

SWITZERLAND

c/o American Legation, Berne,
March 12, 1945.

*return to Miss Helen
H. Johnson
H. Johnson
H. Johnson HCA*

Tyler to UNRRA Washington

--- I enclose herewith a copy of Bulletin No. 1, prepared by the Office Central du Don Suisse, and containing a review of this organisation's activity up to the end of February.

I have been requested by the Don Suisse to emphasize the fact that this Bulletin is prepared exclusively for the use of the members of the Don Suisse Committee, and that the information contained in it is not for publication. Were you to wish to use any of this information for any report intended for unrestricted circulation, I would request you to inform me, previously, so that I may ascertain that the Don Suisse has no objection.

Royall Tyler.

1 copy has been sent to UNRRA London.

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28 February 1945

"Don Suisse" for the Victims of War
Information Bulletin from the Central Office

No. 1

What is the "Don Suisse"?

The Don Suisse is not a federal agency any more than it is a monopoly of relief services abroad. On the contrary it seeks to utilize private initiative and it supports, by grants of funds, the work of the entr'aide and other existing local committees.

The Don Suisse is in the first place a coordinating center. It investigates the situation of the civilian population in the regions devastated by the war. It furnishes private organizations with materials they need, makes arrangements with federal bureaus and prevents the waste of energy which would be caused if two groups were trying to accomplish the same thing.

Faithful to its neutrality, the Don Suisse cannot affiliate with UNHRA, but it maintains official relations with that great organization which might be called upon to expand in the very near future. It works in collaboration with the different branches of the International Red Cross.

The means at the disposal of the Don Suisse are very meager compared with the needs. The following principles will therefore guide its activities:

- 1) The geographic situation of Switzerland permits her to bring aid during the period between the cessation of hostilities and the arrival of supplies from overseas. This aid will be limited to liberated countries.
- 2) The aid given by the Don Suisse must first of all benefit our neighbors.
- 3) The assistance of the Don Suisse can also represent a sort of sponsorship of the countries to whom we are bound by strong historic and cultural ties.
- 4) Each operation must be envisaged in a spirit of absolute justice; aid is given wherever the suffering is greatest.

While UNRRA undertook the task of bringing, on the one hand, urgent relief (Relief) and on the other the task of "setting things going again" (Rehabilitation) the Don Suisse particularly intends to protect the victims of war from hunger, cold and epidemics. The greatest possible number of

human lives must be saved; the greatest possible number of unfortunate people must be enabled to take up their work under normal conditions.

How is relief carried out?

The Don Suisse usually works through the medium of the large mutual aid organizations (Swiss Red Cross, Oeuvre Suisse d'entr'aide ouvriere, Union Suisse de charite "Caritas", Commission d'entr'aide et de reconstruction des Eglises, etc.) and other committees which have been formed in certain cities and cantons.

The organizations to which Don Suisse funds may be granted must present sufficient guarantees of the seriousness with which they will accomplish their work; and distribution must be done without political or other consideration. The organization that calls on the Don Suisse for help must submit detailed plans and a budget to the Central Office.

After finding out where aid can be given it submits the project to the Executive Committee who may grant or refuse the funds requested.

The contribution of the Don Suisse consists of supplies delivered, or eventually of payment in money if it is necessary to send specialists such as doctors, technicians, social workers, etc. The Don Suisse concerns itself with the request for export permits, regulates the question of transportation and it also maintains relations with foreign authorities.

There are cases where the Don Suisse itself proposes a specific operation and takes charge of it.

Organization

Under the National Committee of the Don Suisse, presided over by Mr. Wetter, former Federal Councillor, the Executive Committee directs the work.

The practical operations are entrusted to the Central Office whose chief is Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati, Schupplatzgasse 39, Berne. Under the Central Office are the following sections:

1. The Relief Section examines the proposals emanating from the Entr'Aide and sees that they are carried out. Its chief is Mr. Carl A. Egger.
2. The Commercial Service under the direction of Mr. U.V. Benziger is in charge of purchases which are made through the proper federal offices (OGIF, OGA). Each bill is countersigned by the Price Control Office before it is paid by the Commercial Service.
3. The Personnel Section receives the applications of those who wish to put themselves at the disposal of the Don Suisse. It works in collaboration with the organizers of courses in social work.

4. The Fund Raising Section, Bergstrasse 29, Zurich, organizes the fund raising drives in the whole of Switzerland. It includes sections on press and propaganda. Its director is Mr. E. A. Graf.

5. The Documents Service, directed by Mr. R. Jaquet, keeps them informed of the needs of regions requiring assistance.

6. The Information Service under the direction of Mr. A. R. Lindt informs the public on the nature and the plans of the Don Suisse and on the relief it supplies. It also keeps the Central Office informed on public opinion.

The relations it maintains with the different existing organizations does away with the necessity of the creation of a complicated administrative machinery by the Don Suisse itself. The different services now operating in Berne employ 25 workers and the fund-raising department employs 32 people.

The Relief Services of the Don Suisse

I. France

Different regional committees have given assistance to the people who live along the border, acting as precursors of the Don Suisse. These have already done the following:

1. The Basle Committee gave lodging in Haute Alsace to civilian refugees close to the border. Medical supplies were distributed at Mulhouse.

2. Two tons of powdered milk were sent to the children of Marseille.

3. Five tons of hooks and five tons of nails have been put at the disposition of the people of Maurienne by the Union Suisse de Charite "Caritas" to repair the roofs of their houses.

4. L'Oeuvre suisse d'entr'aide ouvriere (workers mutual aid), to which the Don Suisse gave funds, has been able to keep its canteens operating in the Berliet factories at Lyon where it takes care of young people and has extended its activities to the Somua factories and to the employees of the P.T.T. (Post, Telephone, Telegraph Co.) 18 tons of food have been furnished for this purpose by the Don Suisse, and clothes have been distributed to families who have no means of support.

5. A medical mission from the Swiss Red Cross has been sent into Normandy and Brittany. Nurseries with children's dispensaries have been opened in the cities of LeHavre, Caen and Brest. Each group is furnished

with equipment which permits it to be self-sufficient; that is, they are given barracks, and all necessary equipment and medical supplies.

6. Thirty-five tuberculous French students were received at Leysin by the Centre d'Accueil of the international university sanitarium.

7. The Committee of the Jura region to aid the bombed out areas of Belfort and Monthellier has sent 9 tons of food and medical supplies and 40 tons of apples to two French Cities. This shipment also included building tar paper, oiled paper, etc.

8. Twenty-five wagons of apples were sent to the city of Marseille where they will be distributed by the Swiss Red Cross in cooperation with the Marseille authorities.

The following operations, for which funds have already been obtained, are now in preparation:

*1. To help the inhabitants of Vercors rebuild their houses, the Swiss Red Cross is sending them 40 wagons full of wood, machinery with which to work it, and tools. Swiss mechanics will go along to help set up the machinery.

*2. The Basle Committee will open canteens in Haute-Alsace.

*3. The Union Suisse de Charite is going to furnish the sinistres in the region of the Moselle food, medical supplies, clothes and building materials. Social workers will look after the children.

*4. The Red Cross will open canteens on the Riviera for the distribution of milk. This will reach 10,000 children and will last 3 months.

*5. The Swiss Society of Quakers will send three huts to Normandy which will be used as workshops for sewing and carpentry.

*6. The Commission d'entr'aide et de reconstruction des Eglises will send 10 huts to lodge the homeless on the La Manche coast.

*7. The Oeuvre Suisse d'entr'aide ouvriere will extend the work begun at Lyon to St. Etienne.

*8. The Comite vaudois d'aide au Department du Jura has received funds to assist a particularly badly struck village. It will also send barracks, clothes and medical supplies into other localities.

*9. The Swiss Red Cross will send 2 huts for canteens which they will open at Valance and LePouzin. Clothes and medical supplies will be distributed.

II. Belgium

The Swiss Red Cross has installed at Merxem (Antwerp), Kessel-Loo, Tournai, Angleur (Liege) and St. Ghislain (Mons) dispensaries for mothers and children to whom 156 tons of food and medical supplies have been distributed.

A rest at Leysin is also planned for 50 Belgian students.

