

"INDIA IN UNRRA"

TALK BROADCAST FROM THE BARODA RADIO

ON 5th AUGUST 1947

BY

D.N. NARAVANE
DIRECTOR
UNRRA OFFICE, NEW DELHI.

INDIA IN UNRRA

The biggest war in human history was fought and won by the United Nations after the fiercest struggle. Although they had won the war they had yet to win the peace. For winning this peace they had to wage another war against hunger, disease and chaos. Peace must mean the revival of production and the renewed exchange of goods. It must mean employment and increased prosperity. The sooner those nations whose lands had been stripped and ravaged could again help themselves the sooner all of us could have enjoyed the fruits of victory. The establishment of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, or what is popularly known as UNRRA, was the first step in this direction.

UNRRA activities have been strictly limited to giving such relief and rehabilitation assistance as would keep needy populations alive. Relief means such things as food, clothing, fuel and shelter. The fundamental principle of UNRRA is to help people to help themselves. Its rehabilitation function has this specific purpose. UNRRA has furnished in addition to relief supplies, other supplies such as seeds, fertilizers, farm machinery, trucks, limited amounts of raw materials, power plants and textile and other machinery with which the liberated peoples may begin to supply their own minimum needs.

The principal task of UNRRA has been undoubtedly the furnishing of supplies but UNRRA has other functions as well. It furnishes services, the most important being aid to displaced persons. Millions of people in Europe and the Far East had been carried off from their home lands during this war and forced to toil as slave labour in the Nazi war machine. The job of getting these tragic victims back home has been literally staggering.

Other services consisted of technical assistance to Governments in their health and welfare operations. We must remember that there is nothing more international than disease. It does not respect national boundaries. We recall how influenza killed off millions after the last war. UNRRA has taken upon itself the responsibility for safeguarding the world's health. The comparative freedom of post-war world from serious epidemics is a tribute to UNRRA's activities in this field.

Who could get aid from UNRRA? The answer is those countries which were invaded and whose resources were so completely depleted that they did not possess enough foreign exchange to pay for the supplies which they must import. UNRRA has assisted such countries alone. As of January 1947, UNRRA was providing general relief aid to Albania, Austria, Byelorussia, China, Czechoslovakia, the Dodacanese Islands, Greece, Italy, Poland, Ukraine and Yugoslavia. But one important point must always be remembered. UNRRA does not ring door bells. Aid is given only after a nation asks for it and can prove that it must have it. Much of the criticism against UNRRA, especially in India, would not have been made if the critics had known these essential conditions.

Forty-eight governments are represented in UNRRA today and the activities are financed by them. All member governments contribute to UNRRA's administrative fund which defrays the costs of management. UNRRA's operating costs are borne by those member countries whose home territories

were not invaded. Each of such countries was expected to contribute one percent of its national income. Ninety percent of each country's contribution would be spent inside its own borders spent on producing and purchasing the supplies which that country would then contribute for use by the invaded nations which need them. The total contribution promised to UNRRA has exceeded 1200 crores of rupees. Upto 1st January 1947, UNRRA had shipped to liberated countries more than 19 million tons of goods valued at nearly 740 crores of rupees. About 6 million tons more would have been shipped before the closing of UNRRA's operations this year.

What part has India played in this organization ? India was one of the original fortyfour nations which agreed on 9th November 1943 to bring the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration into existence. Although only those countries alone which were not invaded were expected to contribute towards the operating funds of UNRRA, India voluntarily agreed to contribute an amount of 8 crores of rupees for this humanitarian task. A question might be asked why was a poor country which was invaded by the Japanese and which suffered tremendously as a result of famine was asked to contribute to this relief operation ? Should not charity begin at home ? The answer is "no". Such a course would have been completely against India's proverbial and traditional generosity of sharing her own bread with her neighbours. The days of isolation are over. India's rise and prosperity are linked up with those of the world and any sacrifice which India makes for the common cause puts her place high up in the comity of nations.

