade, as I didn't bring a thing after so many years. It happens again and again. We have perhaps publicized our future help so much that people expect too much. On the other hand, in that country we have not done a thing yet, for some reasons which may be political, technical, etc. But when an American goes in and all he has to offer are a few cigarettes or candy, and then asks for heat and coal from the Partisans instead of bringing it in, that does not look quite right. I am sorry to say so, but it is so.

Q. Do you see any point of UNRRA officials going in without supplies?

A. Yes, I think it ought to be done. When I said the trucks ought to go in first, I think the UNRRA officials should go in first and the trucks behind them. What is really going on is a suspicion not against UNRRA as such, but against the whole background since 1941. It is so involved. I think what is necessary is someone who should talk to them in a friendly manner

across the table, with a glass of wine. They would mellow up. You need someone who could talk a very simple language; ~~lead~~ ^{lead} ~~go~~ in first and not try ~~my~~ to send supplies, because that would look like trying to sell them something or perhaps bribing them. They are afraid of economic imperialism.

Q. You would say that the general feeling is one of invasion by a vast number of Anglo-Americans?

A. They would put it this way-- it is a psychological attitude. I had occasion to say this evening, it is like a husband and wife who love each other, but always wait ~~my~~ to see who would make the first step. They are suspicious, it may be a case of bad nerves. It is my opinion that they have all the excuses for bad nerves. We cannot ask for excuses for bad nerves. But those people who spent 3½ years in a ghastly war have a better case for bad nerves in their own country, so that we should be the ones to make allowances.

Q. They think the Anglo-American people are going to exploit them for economic reasons?

A. They think the whole thing is a mystery, and they have decided to build their own country. That is their attitude. It is in a sense very American. America was built that way, they think. I was impressed by that attitude.

Q. Would they resent military aid too?

A. They don't resent the aid; they are afraid of the implications of that aid.

Q. Did you get any reaction to the relief ship sent to Split recently?

A. No, I did not.

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Q. How about agricultural rehabilitation?

A. You have two provinces that are rather well off: Serbia and Vojvodina. They could feed themselves and several other provinces on their own strength with transport. For instance, I was told a month ago that there were 100,000 tons of wheat in Vojvodina, to be sent to Bosnia, Montenegro, etc. Now it is just rotting because there is no transport.

Q. Do the Russians use the transport?

A. They use all the transport they ~~can~~ get, not food.

Q. Did you visit any industrial plants while there? In what condition are they?

A. Some industrial plants are beginning to work; in the first place, mines. One coal mine is already working. Mines will probably be the first ones to open up. The factories which will open up last will be the ones that need modern machinery and equipment. For instance, all the industrialists who had been arrested for collaboration with the Germans have been released because the government needs their help, their factories, etc., and the idea is to let them work under private ownership with an agreement with the government fixing profits, etc. But that is still in the making. I cannot give you any definite statement of it, except for the mines.

Q. Is the trend toward nationalization or toward private ownership?

A. The trend is toward the status quo, with requisitioning for military need.

Q. For example, large industries owned by foreign capital, will they still be owned by foreign capital or will they be nationalized?

A. I don't think the Partisans care much at this moment. After all, the investment was heavy but not really heavy from the point of view of a British or American investor. Generally, industry was about 45%-- before the war-- British, Belgian,

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Czechoslovakian, French, and American much less than that. I don't think they are even thinking of this. The trend will be to make any agreement or promise in order to reconstruct the country.

Q. Did you form any idea of the state of the hospitals in Belgrade?

A. Yes, it is getting better now. That was one facet of Anglo-American aid which was really substantial throughout 1944. It did help to stamp out a lot of typhus. You can go today in Belgrade to get typhus injections at any time. It is not yet sufficient, but I should think that was the biggest help so far given.

Q. The most urgent cases get treatment in the hospitals?

A. Yes, but the trouble is transport from the front to the hospital. They don't have front line aid.

Q. So that it comes back to transport again?

A. Yes. That is the thing they don't have organized yet which the Russians have so well organized on their front. By the time you get a wounded man to the hospital he might have to spend 6 months instead of 6 weeks, because he wasn't brought there soon enough.

Q. The question of transport may be a tough one because it is getting low in the United States Army at present.

A. Yes, I know it is slow all over.

Q. What is the condition of the roads?

A. It depends on seasons. I traveled to Belgrade in October and had a number of hair-breath escapes. But on the whole, the roads are being repaired. Everywhere you go you see squads repairing roads. And now with the freezing you would probably have good road conditions from now on. In Montenegro and in Dalmatia the roads are always good, with stone underneath the roads. In Serbia they are proverbially bad in the fall.