III. Holland

Although Holland is not one of the countries that is a neighbor of Switzerland and although the war has not yet left her territory, her food situation and the cultural ties which unite her with our country justify the aid which has been given her. Switzerland was, moreover, the only country who could go in.

1. The first project was conceived by a committee in Basle. It was a plan to send food to Rotterdam by the boat "Tamina." But the military situation prevented the realization of that plan. The cargo of the "Tamina", 215 tons of food and medical supplies, was then sent across Belgium in care of the Mixed Commission of the International Red Cross to the liberated parts of Holland where these supplies were distributed by the Dutch Red Cross.

2. The cargo "Henry Dunant" left Lisbon on January 26, 1945.

It was loaded with 4,850 tons of food which had been taken from the stocks of Swiss merchandise in warehouses in Portugal which could not at that time be transported to Switzerland. On board the ship there was a delegate of the International Red Cross Committee. The "Henry Dunant" reached the Swedish port Göteborg on 13 February and then went to the Dutch port Delfzijl. The distribution of this food to the civilian population of occupied Holland is to be done by Swiss people living in Holland.

3. The Don Suisse bought the Mixed Commission 2670 tons of cereals which were in warehouses in Germany. That shipment permitted 500,000 inhabitants of the cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam to obtain for one month a supplementary bread ration of 210 grams. There, too, the Swiss in Holland were charged with the distribution.

4. Then, after the Mixed Commission has assured itself of the possibility of shipping by train to Amsterdam, the Don Suisse will arrange for another shipment of 190 tons consisting of medical supplies from the American Red Cross and of food bought a long time ago for Holland.

These supplies will be distributed by a Dutch organization under the control of Swiss people in Holland and of a delegate of the International Red Cross.

Fund-raising by the Don Suisse

In various ways, the fund-raising campaign of the Don Suisse appeals to all classes of Swiss people and reaches all groups. A great number of activities were undertaken to reach the people of all levels of society and to arouse interest from the top to the bottom of the social scale.

The Don du Travail (Workers' Donation) collects the contributions of the workers and the employees who give 2, 5 or 10 francs deducted from their weekly salary for several weeks and for which they get receipt-stamps. The Don de l'Economie approaches all large businesses (banks, insurance companies, business houses); it is expected that these will give 1% of their net profits and 1% of their capital. The Don de la campagne (Country Donation) will be a gift in kind whose size will depend on the next crops. Also the Dons de l'Artisanat et du Commerce de Detail (Donation of the Craftsmen and retail business men) will be in kind rather than in money. The Don des Arts (Donation of the Arts) will gather together the works of our artists, books with authors' inscriptions and manuscripts which will probably be put in a lottery. The Don des 3000 Communes (Donation of the 3000 communes) and the Don des 25 Cantons (Donation of the 25 cantons) will include the subscriptions voted by the authorities of the cantons and the communes. In the schools they will collect the Don-de la Jeunesse (Young Peoples' Donation); a small booklet will give information on the services rendered by each pupil. The young people will also aid in the sale of badges. The Don des Societes requests that a collection box be placed in the offices and that parties be arranged for the benefit of the Don Suisse. A Don Suisse abroad is also planned. The P.T.T. (Post, Telephone, Telegraph Co.) have issued stamps for the victims of war, purchase of which will constitute the Don des Philatelistes. On the 3rd and 4th of March there will be a country-wide sale of badges. The Action des Boles de Lait of the Swiss Red Cross (Milk Fund for Children) planned for next May will this year be devoted to the Don Suisse. A Prayer Service to be held on Armistice Day is being arranged. The blue contribution sheet will bring in large donations inspired by the reading of our pamphlet to which it is attached and a special letter urges the most affluent Swiss people to participate in the Don Suisse by making large contributions.

The Documentation Service of the Don Suisse would be grateful if people returning from abroad would kindly get in touch with it and give it information on conditions in countries through which they have travelled. The Documentation Service is at Laupenstrasse 9, Berne. Tel. 2, 74, 14.

*We ask you please not to speak of these activities since they have not yet been announced to the press.

Master Copy

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ERO LONDON

29 December, 1944

For the attention of Mr. Lacy

Dear Mr. Lacy,

I enclose a copy of a memorandum from Mr. Royall Tyler in Berne and extracts from the paper which was enclosed with that memorandum.

I have asked Mr. Tyler to send you a copy of the whole message direct.

Yours sincerely,

FOR THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE

(sgd) A.E.L. PARNIS

Office Secretariat Section

DIRECTOR GENERAL
UNRRA
WASHINGTON

Handwritten notes and signatures:
D. Samuel
D. Deane
D. Ryan
D. Higgins
D. Wood
Mr. Smith
D. J. G.
D. J. G.
The Stomach
Mr. Deutchman
Miss Green
Miss J. G.
D. J. G.

c/o American Legation
Berne, December 4, 1944

To: UNRRA, European Regional Office, London

From: R. Tyler, UNRRA Representative, Berne

I enclose herewith a copy of a message from the Federal Council to the Federal Assembly concerning the DON SUISSE (Wetter Committee), a passage of which refers to UNRRA.

It is anticipated that the vote of the Swiss Parliament approving the proposed contribution of Sw. Frs. 100 million for post-war relief purposes will take place within a few days, and that the national subscription will be undertaken.

Dr. Rodolfo Oliati, who visited the UNRRA Officers in London some time ago, has just accepted a post in liaison with the Wetter Committee, in which, while preserving a certain degree of independence, he should be able to secure coordination between the Wetter Committee and various private organizations.

(sgd) ROYALL TYLER

EXTRACT

Message of the Federal Council to the Federal Assembly Concerning the
Swiss Donation (Wetter Committee) for the Victims of War.

Our people have followed in the newspapers the creation and organization of the "United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration," known by its initials as "UNRRA."

It is a great undertaking whose purpose is to assist those countries afflicted by war with food, medical supplies, clothing, agricultural and industrial machinery, and the raw materials needed to rebuild what was destroyed. Moreover, it will assure the return to their homes of the people who were deported, the prisoners of war, the refugees, etc.

By means of a floating capital of \$2,500,000,000 UNRRA proposes to obtain the necessary supplies in the countries which have them and to distribute these equitably. According to the scale of contributions adopted, each member government contributes in principle an amount equal to 1 per cent of its national income. The United States alone has underwritten \$1,350,000,000, or more than half the financing of the whole undertaking. As for Great Britain, her share is £ 80,000,000. For example, Switzerland's contribution would be about 80 to 100 million francs.

UNRRA intends to go into those countries needing relief as soon as the Allied Military Authorities have withdrawn. She will avail herself of the services of the existing organizations in each country. As to the repatriation of displaced persons, close collaboration has been planned with organizations such as the International Red Cross and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees which was created by the Evian Conference in 1938.

UNRRA is composed of 44 nations, signatories of its charter adopted at Washington, 9 November, 1943. Since that date this gigantic enterprise has taken its first steps. It has created vast refugee camps in the Near East and in North Africa. More recently, if our information is correct, it has undertaken relief operations in those European regions into which the United Nations armies have just entered.

Switzerland, in accordance with her traditions and permanent policy of neutrality, when contributing within the limits of her means to the victims of war, should follow her own way.

Within UNRRA it is perfectly understood that the Swiss Confederation cannot, during the war, envisage joining an association of governments of one of the belligerent groups. But it has been necessary for our authorities to be as well informed as possible about UNRRA and their independent position certainly did not prohibit them from maintaining with UNRRA de facto relations, establishing unofficial contacts with her and even anticipating;

if the case arises, Swiss participation in a particular relief activity deemed compatible with our principles and our means. An unofficial representative of UNRRA, with the privileges and immunities of a chief of a diplomatic mission was therefore received in Switzerland. Besides, Switzerland availed herself of the opportunity which had been extended to her of being represented at the Second Plenary Session of the Council of UNRRA at Montreal last September by an "official observer." Finally, the Federal Council has in no way excluded the possibility, even the usefulness, at a given time, of establishing closer ties with UNRRA.

* * * * *

The "Swiss Donation for Victims of War" (Don Suisse) will give our people the opportunity of manifesting the altruistic sentiments they so profoundly feel. Every Swiss, young or old, rich or poor, should be able to satisfy his great urge to be associated with some undertaking through which he can discharge his moral obligation towards his tragically suffering neighbor.