As compared to the total contributions of UNRRA India's share is less than one percent. But at the same time it is a matter for pride that India holds the fifth position in point of contribution. The first place of honour goes to the United States which contributed nearly 75% of UNRRA's funds. Next come Great Britain, Canada and Australia followed by India. Had it not been for the acute food position, India would have contributed a further contribution of two crores of rupees which the Indian Legislature had provided for in 1946.

The policy of UNRRA is to spend ninety percent of a country's contribution in the country itself by purchasing supplies essential to relief and rehabilitation. Care is at the same time taken to see that this UNRRA procurement does not disturb the economy of the contributing country. UNRRA, therefore, always works in close co-operation with the National Government by arriving at agreed arrangements for procurement and shipments of commodities. In order to arrive at such an arrangement with a view to maximise the contribution without disturbing the internal economy of India, an UNRRA Mission visited the country in 1945. As a result of the negotiations that followed the Government of India agreed to arrange for procurement and shipment of such commodities as UNRRA would need. For this purpose an UNRRA Office for India was established with its Headquarters at New Delhi.

What did UNRRA do with the sum of 8 crores of rupees which ^{was} placed at its disposal ? UNRRA immediately proceeded with the procurement of supplies which were of vital necessity, for its relief and rehabilitation operations in various countries of the world. At the same time it was never blind to the pressing requirements of this country. The commodities procured in India so far are such which were either greatly in surplus to the normal requirements or which remained as war surplus which had to be disposed of. Let us now see what main items have been procured, their weight and approximate values in rupees.

1. 37,000 tons of peanuts or groundnuts worth 1 crore and 26 lakhs
2. 1,000 tons of pepper 14 lakhs
3. 25 lakhs lbs. of tea 25 lakhs
4. Food packages 6 lakhs
5. 44,400 bales of cotton 1 crore and 20 lakhs

6.	5,000 tons of manganese ore	2 lakhs.
7.	Electrical goods	20,000
8.	18 tons of opium for medical purposes	9 lakhs 56 thousand
9.	Miscellaneous medical stores like surgical instruments, etc.	16 lakhs.
10.	29,000 tons of Raw Jute	1 crore and 64 lakhs.
11.	Jute products	2 crores and 44 lakhs.
12.	Veterinary supplies	32 thousand
13.	Coir Yarn	13 lakhs.

Let us examine what countries of Europe and Asia received help from India, that is, to what extent India contributed towards relief operations in each of them. I am mentioning the total money value of supplies sent to each country.

Albania	64 thousand
Austria	17 lakhs
Byelorussia	94 thousand
Czechoslovakia	1 crore 80 lakhs
Greece	37 lakhs
Italy	10 lakhs
Poland	1 crore 6 lakhs
Ukraine	40 lakhs
Yugoslavia	1 crore 37 lakhs

In the Far East the only country which receives UNRRA aid is China. To China we have already sent goods worth 1 crore and 80 lakhs, the main item being 44,400 bales of cotton worth 1 crore and 20 lakhs. Negotiations for further supply of cotton are going on today. It will be seen that excepting the Dodecanese Islands, every country receive UNRRA assistance, receives a part of its supplies from India. The main item of export is jute and jute products, which covers almost half of the total Indian contribution. It may also be seen that none of the food products which were vitally needed in India have been allowed to be exported to UNRRA receiving countries.

This gigantic scale of UNRRA operations necessitated a gigantic organization to be set up. The headquarters of UNRRA is in Washington D.C. in the United States. The European Regional Office in London supervises operations in the various European countries while the China Mission headquarters in Shanghai is responsible for relief work in China and the Far East. Offices caring for liaison and the procurement of supplies were set up in a number of countries. The UNRRA Office in India is one of such offices established for procurement of supplies and recruitment of personnel.

UNRRA is staffed by an international civil service comprising persons recruited from most of the fortyeight nations. The UNRRA staff has to be highly specialized. From dozens of countries have been recruited experts on supply, agriculture, administration, etc. The greatest number of employees was 12,900 in June 1946. These employees took an oath upon joining the organization that they would adhere to the ideal of international cooperation and would abstain from any act of discrimination on account of nationality, race, creed or political belief.