Q. Would it be possible to summarize your impressions as to UNRRA-JUGOSLAVIA relations?

A. My personal opinion is that there is a misunderstanding. The Partisans do want help under certain conditions, help under the supervision of the UNRRA officials in Yugoslavia, not from Bari. But they want to be the agents of distribution. Their good faith ought not to be questioned. But they naturally would expect supervision by UNRRA. In my opinion there is a psychological misunderstanding. I think that the constitution of UNRRA was made at a time when we all believed that liberated Europe would just be a chaos of poverty stricken, begging people, glad to have someone distribute packages. Europe is going through a revolution before the war is over. It is going to have organized governments before the war is over. Europe will be politically organized before the war is over, so that we will not have to deal with anarchy. We will deal with established governments. So I think that that formality ought to be changed. When UNRRA was organized things looked different. Things now are changing, and therefore that constitution of UNRRA ought to be made more elastic.

The psychological point is that we must not forget that the UNRRA is also looked upon by most people of Europe as a potential political instrument for good or bad. It is not and should not be. How to convince them that they are wrong, that it is not a political instrument, is a thing for you to talk about and go and tell them. These people are proud, and you must imagine the pride of a man who has lost so much, who has done incredible things, they would not have themselves believed they would pull through, and then accept gifts under conditions which to them may appear humiliating. So I think your aim is to send someone in. I don't believe in cable controversy or cable agreements. What you need is just one talk across the table, and send men in before you send materials in. That is my summary.

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Q. You spoke of distribution in Yugoslavia under UNRRA supervision. What do you mean by UNRRA supervision? You mean UNRRA outside Yugoslavia? What number do you have in mind-- 80, 1,000, 500?

A. That is up to you and the Partisan authorities. I do not know.

Q. Has the situation in Greece had any effect on Yugoslav opinion?

A. ELAS has the sympathies of the Partisans, and even all neutral people in Belgrade are for ELAS, but the press and the Partisans have been ordered to keep their hands off. It is Greek business, not Yugoslav business, and they should not spoil their own position. In their minds, the Greek situation will be straightened out anyway. I can even quote Tito on that: they are quite optimistic. It will be straightened out.

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(Mr. Pribicevic is War Correspondent for TIME magazine.)

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Following Mr. Pribicevic's talk and the question period, MR. JOHN PHILLIPS, photographer for LIFE magazine, spoke for a few minutes on the youth organization in Belgrade, some of the work they were doing, and spent the balance of his time exhibiting a large number of photographs taken by him of the scenes of destruction and reconstruction in Belgrade.

The meeting broke up about 10.00 p.m.

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After the meeting, in a completely off the record conversation with Eric Marks, the latter expressed surprise at two of the comments Mr. Pribicevic had made:

(1) He was surprised that the speaker had recommended that personnel precede supplies into Yugoslavia. Even recognizing that this might be misinterpreted as a bribe and therefore tend to aggravate any fear that UNRRA had ulterior motives, nonetheless, Mr. Marks expressed just as much fear that if UNRRA were to go in empty handed its presence might be resented. Mr. Pribicevic still insisted that of the two evils, it was far less dangerous for personnel to go first, provided they knew that supplies were ready to follow promptly when full agreement was reached.

(2) Mr. Marks expressed surprise that the Yugoslavs had declared themselves ready to do the job "under UNRRA supervision", and stated the word "supervision" was possibly a bit stronger than UNRRA itself might insist upon. Mr. Pribicevic stated that while he did not wish to quote any source before the larger group the above statement was a direct quotation from Tito. Mr. Pribicevic said he felt that all the misunderstanding now existing was due to the fact that top level people had been too busy and had left the negotiations to "small people" who, desiring to make themselves important, had eventually bogged down in red tape. He still felt, as he had stated at the open meeting, that the air could be cleared in very short order were the right people to sit down in a warm atmosphere, over a bottle of wine, and discuss the relief problem. When Mr. Marks asked him who at this point these top people might best be, he said that it should, in his estimation, now be, if at all possible, Tito and Mr. Churchill. He was convinced that were Mr. Churchill able to stop off on his

return from Greece, that an hour's conversation would completely dispel all suspicion and misunderstanding which now existed.