The preparatory work which has been accomplished discreetly and patiently has tended to keep the "Swiss Donation for the Victims of War" from becoming a state monopoly so that private initiative would not be discouraged for the benefit of a purely official machinery. On the contrary the desired object was to find the means of fusing, in their own interest, the innumerable good intentions and to find the proper method of realizing them. Having been kind enough to agree to direct and inspire this noble but difficult task, Mr. E. Wetter, former Federal Councillor, undertook to make a series of studies and hold a series of consultations. He secured the cooperation of private organizations capable of taking active part in relief work as well as the support of representatives of business. Then he appealed to competent federal agencies to make an inventory, in a coordinated manner, of the resources in food supplies, clothes, shoes and other basic necessities which we might have available. This survey, as well as the plans already made by private enterprise, has made it possible to say that if we continue to be spared from the war and if our supply situation does not get too bad, we will be able to undertake a great variety of tasks on the condition, of course, that we have the practical means to do it.

We have in Switzerland numerous private institutions and associations which already have in this war, and in some cases even before it, as well as during and after the last world war, carried out humanitarian tasks in our own land and in foreign countries; as a rule, to be sure, in neighboring countries, but also sometimes far from our own borders. All these operations should be developed and carried out and it is important that the experienced personnel which devoted itself to this work in a purely philanthropic spirit should be well provided with the necessary resources both in kind and in money.

The relief projects in view cannot be fixed in advance nor can rigid blue prints and programs be laid out. But, on the other hand, we must be

ready to go into action promptly for it is by its speed more than by its volume that our assistance can be effective. It will be the responsibility of competent agencies, when the time has come, to determine the relief operations, by taking into account the degree of urgency and the priority of needs. But even now we can already have some idea of the type of help we can give and therefore we should prepare for it. To cite only a few examples; there will be tasks in connection with the repatriation of the refugees and the internees in Switzerland; the care of those who are being sent across our land; control of epidemics with the help of qualified health units; assistance of the war wounded; hospitalization of the ill, especially the tuberculous in our own country; distribution of concentrated foods, medical supplies and supplies for other basic needs in devastated localities; the establishment of barracks for the homeless; the organization of canteens to feed those who, due to destruction by the war, have no way of preparing their own food. Finally, we can foresee that the receiving of children into our homes, a service so popular in our country, can be taken over on a vast scale, without detracting from the aid that would be given on the spot to those who could not be brought to our country. Thus, when concrete tasks present themselves, those who are prepared for them will be able to act effectively and generously, if they have the necessary resources.

In this respect, the Federal Council has estimated that as far as it is concerned the Confederation should contribute up to 100 million francs, in kind or in cash to the fund to which the Swiss people, the Cantons, the communes and national business enterprises will make voluntary contributions. It has decided to ask for such an allocation by submitting a bill to Parliament. As it did not wish to wait for the official approval of the "Swiss Donation" (Don Suisse), in order to mitigate much suffering as a result of recent military operations which have taken place near our borders, the Federal Council advanced immediately a credit of 10 million francs.

In spite of the exceptionally high amount the Confederation expects to contribute, the "Swiss Donation", as explained above, will not be a governmental action. The coordinating and the financing of the operation must not, therefore, devolve upon the authorities, federal or cantonal, but on an organization sui generis, acting under the auspices of the Confederation. This organization will comprise, first of all, a "National Committee of the Swiss Donation for Victims of War" (Comite national du Don Suisse pour les victimes de la guerre) whose composition, as representative as possible, will be submitted to the Federal Council for approval. A smaller executive commission will carry on the daily work. It will be composed of experts who have been associated in the preparatory studies and of a certain number of members of the large committee. Sub-committees will be set up with a maximum of authority. One will be responsible for the collection of money and the publicity which precedes it and is a part of it; another, with the gathering and allocation of relief supplies and services; and still another with the general supervision over their distribution. In order to avoid the creation of special machinery and the overhead connected with it, the funds will be administered by the Federal Department of Finance and Customs.

(Draft)

Federal Decree

Concerning

the Contribution of the Confederation to the "Swiss Donation
for the Victims of War."

THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION taking note of the message of the Federal Council of 1 December 1944,

decrees:

Article I

The Confederation participates in the work of relieving the suffering engendered in foreign countries through the war by granting to the "Swiss Donation for the Victims of War" a contribution which might be raised to 100 million francs.

The relief activities financed by the "Swiss Donation" are placed under the auspices of the Federal Council.

Article II

For this purpose there shall be created a National Committee on the "Swiss Donation for the Victims of War" and an executive commission. The composition of these bodies shall be subject to ^{the} approval of the Federal Council which designates the president.

Article III

The executive commission issues the directives for the use of funds acquired by the "Swiss Donation" and reports periodically to the Federal Council on its activities. The Executive Commission is responsible for the management of the "Swiss Donation".

The bureau charged with carrying on the daily business will act according to the decisions of the executive commission.

Article IV

The contribution of the Confederation and the gifts collected are administered by the Department of Finance. The annual accounts are subject to the approval of the Federal Council.

Article V

The present decree, which is not subject to referendum, will go into effect the _____

Statement on the DON SUISSE

by Rodolfo Olgiati

Switzerland, concentrated on her defence, has had to live in these past years in almost complete isolation. Only few people could realise the conditions of life existing in the countries at war, as our frontiers were hermetically sealed. When the bordering parts of France were opened and frontier relations were resumed, a larger number of people got to know the misery in the devastated regions. In the summer of 1944, all along the French border, the French speaking Swiss were collecting money and material to be sent to the assistance of our suffering neighbours.

You might have heard of the spontaneous help given to the villages of St. Gingolph after its destruction by reprisal measures taken by the occupying power. The small local committees working of their own accord, quickly expressed the will of our people to help. They were the for-runners of the Don Suisse.

The Don Suisse is not a new departure in Swiss humanitarian work. It tries to continue with more important financial means the work already accomplished by various humanitarian organisations, such as the Swiss Red Cross, the Children's Relief Work, or the Swiss National Labour Union Relief Committee, etc.

As a first contribution to the Don Suisse, both the Federal Assemblies voted on the 13th of December 1944 unanimously a contribution of the Swiss Confederation of 100 million Francs. On the other hand, the whole people are now given an opportunity to contribute directly to the Don Suisse. Thus they can show that this institution is their own affair. This big collection began in the last week of February and will last until the beginning of May.

There will be a collection amongst the workers in collaboration with the Trade Unions. Stamps will be sold in all industries. The stamps, of a value of 2 to 10 Francs, will be affixed in a booklet which constitutes a real saving account of the Swiss workers in favour of their foreign colleagues. There is a collection amongst banking, insurance and industrial circles. The peasants will have an opportunity to offer, during next autumn, seeds, life stock, or agricultural instruments. Already a farmer told the Don Suisse that he would give his best 5 years old cow, which he wishes to be sent to a devastated village in Alsacia. Our artists are sending their pictures, our writers and publishers are giving books. Our many clubs are organising lectures, sport meetings and concerts in favour of the Don Suisse, if they are not preferring to hand over a part of their capital. There will be a special appeal to the children too. The 22 Swiss Cantons and the 3000 Swiss Communes which, with a few tragic exceptions, have escaped the destructions of war, will contribute out of their funds. Already various cantons and towns have voted special credits. The Post Office has put on sale special stamps. A fortnight ago, the sale of special signets has reached record figures. Furthermore, every citizen has an opportunity to contribute to the Don Suisse. We do not yet know how many millions of Francs this collection will amount to, but we hope that the contribution of the State will be considerably increased by the contribution of the people who have understood that the Swiss cannot shut their eyes to the hardships of the devastated countries. By a voluntary sacrifice, we want to lessen the difference in the standard of life between the victims of war and ourselves.

As regards to the organisation of the Don Suisse, we have to follow the principle of our State, which is federalistic. Therefore we are refraining from building up a big centralised organisation which wants to do all the work itself. The Don Suisse never tries to acquire a monopoly of humanitarian work. It is founded, on the contrary, with the object of aiding private initiative and to further the activities of existing organisations by grants of credit. It tries to co-ordinate. It examines the need of the civil populations in various regions and delivers to the private organisations the necessary goods. They are bought through the different sections of war economy at prices covering cost of production, but not allowing for profits. It works in close connection with the institutions of the International Red Cross.