India's share in this administrative machinery has not been much. This is due not to lack of interest or sympathy but to the fact that negotiations in India started very late. The UNRRA office in India was started early in 1946 and before many persons could be recruited the Administration decided on its general plan of closure. The recruitment had therefore to be stopped in July 1946. Within this short period twentyfive persons were recruited for service overseas. Four of them, including myself, were selected for the headquarters in Washington and the rest of them were sent to China. These included 3 Economic Analysts, 3 Supply Observers, 2 doctors, 1 Auditor, 3 Accountants, 3 Junior Accountants, 1 Reports Officer, 1 Camp Welfare Officer, 1 Store Keeper, 4 Stenographers, 1 Secretary, 1 Programme Analyst and 1 Administrative and Supply Officer. There were three more selected directly by the European Office for work in Italy. Thus the personnel recruited from India represented a wide variety of interest and all of them have proved equal to their task. From my own experience in Washington and from the reports about our China personnel, it is evident that persons recruited from India have proved themselves as useful and efficient as those recruited from other countries. A further proof of this assertion is to be found in the promotions obtained by most of them. That their work has been appreciated is shown by the appointment by the Headquarters of two of us as Directors of the India Office in succession, namely Sardar Amarjit Singh and myself.

This, in short, is the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and this is the part played by India in that organization. All of us want a post-war world in which we can live in peace and security. But there could be no peace and security if millions were allowed to perish of hunger and pestilence. People talk of reconstructing the world but before reconstruction the world must receive relief and rehabilitation. This task has been achieved by UNRRA. Moreover, UNRRA, as the first operating organization created by the United Nations during the war, became from the outset a testing ground of the ability of the United Nations to cooperate at common tasks during peace. Its success has given all nations fresh assurance that they can work together if they meant to. On the eve of India's attainment of Independence we can look forward with confidence to her greater participation in international life. Her achievement in UNRRA augurs well for her future place in the world.

Confirmation:

~~Atkinson~~

14 AUG 1947

OFEA Ref. 210/34P

Mr. D. N. Naravane
Director
UNRRA Procurement and
Recruiting Office
82 Block "L"
New Delhi, India

My dear Naravane:

Mr. Henry Atkinson has told me that one of the issues of The Eastern Economist (published in New Delhi and edited by Mr. P. Lokanathan) in the autumn of 1946 contained an excellent article on UNRRA.

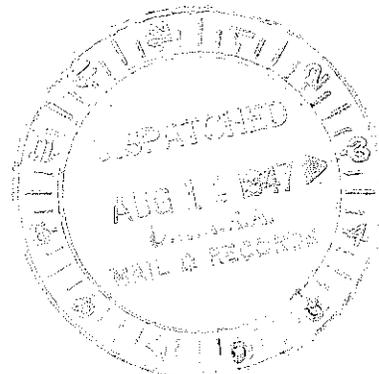
We feel this article would be of interest to the Administration and should be in its archives. Therefore, will you kindly secure a copy of the article, if there is not already one in your office files, and forward it to Far Eastern Affairs, Headquarters.

Sincerely yours,

A. McIver
Executive Officer
Far Eastern Affairs

ms
14 August 1947

A 671



210/34F

UNRRA INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: A. McIver

DATE 12 Aug. 1947

FROM: H. R. Atkinson

SUBJECT: Article on UNRRA in "The Eastern Economist"

"The Eastern Economist," a magazine published in New Delhi--of which Mr. P. Lokanathan is editor--contained an article on UNRRA in the autumn of 1946. Since "The Eastern Economist" is an outstanding publication and the article was carefully prepared, it should be in the UNRRA archives.

I suggest that Mr. Naravane be requested to secure a copy of this back number from "The Eastern Economist" office, if he has not one already in the New Delhi files, and forward it to Headquarters.