When Mr. Marks asked him what truth there was in stories which had come to us that while Americans are favorably looked upon in Yugoslavia, the British are exceedingly unpopular and in actual danger, he categorically denied the above. Were any Yugoslav, in any manner, ^{to} menace either a British or American citizen, he would be shot on the spot, he stated; but he saw absolutely no indication that anyone wished to be unfriendly. Yugoslavs greet both Americans and British on the streets in most friendly manner, and he felt there was no distinction between the two.

oOo

Balkan Messengers Personnel

9 February 1945

To: Michail Menshikov
From: George Xanthaky
Subject: Stojan Pribicevic

You will be interested in the following biographical material about Stojan Pribicevic:

Mr. Pribicevic is a Serb from the area of Lika in Croatia and is about 53 years of age. His father, Svetozar Pribicevic was a famous Yugoslav politician, who as co-president of the Peasant-Democratic Coalition, died in exile in Prague in 1935. His three uncles Milan, Valerian and Adam were also prominent politically, but only the last one is still alive and now reported to be in Bari as an internee of the British.

Stojan Pribicevic joined his father in exile and came to the United States in 1937 or so. He was a free-lance writer and after publishing his book "World without End" joined the staff of Fortune Magazine. Later he became war correspondent for "Time" publications, first in London, then Cairo and later went to Yugoslavia. With Louis Adamic he contributed most to explode the Mikhailovich myth in this country.

During the past eight months he has been in Yugoslavia and was captured by the Germans during their air-borne attack on Marshall Tito's headquarters, but was soon freed by the Partisans. He reached Belgrade 48 hours after its liberation. Now in London.

7 December 1944

TO : Alan Hall
FROM : George Perazich
SUBJECT : Appraisal of the UERRA-YUGOSLAV Situation

In our conversation of 6 December, you requested that I submit in writing what appeared to be the feelings of responsible Yugoslavs with whom I have come in contact. These views are submitted below under the heading, "General Background". You should understand that they are not necessarily my views but those which, in my opinion, the Yugoslavs appear to hold. I realize that they are oriented in many respects and represent a ~~basic~~ departure from our previous thinking. Nevertheless, I believe that they should be presented for consideration to the highest policy-making people in UERRA. When taken together with other more moderate views they may help to clarify the problems at hand and enable UERRA to develop a realistic program for the speedy and efficient accomplishment of its task.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

In attempting to trace the present relationship between UERRA and the Yugoslavs, it is necessary to analyze briefly the background of the whole problem.

In the first place, it must be realized that the present Yugoslav leadership is inspired by the revolutionary traditions of the Russians. In their economic thinking, they are basically Marxists and as such they are likely to favor socialist principles in the reconstruction of their country. In the struggle against the enemies, they have promised their people that the new Yugoslavia will be free of foreign domination, both in the economic and political field. Former exploiters and profiteers, including those

representing foreign interests, have been extremely compromised with the enemy, and are very unpopular among the people. While recognizing the necessity for private enterprise, the present leadership has no doubt convinced a large proportion of the Yugoslav people that the pre-war conditions of economic exploitation and financial plunder will never be returned. The sharpest criticism along this line has been levelled, of course, against business firms and individuals that were cooperating with the enemy, but there has been also a considerable amount of ill feeling towards Allied business interests, especially British. They cannot, for instance, forget that the dividends of certain British-owned non-ferrous mines amounted to several hundred percent a year (on invested capital), while the Yugoslav workers who produced this wealth were living on sub-standard wages. As a result they are very suspicious of any organisation that may have people in it who could be in a position to reestablish pre-war business ties, in order to continue further exploitation of the country. Not knowing the facts, they place UNGRRA among such groups.

A still more serious source of misunderstanding and mistrust has arisen in the political field. Both British and American governments for a long time supported the old order through dealings with the exiled Government, and have even helped, what the Partisans regard, ~~counter~~-reactionary forces represented by Mihailovich. No amount of recent assistance and declarations in support of the Partisans can eradicate this fact.

The present leaders are, moreover, aware of the opposition forces within the country, which may cause difficulties against an orderly transition to the new state. They fear that outside influences may help these forces, through moral and financial assistance, to reestablish themselves as an active opposition. They feel that it would be to the interests of powerful big business groups in Allied countries to undermine the present leadership and through internal pres-

sure to attempt to regain the economic advantages which they once enjoyed.

For these reasons, they are very much concerned with the attempts of the Allied Military Authorities to impose conditions on them in connection with the distribution of relief supplies. According to their thinking this would compromise them heavily with the people, and would thus encourage the opposition forces. They are sincerely convinced that they would be able to distribute Allied relief in accordance with the principles set forth in the preliminary M. discussions, but resent being told to do so by outsiders. The opposition elements within the country could then say that the present Government is not trusted by the Allies since even they (the Allies) insist on having their own people as observers and checkers. All of these factors would tend to encourage the opposition and thus create internal problems, and undermine the present leadership. For this reason, the Partisans are determined to avoid outside intervention, even at the cost of hunger, suffering and extreme privation.