The use of existing organisations enables the Don Suisse to do its work so far with a minimum of personnel. The central office in Berne employs 21 persons.

During the war, the Don Suisse cannot, for reasons of neutrality, become a member of the UNRRA, but in order to prevent competition with the big humanitarian organisation of the United Nations, it maintains contact with the unofficial representative of UNRRA in Switzerland. This contact might become closer, when necessity should arise.

The 100 millions so far at the disposal of the Don Suisse seem considerable to the Swiss (they amount to about \$ 6 per head), but we are aware of their being very modest in relation to the misery of the countries at war. In order to make our help as rational and as efficient as possible, we have to limitate our task. The Don Suisse has given itself four principles to guide its activity:

- 1.- To give first aid. For reasons of our geographical position, Switzerland might in certain limited cases be able to bridge the space lying between the end of hostilities in certain parts of Europe and the arrival of imports from over seas. We concentrate on regions delivered from the war, as it would be of no avail to send goods to towns which might be bombarded within the next 24 hours.
- 2.- The relief of the Don Suisse should benefit, in the first instance, our neighbouring countries.
- 3.- Relief should be granted to those countries to which we feel united by specially close historical and cultural relations.
- 4.- The principle of justice must guide all actions of help. Political or religious points of view must not influence the distribution. The help will be given where it is most needed.

It follows from these principles, that no country is excluded from the activity of the Don Suisse at first sight, although the distance separating Switzerland from countries like Norway for instance, will only allow the sending of very highly qualified goods, such as medical products. It equally follows that the help to several countries is not yet possible for the Don Suisse.

While the programme of UNRRA projects relief as well as rehabilitation, the Don Suisse concentrates on the task of saving as many civilians as possible from hunger, cold and epidemics. It hopes to enable by its help a certain number of men to take up again constructive work and also to aid children in growing up as healthy, normal citizens. The Don Suisse was originally conceived as an institution of post war relief, but already after the liberation of France the Swiss people themselves claimed for immediate action. Following public opinion, the Don Suisse has already realised a certain number of relief actions, notwithstanding the difficulties arising from our present alimentary situation and the disorganisation of the transport system in Europe. So far, transport facilities have been organised thanks to the experience and help of the "Commission Mixte" of the International Red Cross. The negotiations with foreign governments were successfully conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The relief the Don Suisse can supply, will either consist of delivery of alimentary and industrial products, or of assistance given by Swiss medical missions and by teams of social and technical workers. Hospitalisation in Switzerland will finally form a specially Swiss form of relief, in which the Swiss Red Cross has already gained considerable experience through the reception in our country of more than 50,000 children, mostly from France, during this war.

The most important actions of relief so far realised are the following:

HOLLAND. A small and brave country, Holland enjoys very strong sympathies in Switzerland. This fact as well as the tragedy of Dutch conditions have compelled the Don Suisse to start work in the Netherlands, although the biggest part of its territory is still a theatre of war.

250 tons of food and medicine have been sent via France and Belgium into liberated Holland.

The International Red Cross steamer Henry Dunant sailed on the 25th of January from Lisbon. She was loaded with 4,850 tons of food provided by the Don Suisse from our stores in the Iberian peninsula for the civil Dutch population of occupied Holland, and 150 tons provided by the Canadian Red Cross for British prisoners of war in Holland. After a rather adventurous journey, the "Henry Dunant" reached on the 11th of February the Swedish port of Goteborg which she left on the 28th. She has now reached on the 8th of March Delfzijl in occupied Holland.

The Don Suisse has bought 2,670 tons of cereals which were stored as property of the "Commission Mixte" of the International Red Cross in Germany. The "Commission Mixte" had originally destined those cereals to the distribution in occupied Belgium. But they arrived in Germany from the Balkans only after the liberation of this country. This transport assures to half a million inhabitants of Amsterdam and Rotterdam an additional daily bread ration of 210 grs for 3 months. In this case, as well as in that of the "Henry Dunant", the distribution to the civil population of occupied Holland is controlled by a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and by Swiss citizens residing in Holland.

FRANCE. Financed by the Don Suisse, a social-medical mission of the Swiss Red Cross has been sent to Normandy and Brittany. It established in Caen, Le Havre and Brast nurseries and policlinics. Each team is equipped with the necessary barracks and complete furniture, including everything from a towel down to a spoon. The medical products required are equally sent from Switzerland.

A credit of the Don Suisse has enabled the Swiss National Labour Union Relief Committee to continue its work in Lyons amongst the underfed adolescent workers of various industries. The Don Suisse sent 18 tons of food and clothes.

9 tons of food and medical products, as well as 40 tons of apples have been sent to Belfort and Montbéliard. The two towns are receiving also roofing felt, oil paper, etc. in order to repair buildings.

25 wagons of apples were sent to Marseille, 10 wagons of apples to Lyons.

Amongst the smaller actions we should like to point out the following: The inhabitants of the valley of the Maurienne had suffered severely from irregular as well as from regular warfare. The houses were burnt, but the stone walls were still standing. The mountain peasants disposed of all material necessary for repair, only a small thing was missing - nails and hooks for attaching the slates. These could not be obtained in the whole Department of Savoy. Through a Swiss catholic organisation, the Don Suisse sent 5 tons of hooks and 5 tons of nails, and construction could begin.

Relief actions are in preparation for the Department of Jura, Alsacia and Moselle.

A first step in hospitalisation has been started with the reception of 35 French students in Leysin.

BELGIUM. Social medical missions have been sent to Anvers, Tournai, Liège and Mons. They organise policlinics for mothers, children and adolescents, to which 156 tons of food and medical products are being distributed.

Altogether, the Don Suisse has so far sent 8,550 tons of goods to the three countries and spent in various relief actions a total of 7,200,000 Francs. In all cases, the Don Suisse has worked in close contact with foreign local humanitarian organisations.

March 14, 1945

THE "DON SUISSE" FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR

Information Bulletin of the Central Office

Number 2

Purchases of the "Don Suisse"

The Swiss people are entitled to know how the purchases of the "Don Suisse" are made.

It has been accepted as an initial rule that the funds of the "Don Suisse" should serve for relief in commodities, and that no cash should be paid. The Swiss people are anxious to give to war victims - beyond the essential food - mostly the products of their work, which is understandable.

The "Don Suisse" acts in two ways: it may carry out a proposed relief project directly, or it may entrust it to a reliable organization, in which case it may give some financial aid.

The various sections of the "Don Suisse" examine requests for funds from all aspects. The Commercial Service examines the possibility of furnishing commodities in the requested quantities, the problem of the greatest importance at this time when providing supplies for our own country constantly presents new difficulties. The main question is to dispose wisely of the quantities of goods which under these conditions can be spared from the Swiss stocks, without losing sight of the needs which will certainly be felt in the future.

The Commercial Service acts as adviser to the Relief Section in the settlement of requests for funds which the Central Office submits with its report to the Executive Committee. The funds approved serve as a basis for the Commercial Service to pass on the orders for commodities.

For its purchases, the "Don Suisse" directs its orders to one of the three following organizations:

1. War Food Office (OGA - "Office de Guerre Pour l'Alimentation")
2. War Industry and Labor Office (OGIT - "Office de Guerre Pour l'Industrie et le Travail")
3. The Army Command

The last will not be able to put any material at the disposal of the "Don Suisse" before military demobilization. At present, the orders of the "Don Suisse" are usually directed to OGIT and to OGA and transmitted by them to the appropriate sections, which, in agreement with the Federal Office for Price Control, direct the orders to the firm which has made the most favorable bid.

The section which makes the order is responsible for the reliability and solvency of the selected purveyor. It makes the decision as to the kind of goods to be purchased - unless this has been previously decided by the "Don Suisse" - the quantities and qualities to be supplied and, finally, it verifies whether the bill conforms with the agreements made.