[Handwritten signature]
414
by Harris
210/347

15 MAY 1947

Mr. D. Narayana
Director, India Office
UNRRA Procurement & Recruiting
Office in India
Room 82, "L" Block
New Delhi, India

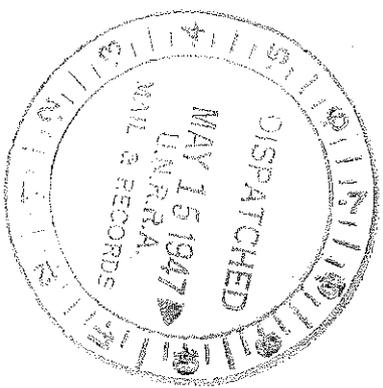
My dear Narayana:
As requested in your cables 601 and 624, I am attaching
Field Administrative Order 110 and appendices. We regret
the delay in the transmission of this Order and hope
that it will not jeopardize your activity in respect to
the monograph.

Sincerely,

A. Molyer
Executive Officer
for Eastern Affairs

Attachment:
Field Administrative Order 110
and appendices.

JMA:thems/vm
12 May 1947



A-673

UNRRA

INCOMING CABLEGRAM

NUMBER: 024 2.0 3/1

FROM: New Delhi (Signed Naravans)

DATED: 13/5/47

RECEIVED: 13/5/47 - 10:57 a.m.

Reur 6/1 para 1.

Please expedite despatch RHO 110 and appendices urgent.

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION
FOPEA

ed:djs 131110
 cp:mtj 131125
 *5c

Confirmation:

A-412

Mr. H. S. ...

210/34F

11 APR 1947

Mr. D. N. Naravane
Liaison Officer
UNRRA Procurement and
Recruitment Office
Room 82, "L" Block
New Delhi, India

Dear Mr. Naravane:

On returning here in March, I was glad to hear that you had undertaken the responsibilities of running the New Delhi Office, after Mr. Singh's return to private life. As you know, the successful operation of that office, with its various UNRRA responsibilities, is something close to my heart. I wish you every success in its operation, and I know you will have the loyal and devoted help of an able staff.

I have just finished perusing the copy of my long report which was completed at New Delhi and forwarded to me under date of 12 March by Mr. Ramaswamy. Please thank him for me. Mr. Krishnan, Mr. Aiyar and Mr. Jain, I am sure all put in their respective hands and heads on the several parts requested in the margin of my manuscript; and the report makes an excellent appearance.

There are, however, a few omissions which I am not able to fill in here, and accordingly I am writing to ask that they be forwarded, as soon as possible, to the Office of Far Eastern Affairs at Headquarters.

1. Under "Chapter Eight - 1. Liaison with Burma and Malaya Governments," reference is made to "copies of correspondence with officials of these governments exchanged during the summer." However, the only ones attached are those of 11 September addressed to Lord Killaern and resulting replies from him with enclosures; whereas I am certain that correspondence with officials of the Malayan Government and, I believe, the Burmese Government was commenced on or about 15 May and should be both in the chronological file and the subject file.

Will you kindly have verified copies of such correspondence made in duplicate and forwarded to Headquarters so that they may be filed with the report?

2. Mr. Singh was apparently too modest to complete the filling out of the list of guests that attended the reception which was given him in the Imperial Hotel on 4 November to mark the appointment of an Indian Director. However, please tell him that that is not fair to me! And that I want to have all the names of those who were there.

I enclose a copy of two fragmentary lists made from memory which I sent on from Bombay and which can be partly completed in the office from data

Mr. D. N. Naravane
Page 2

in the telephone book and from the lists of invitees and acceptances—all of which are in the appropriate subject file there kept by Mr. Krishnan. However, Mr. Singh should check the final list and include whatever additions he recalls.

3. On page 44 in Chapter Five, Section D, there is a reference to the release of a direct statement from the Director General, Mr. LaGuardia, in answer to the verbal attack made on him in New York by Mr. J. J. Singh. This attachment was not enclosed; but as there are about 25 extra mimeographed copies in the New Delhi Office, it should be easy to find two. These were dated about 14 April 1946.

4. The table of shipments according to gross tonnages as of 31 May, prepared by Mr. Aiyar and forwarded to Sir Asiqul Huque under date of 20 June with letter No. 1747, is not included with attachment 31. May we please have two copies?