The present situation in Greece, where M. forces are supporting what the Yugoslavs consider to be counter-revolutionary elements, will add to these suspicions, and as a result it will now be all the more difficult to arrive at an understanding with the Allied Military Authorities.

Certain steps which UERRA has taken, or has failed to take, in the past two months have helped to increase their suspicions, for instance:

1. All UERRA observers on the M.-Yugoslav Policy Committee were British, which gave the delegates the impression that UERRA is merely another British agency disguised in a civilian cloak.
2. Absence of Russians further strengthened their belief that UERRA lacks the international character that it was supposed to have. It must be remembered, in this connection, that until three to four months ago, most of the delegates who participated in the M. discussions were front line fighters, who have had

little or no opportunity to acquaint themselves with UNRRA programs and policies.

3. During the ML conferences UNRRA has failed to make any constructive proposals in support of the Yugoslav claims, and has merely tagged along with ML. Although the delegates have been told on many occasions that we were merely there as observers, and could not therefore put forward our views, this made very little difference, for they assumed all along that we were an integral part of the ML organization.
4. Although some of the delegates expressed doubts whether certain welfare personnel, as for instance, Voluntary Societies, would be necessary at all, we kept bringing such people to San Spirito. The delegates' feeling is that UNRRA is being used as an instrument for bringing these societies, which they consider unnecessary, into Yugoslavia. They say that during the last war certain difficulties were experienced with similar organizations and they are anxious to avoid a repetition of those problems.
5. The presence among the Mission personnel of a large number of administrative and non-technical people, whom the delegates called 'old ladies', has given rise to additional doubts. (They were in a position to observe our personnel at mess as invited guests). They do not understand why we need such people; the remark "why should we let British and American spies into the country" was heard at least twice by this writer.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

On the basis of the above brief analysis, it seems fairly certain that ML will not be invited to operate in Yugoslavia, and that so long as UNRRA associates itself with ML and fails to discuss its own fundamental problems with

the Yugoslavs, the chances of UNGER operations will diminish. Serious consideration should, therefore, be given to the question of UNGER's disassociating itself from ML and to the abrogation of the March agreement. If this were to be agreed upon, the following immediate steps would have to be taken:

1. Move the Mission headquarters to Bari or some other city in Southern Italy.
2. Make every effort through Washington and London to transfer the ML supplies to UNGER.
3. Make every effort to secure the two Russian deputies who have been appointed, and immediately place them in top policy making positions.
4. Take energetic measures to reorganize our present staff, and if necessary, by bringing in people with better qualifications, develop concrete plans to handle ML supplies, even at the risk of eliminating many "observe and check" functions during the initial period. Russian personnel should be, if at all possible, included in these initial operations, (even at the lower level, with a decrease of British personnel). In this connection, it would be extremely unwise to use any ML officers, even if they could obtain civilian status.
5. Consider revamping the whole structure of the Mission in the light of new conditions. The situation which existed six months ago when the present Mission was designed, has been considerably changed, and the assumptions underlying our thinking at that time no longer hold. Suggested changes are:
 - (a) Complete elimination of all Voluntary Society teams (possible exception of the Medical Units), and most of the Welfare personnel.

- (b) Reduction of all line personnel to one liaison officer in each federal unit.
 - (c) Combine the Supply and Distribution functions into one bureau and eliminate the Distribution officers as such or when qualified change their function to Supply Requirements officers. Distribution should be their secondary interest, inasmuch as it will be necessary to know how and where goods are being distributed, in order to ascertain future requirements.
 - (d) Eliminate the Intelligence Division and change its functions to the "Statistical and Progress Reports Unit" and retain only statisticians, economists and their assistants. The use of the word "Intelligence" as is known in military terminology gives rise to the suspicion that our people will be engaged in some sort of spy activities, which should be avoided at all costs.
6. Make arrangements for direct negotiations with the Yugoslavs and send a small UNRRA Mission to Belgrade with one or two topnotch Public Relations officials (preferably Americans who enjoy complete Partisan confidence). The function of this small Mission would be to acquaint the Yugoslav officials, and through them the people, of UNRRA aims and how it proposes to accomplish them. This, in my estimation, is the most essential function, since without the reestablishment of goodwill and confidence among the Yugoslav people, our field operations will be very difficult.