Another rule established by the sections responsible for supplying the "Don Suisse" is that there must be no profit. The Federal Office of Price Control makes certain that prices correspond to the above rule. Accordingly, every bill is endorsed first by the section concerned and then by the Office of Price Control before being paid by the Commercial Service of the "Don Suisse." The Commercial Service then sends a money order to the Federal Service of Payment and Accounting, through the intermediary of the Federal Finance Control.

The funds of the "Don Suisse" (100 million francs appropriated by the Confederation and increased by the collection) are managed by the Federal Finance Administration (Federal Service of Payment and Accounting). It is also this Administration which keeps the main accounts of the "Don Suisse."

The requests for exports are submitted by the Combined Relief Committee of the International Red Cross, the only organization at present allowed to deal with them. It is also the only one able to guarantee the transportation abroad, which at this time constitutes the most difficult problem in completing a transaction. Accordingly, the "Don Suisse" entrusts all transportation to the International Red Cross, and it must be said that the Committee has in the most friendly way put itself at the disposal of the "Don Suisse" to facilitate its relief work. Also, the International Red Cross Committee starts the negotiations with foreign powers, when necessary.

The allocation of goods abroad is made by a delegate of the "Don Suisse" or by some other Swiss representative who has been dealing with the matter. He does this work either alone or in cooperation with a reliable local organization. Those who are in charge report to the "Don Suisse" on the arrival of the goods at their destination and on their distribution; they also report on the completion of the transaction.

The management of P.T.T. (Postal Telegraph and Telephone Service) has agreed to grant to the "Don Suisse" the postal franchise for all shipments in Switzerland of not exceeding 2 Kgr. 500. The "Don Suisse" also profits by the transportation franchise granted to the Combined Committee in Switzerland and abroad. The Federal Finance Administration has accorded to the Commercial Service of the "Don Suisse" exemption from the business tax and has given it a wholesale firm number - 218.295.

Thanks to the postage freedom, every Swiss concern may make bids without being handicapped by less favorable geographic locations, the estimate being made F.O.B. at the station of loading. Furthermore, in order to give all business a chance to participate in the provision of commodities for the "Don Suisse", the Commercial Service deals not only with the manufacturers and wholesalers, but also with the retailers.

The procedure by which the purchases are made is rather complicated and sometimes a bit slow. It was chosen in order to administer the funds and make the purchases with a minimum of personnel. It was done to remove from the "Don Suisse" the character of a commercial enterprise and yet preserve the possibility of its dealing with such firms as may wish to accord it particular facilities. The Commercial Service has to date passed on 43 orders, representing a value of several millions, which demonstrates the smooth functioning of the system.

Gifts of commodities of the kind and quality purchased by the "Don Suisse" are registered under an account of "Donors" - in which they are marked with the name of the donating firm and the exact amount which the "Don Suisse" would have had to pay for the commodity.

The Establishments Section of the Central Office of the "Don Suisse"

The Establishments Section receives the requests from Swiss people desirous of cooperating with a Swiss organization or any other relief organization in our own country or abroad. It examines these requests and puts at the disposal of these interested persons all possible information in order to find where they can be most useful.

The Establishments Section is cooperating in the organization of training courses for workers of relief organizations. It determines the conditions of work and cooperates with the organizations to which it furnishes personnel. It takes care of the workers in Swiss relief organizations by providing the benefit of collective insurance to the personnel which it sends abroad.

If the "Don Suisse" itself is undertaking a project, the Establishments Section selects and hires the necessary workers.

At present and for reasons of a technical, political and psychological nature, the dispatch of Swiss personnel is encountering some difficulties from foreign authorities. The time for such aid has not yet arrived and therefore the work of the Establishments Section has not yet reached its full development.

The Relief of the "Don Suisse"

Operations Accomplished from 28 February to 15 March.

I. F R A N C E

The "Don Suisse" has sent 10 carloads of potatoes to the city of Lyons, 2 to the Haute Alsace and 2 to the Jura Department. These commodities were distributed by the delegates of the various committees already on duty there.

Among the operations the preparation for which we announced in our Bulletin Number I., the one initiated by the Swiss Red Cross in Vercors has started. The "Don Suisse" has shipped some building tar paper and a first shipment of lumber.

With the cooperation of the French Entraide the "Action des Deux-Bâle" has opened canteens in four badly stricken villages around Mulhouse and Colmar. Ten young people belonging to the Swiss "Société de Navigation" of Bâle organized kitchens and stock piles of food. The "Don Suisse" provided these canteens with soup, powdered milk and dried vegetables, the other necessary food being available on the spot. Moreover, some drugs were also shipped.

II. N E T H E R L A N D S

The Swiss freighter "Henry Dunant", which left Lisbon on January 25 under the flag of the Red Cross, arrived on March 8 at Delfzijl in occupied Holland. Of the 4,800 tons of food composing its cargo, about 1,700 tons were unloaded in Sweden, in order to permit passage through the Sund, whose waters are exceptionally shallow. They will be transported sometime later. The remaining 3,100 tons are now being distributed to the civil population in the occupied Netherlands under control of the Swiss people residing in Holland, with the cooperation of two delegates of the International Red Cross Committee.

Transactions in preparation

Appropriations have been voted for the following transactions:

*1. The Swiss Central Sanitary Station has planned the dispatch of a veterinary epidemiological mission for three months in Yugoslavia, - which action has received approval in principle from the "Don Suisse." It is not certain, however, that this mission will be able to go, since the question of military leave for veterinary surgeons has not yet been arranged.

The purpose of this mission would be the reinstallation of the Bacterio-Serological Institute of Semlin, near Belgrade, in order that that Institute may again provide serum. The Swiss team would also deal with the vaccination of livestock. The cattle of this country have been seriously reduced during the occupation, and those remaining are threatened with epidemics.

*2. Five barracks, 1,000 blankets, 100 sets of relief kits, and seeds for 2000 vegetable gardens will be provided to the Haute Alsace through the "Action des Deux-Bâle".

S T O C K S

Forecasting urgent needs, the "Don Suisse" has established important stocks of drugs, bandage material, Elotto milk, tonics, textiles and shoes.

Fund Raising Drive

On March 4, the donations collected from the public in 10 symbolic boxes placed in the streets of Berne totaled Frs. 14,654.86. In Zurich, on March 6, more than 20,000 francs were received in the same way in 30 boxes.

The First Cow of the "Don Suisse"

The collection department in Zurich received from a peasant the following letter:

"Of my 23 cows, I selected the finest one, which I gave to the "Don Suisse". It is five years old, Simmenthal breed, brown-yellow coated, and she will be calving for the third time next June. May I impose only one condition: that this cow shall go to the village of Munzenheim near Colmar, Alsace ...".

* Please do not mention these operations until they are announced in the press.

A. GENERAL

1. Object of Visit The visit was in response to an invitation from The International Red Cross Committee to the Displaced Persons Division, ERO, to send representatives to discuss the system of communications between displaced persons and their relatives, and the tracing of those whose whereabouts are unknown. Mr. Eyre Carter went from ERO and was joined in Paris by Mr. B. Youngdal, UNRRA Liaison Officer attached to SHAEF, G.5, Displaced Persons and Welfare Branch. As will be seen from this report, our visit was not only completely successful in respect of its primary object, but it uncovered other important matters.

2. Reception We were introduced everywhere by Mr. Royall Tyler the representative of UNRRA in Switzerland and thanks to this were welcomed with the greatest cordiality by Red Cross and Swiss Government officials and others. All gave full and frank cooperation, and there appears to be genuine desire to harmonize with the work of UNRRA the great efforts which the Swiss institutions and people are making to relieve distress caused by the war.

3. This report is divided by subjects and the names of the persons seen appear in the appropriate sections. A copy of the complete report is being taken to the UNRRA office in Paris, and another to Mr. Youngdal for the information of G.5., SHAEF. The following are suggestions as to which Divisions of ERO may be interested in the several sections.