Please remember me to everyone in the office.

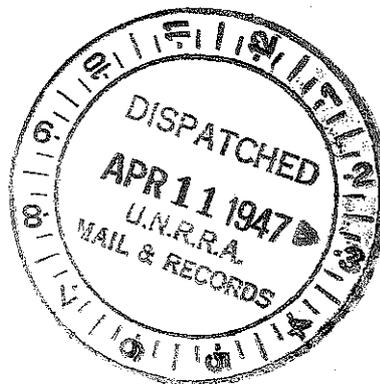
With kind regards to you and Mrs. Naravane,

Sincerely yours,

Henry R. Atkinson
Far Eastern Affairs

Enclosure

HRAtkinson/ms
10 April 1947



A 596

Incomplete List of Attendance at Reception on 4 November

(To be checked against list of acceptances and supplemented by Mr. Singh's recollection.)

Mr. and Mrs. Amarjit Singh

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Atkinson

Y. N. Sukthankar, Acting Secretary of Commerce Department

F. M. Innes, Joint Secretary Commerce Department

K. K. Chettur, " " " "

(Note: Sir R. Pillai had not returned from Paris.)

(Mr. R. K. Nehru, Joint Secretary and Mr. M. A. Mulky additional Under-Secretary were both at the International Trade Conference in London.)

_____ Symonds, _____ Secretary Finance Department

B. R. Sen, _____ Secretary Food Department

_____ Yeatts, Secretary of Industries and Supplies Department

Lt. Col. Fitch of the Indian Medical Service

Captain _____ Webb, Principal Refugee Officer of the Government of India

Commander (and Mrs.) _____, Sea Transport Officer

Members of the Central Legislative Assembly:

Mrs. Swaminathan

The American Charge d'Affaires - Mr. George R. Merrell

The Acting Commissioner of the Republic of China - Dr. _____ Sih

The High Commissioner of Australia - Sir Ian McKay

The High Commissioner of Delhi - Mr. Christie

Mr. Wm. C. Johnstone, U. S. Information Service Officer

Miss _____, Representative of the Polish Government in Warsaw interested in Polish refugees in India.

General and Mrs. George Brownell, President Truman's Personal Representative on International Aviation Agreement.

Mrs. Brownell had been Deputy Public Health Officer for UNRRA in Greece.

Non-Officials:

Sir Shankar Lall, a co-owner of the Delhi Cloth Mills

Mr. _____ Malik

Sir Sri Ram

Mr. Shiva Rao, distinguished Indian journalist and correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian."

B

2 10/31 R

NUMBER: 520
FROM: New Delhi (Signed Amerjleszt))
DATE: 19/12/46
RECEIVED: 19/12/46 - 1:34 P.M.

Ref: 691

1. Report prepared by thirty-first December material required for para 2A, to first quarter 1946 with cost operation. More later.
2. AMERSON actively assisting.

STANDARD DISCRESSION
* 074

691/D 191407
691/W 191553
074

UNRRA

OUTGOING CABLEGRAM

210/34 F

NUMBER: 691

TO: New Delhi

RECEIVED CABLE SECTION: 6/12/46 - 6:00 p.m.

DEPARTED: 6/12/46 - 11:03 p.m.

1. We preparing for archives purpose confidential history our Indian mission and procurement office New Delhi.

2. Urgently require (a) true copies papers about policy and procedural negotiations with Indian Government and any other general correspondence and consultations especially of confidential nature in New Delhi files (b) estimated total cost office operation to date by categories as indicated your budget. Any other information of historical value in your files would be helpful. Please airmail requested material Far Eastern Affairs acesent and advise mailing date.

3. If Robinson not otherwise engaged suggest enlisting his assistance preparing requested material, since his long connection India office should be extremely useful this purpose.

Drafted by:
RWBogate (Far Eastern Affairs)
6 December 1946

~~ALBANY DISTRICT~~

Received by
Walter
RWBogate
JTB

35. Mr. Bogate
36. Mr. Robinson
617