A. General	All Divisions receiving one or more sections.
B. Transit of Displaced Persons through Switzerland	Displaced Persons - Mr. Dudley Ward
C. Red Cross Offer of Information about Displaced Persons	Displaced Persons - Information
D. Communication between Displaced Persons and their relatives, and Tracing	Displaced Persons - Welfare
E. Number and Condition of Displaced Persons in Switzerland	Displaced Persons - Information
F. Don Suisse	Displaced Persons - Welfare Procurement Coordination Division, Department of Supplies Finance Mr. Dudley Ward
G. Red Cross Prisoners of War Parcels	
H. Coordination of Relief Work	
I. Proposed Conference - School of Child Welfare workers	
J. Medical and Welfare Personnel	Health, Welfare, Displaced Persons Establishments & Organization Mr. D. Ward
K. Swiss Relief Personnel	
L. Displaced Persons: Communication and Tracing, Miscellaneous Points	Displaced Persons Welfare
M. Publicity for UNRRA in Switzerland	Mr. D. Ward, Information
N. Communications between Mr. Tyler and E. R. O.	Mr. Parnis; Displaced Persons
O. Conference of German Displaced Persons in Switzerland	Displaced Persons Mr. D. Ward

B. Transit of Displaced Persons through Switzerland

Persons Seen

1. This question - one of paramount importance for the Swiss and for UNRRA - was first put to us at a meeting of senior officials of the IRC, headed by Dr. Harris Buchman, one of the Secretaries-General. We discussed it later with Dr. Olgiati, Secretary of the "Don Suisse" (See Section headed "Don Suisse" and with M. de Haller, Delege du Conseil Fédérale pour les organisations d'entraide nationales (the head of a Government Department effecting liaison with national and international public and private relief agencies, and as such the official channel between UNRRA and the Swiss Government.) Our conversation with M. de Haller was attended by M. Fevrazino, member of the staff of the International Red Cross.

We were also approached by M. Philippe Koenig, official representative in Switzerland of the French Ministère des Prisonniers de Guerre, Déportés et Réfugiés.

2. Importance of the Problem Everyone we saw emphasized the probability that, as the Western and Eastern Allied armies drive inwards, hundreds of thousands of w's and dp's would be compressed behind retreating Germans in the areas along the northern boundary of Switzerland.

Already, according to M. Koenig, about 100 Frenchmen are crossing the frontier daily, and he has been sent by M. Frenay (who himself came recently to confer with the Swiss Government) to deal with this problem. The French have made informal arrangements with the Swiss Government, and are making provision to receive on the Swiss-French frontier at least 20,000 a day at Pontarlier, Val-lorbe, Annemasse and Evian, and to divert through Mulhouse another 10,000 daily.

But the Swiss are worried about the other nationalities who will also come (A newspaper reported last week that an unspecified number of Poles, Russians and Yugoslavs had come in after Allied bombing of German localities near Schaffhouse, and had been interned.) They obviously think the numbers will be large and are anxious to obtain, informally at first, some idea as to whether the French Government, UNRRA, or SHAEF will do anything about it.

3. Particular Aspects

(a) Swiss Capacity

There are already 100,000 displaced persons in Switzerland. Further capacity was put by M. Koenig at 200,000 at one time; M. de Haller gave 50,000. The latter may well be conservative. Both agreed that the period of stay in and transit through Switzerland could be short (2-3 days); provided that reception into France was as rapid as the flow over the northern Swiss border. A through flow of 33,000 a day with a stay of 3 days would necessitate a "capacity" in Switzerland (in addition to their present load) of 100,000 at any one time, so that the numbers of Frenchmen alone (as contemplated by M. Frenay's representative) will strain Swiss resources considerably.

(b) Transportation, Feeding, Epidemic Control

The first certainly, the second probably, and the third possibly will be dealt with by the Swiss inside their boundaries, without outside help unless the volume or a check of intake into French territory reach unmanageable proportions.

(c) Screening for Nationality and Desirability

This is what worries the Swiss most. Hitherto they have acted on the humanitarian principle of accepting (and in most cases interning) anyone who appears to be fleeing for his life, and they do not want to close their frontiers. Equally they cannot afford to land themselves with scores of thousands of refugees (of whom they already have 100,000 in a population of 4 million). Still less do they want Nazis who are fleeing from the wrath to come.

This screening could be done by UNRRA, SHAEF or United Nations personnel either

on the Swiss-German or on the Swiss-French frontier.

(d) We were told that the Franco-Swiss negotiations concerned French displaced persons only, not those of other United Nations.

(e) There is a special problem of Italian nationals. If, by the time these reach the Northern border, there is free ingress into Northern Italy, the Swiss would prefer to route them through the Simplon; if not, the Swiss would wish them to be received across the French frontier.

(f) Although the Swiss authorities have sufficient personnel to deal with the problem (if it is within manageable bounds) inside their territory neither they nor the International Red Cross have personnel available to go either into Germany or into France. But some of the people who have offered themselves to Dr. Olgiati may be available. (See section headed "Swiss Relief Personnel.")

(f) We asked whether (i) the surplus Red Cross prisoner-of-war parcels in Switzerland in Portugal, and (ii) the funds of the Don Suisse could be used for the benefit of displaced persons routed through Switzerland during emergency periods while they were approaching the German-Swiss frontier and after they had been received into France. The response, though quite informal was favorable. (See section headed "Red Cross P.W. Parcels").

5. Conclusions

(a) Mr. Youngdal and I (and I believe Mr. Tyler also) were very much impressed with the serious view taken by the Swiss of this problem, and of its urgency in view of present military developments.

(b) In these informal suggestions, in which the initiative was taken, so far as we were concerned, by the International Red Cross, the alternatives were implicitly and almost explicitly stated to be:

(i) Will the Allied armies occupy that part of Germany bordering Switzerland from north-west to north-east, before the flood of refugees can reach it?

(ii) If not, will some authority receive refugees into France as fast as they cross the Swiss-German frontier?

(iii) Otherwise, the Swiss may reluctantly be forced to close their frontiers when their own resources are saturated and refugees to their fate in Germany.

(c) It seems that the relations between the Swiss and the United Nations would be very favourably affected if UNRRA could make an effective contribution to a solution. The Swiss Government and people have made considerable sacrifices for the refugees whom they have succoured. They are willing to do more, but their resources are already seriously strained. On the other hand Dr. Olgrati (Don Suisse) told us that the Swiss Government and people are very unwilling to accept help in any form from outside Governmental agencies, as they fear it might prejudice their neutral status, which has become almost an article of religious faith to them.

6. Recommendations

We would urge that UNRRA should immediately approach the French and other United Nations Governments concerned to see whether the French will accept responsibility for the whole non-French problem, or will permit UNRRA and/or SHAEF to function alongside the French reception authorities? This involved of course, not only reception at the Franco-Swiss frontier, but even more the speedy removal of non-French nationals to camps in France or elsewhere, so as to keep the route through Switzerland free from congestion.

(a) If UNRRA decides to undertake some responsibility, I suggest (and Mr. Tyler agrees) that an officer of the rank of Head of Section, or at lowest Principal, with executive ability and experience of displaced persons' organization and planning, speaking French fluently (and German if possible), be attached to Mr. Tyler's staff forthwith. This officer would travel constantly between points

affected, make recommendations for technical action to the authorities concerned on the basis of the day-to-day situation, and endeavour to get any necessary technical measures put in operation. Mr. Tyler would conduct political negotiations.

(b) At first these must be informal, as the Swiss Government, qua neutral, cannot deal with UNRRA unless and until requested to do so by all the Governments concerned. We had it impressed on us that there must be no publicity whatever before the end of hostilities.

C. Red Cross Offer of Information about Displaced Persons

Dr. Hans Bachman, one of the Secretaries-General of the International Red Cross Committee, and M. Galopin, another official, spontaneously offered the services of the Red Cross in furnishing information about movements of civilian displaced persons in Germany. The reports brought back personally by I.R.C. delegates, who are moving back and forth amid scenes of great confusion will be of the greatest value, if they are frequent and prompt. We were told that telegraphic communication between Geneva and Berlin had stopped on February 26th.

We asked Mr. Tyler to transmit all such information immediately by cable to E.R.O. for Displaced Persons Division and to UNRRA Paris for Mr. Youngdahl and SHAEF, G.5.

We regarded this offer as highly significant. Although it was not explicitly linked with the possibility of UNRRA action in regard to the transit of displaced persons through Switzerland (see section B), it may well have been raised as a gesture of co-operation, with the other question in mind.

D. Communication between Displaced Persons and their Relatives, and Tracing.

1. Persons interviewed

Mlle. Suzanne Ferriere, member of I.R.C. Committee, primarily in charge of Civilian communications. All letters on this subject should be addressed to her. If she is away, they will be dealt with by:-

M. Thudicum, Head of British Section, Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre.

Mme. Morier, British Section.

Mlle. Strahler, American Section (may be going to Japan shortly)

M. Jecquier, Head of French Section.

M. Fenniger, Head of Polish Section.

M. de Rougemont, Head of "Watson Service."

2. Relations of National Tracing Bureaux with I.R.C.

We discussed with Mlle. Ferriere and her colleagues the principal point on which there had seemed from correspondence to be a difference of outlook, and reached complete agreement. Details are given in the minutes of the meeting. (See Appendix A). The main point is that the I.R.C. entirely accept our contention that enquiries should first be routed to the National Tracing Bureaux.

3. The Central Bureau System

We inspected this thoroughly.

- a) At present communications and enquiries from and about prisoners of war and civilians are recorded on a series of card indices grouped by nationalities. After hostilities cease and p.w.'s are repatriated, all nationalities will be combined in a single alphabetical card index.

- b) Every sort of information, official and unofficial received about an individual is recorded on his card, but the source is shown so that the value of each item can be assessed.
- c) In most national sections each item is recorded on a fresh card, so that one individual may have anything from one to a dozen cards, all filed together. Statistics are kept of the number of cards in the register, the total is now 25 million (including enemy nationalities), but this gives no sort of idea of the number of individuals. At a guess, I estimate that each British, American or German p.w. has an average of 6 cards, whereas only 5 or 10 per cent of Poles have more than one.
- d) The I.R.C. will endeavour to calculate and send us an analysis of the number of individuals on their books, showing nationalities and distinguishing between prisoners of war and civilians. From my observation I am certain that the number of civilians with cards is relatively small - a matter of scores of thousands - and that is only a small proportion of these cases is there any really definite information as to whereabouts. For displaced persons' tracing the present value of the index appears much small than I had supposed.
- e) The system will, however, become increasingly valuable as more information is received, i.e. as displaced persons are picked up and reported. This will apply particularly to non-repatriables, who (since they will have no National Tracing Bureau) will rely almost wholly on the Central Bureau.
- f) The "Watson Service" (mechanical system of punched cards) is only in effective use for part of work concerning British and American p.w.'s. It is not used for and appears to be of little value for civilian d.p.'s. It cannot be used for tracing a particular individual's card.
- g) The I.R.C. have compiled certain technical instructions - e.g. on variant forms of first names and family names - which they will send us for transmission to National Tracing Bureaux.

E. Number and Condition of Displaced Persons in Switzerland.

1. We were not able to obtain detailed figures before we left, but Mr. Tyler will send them to E.R.O. for Displaced Persons Division and to UNRRA Paris (for Mr. Youngdahl and SHAEF).
2. Meanwhile, all authorities agree that the total is about 100,000. An idea of the composition can be gathered from the following figures as at October 1st, 1944, taken from a newspaper report of a speech by the Chief of Police.

Total October 1st.	95,000
Military personnel interned under international law	16,000
Ditto in hospital	430
Escaped Prisoners of War (not internable)	3,300
Deserters	700
Italian ex-soldiers (not covered by international law)	18,500
Children (French and Italian))	Six weeks (15,000
Mothers (" " "))	inflow (4,000
	Oct-Nov. (

The above figures are, of course, incomplete.

3. The answers to specific questions given me by Dr. Langrod are:-

- a) 1672 Hungarian refugees. Still in Switzerland. Shaf and AFHQ, Italy, are still exchanging telegrams about how to get them to Philippeville. Mr. Youngdahl will urge SHAEF to put more pressure on, but sea transport is probably the difficulty. The Swiss, in order to get rid of them, would probably provide a train as far as Marseilles, if SHAEF will find the coal. All of these refugees are Zionists, and are unwilling to go to Philippeville, because they think they will be side-tracked there instead of getting to Palestine. Also they have heard rumours of bad conditions at Philippeville. It might be desirable to send to Mr. Tyler an account of conditions and facilities there.

The total includes a few Poles and Jugo-Slavs.

- b) 52-75 with Latin-American passports, some Dutch. Some have left Switzerland, but is not known whether destination was U.S.A. or North Africa. About 25 were left behind. The Latin-American passports were false.
- c) 8,000 Hungarian Jews. Have not arrived. No one has any news, and as they seem to have been part of a personal arrangement between a leading Swiss politician and Himmler, the present trend of events would seem to make it unlikely that the arrangement will bear fruit.
- d) 4,500 Hungarian Jews with Swedish passports. Same as c).
- e) 1,500 Yugo-Slavs. These are reported by the Unitarian Service Committee to be in or about Marseilles, though some may not have gotten further than Lyons. Their expenses so far were covered, so there is no liability on UNRRA for their transportation to their present location.
- f) 33,700 & 2,400 refugees. See a) above. I deliberately did not raise any question about these figures, because I did not want to give an impression that UNRRA is assuming liability for these displaced persons.

4. 1200 Jews from Teresienstadt camp (Terezin), near Prague, reached Switzerland a few weeks ago. They include 400 Dutch, 120 Czech, and 640 German. Most are elderly and not many are Zionists. It is understood that the Dutch Government to hold Dutch subjects for the present. The remainder will probably be dealt with in the same fashion as the 1672 Hungarian Jews in 3(a).

5. By far the greater number of all displaced persons in Switzerland are in congregated groups. "Camps" is the wrong word, because they are housed in hotels and other requisitioned buildings. As a rule they have liberty of movement within a prescribed locality. The able-bodied are put to work on road-making, timber-felling etc. Elderly and sick people receive appropriate treatment. We gathered that no displaced person is allowed to seek employment on his own. We did not have time to visit any group, but it may be taken for granted that the Swiss are maintaining them all at a reasonable standard. For example, we were told that those who were engaged on organised manual labour received rations at the Swiss army scale, which is of course better than the Swiss civilian ration.

6. We understood that M. van Zeeland, of the International Clearing Bank in Basle, is accepted (? informally) as responsible for the interests of Belgian displaced persons. Some of the Polish d.p.'s were similarly accepted, informally. There is believed to be no Dutch representative.

F. "Don Suisse"

1. Scope of the Fund

a) This organisation, known to some divisions in E.R.O. as the "Wetter Committee," is to give relief to "Victims of the War." Its scope is described in the appeal booklet entitled "Nous voulons aider." (2 copies accompany this report). It has been given 100 million francs (about 5 3/4 million pounds) by the Swiss Government, which is at the rate of about 26 shillings per head of the population, and hopes to raise at least a third as much again by public appeal.

b) We saw the executive head, Dr. Rodolfo Olgiati, who struck us as a man of great capacity, vision, and sincerity.

c) He told us that, in principle, there will be no distinction between Allied and Axis countries as beneficiaries of the fund, but that in practice public opinion is against using the fund in Germany or Northern Italy, at least while the Hitler regime lasts. It is not intended to work in Switzerland and where the Government has assumed the responsibility of looking after displaced persons.

d) Food, medical supplies, materials and tools for constructing shelter are already being sent to devastated areas in France and Holland. The "Don Suisse" does not employ its own personnel, but aids various Swiss organisations, which in turn send one or two representatives each to the areas benefiting and these work through local agencies.

e) Close relations are maintained with the International Red Cross, which, for instance, recently arranged transport of food to German-occupied Holland.

f) There are a few small "Don Suisse" schemes for bringing special groups, such as tuberculosis cases, to Switzerland. The Swiss Red Cross are responsible for the larger schemes which have been operating some time for bringing French, Belgian and Dutch children for periods of three months.

2. Supply Questions

a) Mr. Tyler said that all or most of the questions on which I took him a message from the Procurement Co-ordination Division has been answered in reports and letters to E.R.O. On the specific question of Swiss labour capacity to produce relief goods, Mr. Tyler said this would depend on date of receipt of raw materials.

b) Generally, Dr. Olgiati told us that available stocks are quite small, and would remain so until the Government felt able, after the danger of fighting had moved well away from the Swiss border, to release Swiss army stocks of food and medical supplies.

3. Personnel

The "Don-Suisse" is not at present concerned with the recruitment or training of relief workers, but may take the matter up later. (See the section headed "Swiss Relief Personnel").

G. Red Cross Prisoners of War Parcels

1. Owing to conditions in Germany, the normal flow of parcels from the International Red Cross to prisoners of war camps has been almost entirely suspended. Stocks, both of the standard Red Cross parcels and (in the case of the French) private parcels sent by families to specific prisoners are piling up in Swiss warehouses.

2. Owing to lack of transport across France, consignments from U.K. and U.S.A. are piling up in Lisbon.

3. We discussed with Dr. Hans Bachmann, one of the Secretaries-General of the International Red Cross, the possibility of using these parcels for displaced persons.

- (a) We suggested that as soon as the Allied Armies established Assembly Centres in Germany, standard prisoners of war parcels now in Switzerland should be sent to all United Nations' displaced persons, irrespective of whether they claimed or had been given the status of prisoners of war. Dr. Bachmann saw no great difficulty in this and undertook to try to obtain the necessary consent of the national Red Cross societies which had supplied the parcels.
- (b) He told us that the French private parcels, which, owing to present conditions could not be delivered to individual prisoners, would be unpacked and their contents made up into standard parcels.
- (c) We suggested that the parcels accumulated in Lisbon should be used for United Nations' displaced persons in France, Belgium and Holland, since transport to those countries would be shorter than Germany, and that again the question of prisoner of war status should be waived. Dr. Bachmann replied that since the International Red Cross Committee had not yet taken full responsibility for parcels in Lisbon they were still at the disposal of the donors - the British, Canadian and American Red Cross Societies. He said it was for SHAEF and/or UNRRA to approach these societies. Mr. Youngdahl is taking this up with SHAEF and a further report will be made to E.R.O. on this point.

H. Co-ordination of Relief Work

1. The International Red Cross Committee is already doing relief work in a number of countries, including Jugo-Slavia, Roumania, and Poland. Mr. Zollinger asked on behalf of the Red Cross that, whenever an UNRRA mission went to a particular country, it should contact the I.R.C. delegate there and co-ordinate effort. We suggested that it would be useful to exchange information between I.R.C., Geneva, and E.R.O. as to tentative plans for relief in various countries. I gave M. Zollinger what information I could about missions to Roumania, Bulgaria and Poland.

2. As regards Roumania, Mr. MacLelland, War Refugee Board (formerly a worker in the Friends' Service Committee), said that approximately one million people needed relief. The Zionists claim that of these 50,000 are Jews who have no economic future in the country and should be settled elsewhere (i.e. Palestine). He said that the Russian authorities were permitting voluntary relief societies to function in Roumania, but were not giving them any help.

I. Proposed Conference - School for Child Welfare in Switzerland Dr. Forel's scheme

I reported to Mr. Tyler that the Health, Welfare and Displaced Persons Divisions were interested in the scheme, of which he had already sent an outline to E.R.O., for holding in the spring in Switzerland a conference-school, lasting some weeks, of social workers concerned with the rehabilitation, particularly on the psychological side, of children suffering from effects of war.

Mr. Tyler doubts whether this scheme will come to much. The Dr. Forel who is promoting it is not the famous Dr. Forel, but his son, and Mr. Tyler is not impressed by his ability. He will, however, keep E.R.O. informed as to developments.

J. Medical and Welfare Personnel

We were informed from several sources that among the 100,000 displaced persons in Switzerland there are quite a number of qualified doctors, and some nurses and social workers. None of these are allowed to work at their professions except for a few who are attending their compatriots in their places of internment. Many of them are being re-trained in other occupations. We had the impression that the Swiss authorities would be quite willing to let these doctors et. volunteer for professional work under UNRRA: it is for E.R.O. to take the initiative.

K. Swiss Relief Personnel

1. Dr. Olgiati, executive head of the "Don Suisse" (see separate section under that heading), said that in his personal capacity he had received some hundreds of applications from Swiss persons wanting to do relief work outside Switzerland. These included doctors, nurses and welfare workers. Many have taken special courses in relief work lasting 3-6 months.

2. He believed that many of these workers are highly qualified; he ought to be a good judge, for he himself worked in the Civil War in Spain and has considerable other experience. He says there is a widespread desire on the part of Swiss people to make their contribution to post-war relief; most would prefer to work in Allied countries or for Allied displaced persons in Germany; some would go reluctantly, but from a sense of duty, to work for Germans in Germany (this concerns SHAEF rather than UNRRA).

3. If the situation develops that a large number of displaced persons congregate on the German-Swiss frontier (see section B), these workers might be willing and might be allowed by the Swiss Government to work just outside the Swiss frontier even before the Allied armies take over this territory. (This would be a matter for decision by the Swiss themselves; obviously UNRRA could not invite them to go there before the end of hostilities in that area).

They could certainly be used on the Swiss-French border.

4. We made no commitment on behalf of UNRRA with regard to the employment of Swiss personnel, except to say that we would send a copy of the job specification for Assembly Centre teams to Dr. Olgiati through Mr. Tyler. However, we recommend that the policy on this matter be decided and a notification sent to Mr. Tyler as soon as possible as to whether or not UNRRA is likely to need any of these offers of service.

5. Mr. Ferrazine, of the International Red Cross Committee staff, said that his organization have no Swiss or other personnel available for relief or Assembly Centre teams.

L. Displaced Persons - Communications and Tracing Relatives, Miscellaneous Points

The following points arose in the course of talks with International Red Cross Officers:-

1. All information about a displaced person or a missing relative should be recorded, whether it comes from official or unofficial sources. The source should always be stated, so as to indicate the trustworthiness of the record. Information of an indirect nature (e.g. A says "I was told by B that C was in such a place on such a date") should be so recorded (on C's card, with particulars of where A and B may found, if further enquiry from them is needed).

2. Tracing of Polish Nationals The International Red Cross Committee are in touch with

(a) Mr. Kolat, Polish Red Cross in London

(b) Polish (7 Red Cross) in Cairo

(c) Union des Patriotes Polonais, rue Shah Peza, Teherany Iran.

(a) and (b) have records of most Poles displaced outside Poland and U.S.S.R.

(d) can establish contact with Poles in Poland and with many Poles now in U.S.S.R.

Any enquiries about Poles should be directed to the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, who will forward them to the appropriate agency. The enquiry should state whether the individual enquired for is believed to be in Poland, in U.S.S.R., or in some other country.

3. Notification of deaths to International Red Cross

It is strongly urged that all National Tracing Bureaux should send to the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, particulars of the death of any person who (a) is displaced outside his own national boundaries, or (b) dies in his own country but has some member of his family displaced outside that country.

4. New Card P.10027 The International Red Cross Committee are on the point of producing a new version of the Registration/Enquiry card P.10,027. It will be a double card, and both halves will be sent to Geneva. The purpose of the double card is that, on arrival in Geneva, one half of the card will be filed in the card index under the name of the enquirer, and the other half under the name of the person enquired for.

It is not at present intended to distribute the new card to countries of the United Nations, since most of these are believed to have stocks of the present card P.10,027 bis. The new double card will be issued to displaced persons in Assembly Centres in Germany if and when permission is given by the military authorities.

When ready, 20 samples will be sent to Mrs. Nicholls, Displaced Persons Division, E.R.O., for distribution to the various National Tracing Bureaux.

5. Technical Suggestions - list of First Names.

The International Red Cross have found it necessary to compile a list of first names (prenoms) in various languages with their French equivalents. It is often found that different members of a family spell the first name of a particular relative in different ways; and of course anyone name, e.g. Peter, is spelled differently in different languages. Twenty copies of this list are being sent to Mrs. Nicholls, Displaced Persons Division, E.R.O., for distribution to National Tracing Bureaux, in case they may find the idea useful.

We asked the I.R.C. to send to E.R.O. from time to time any other suggestions connected with the technical running of the card index, so that we might pass these on to National Tracing Bureaux.

6. Extension of Red Cross Postal Messages.

(a) Baltic States It is now possible Postal Messages (25 words) to Latvia, Esthonia and Lithuania through the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva. They travel via Teheran, and will therefore take some time to arrive.

(b) Not long ago the German Government agreed to accept Red Cross Postal Messages for civilians interned in concentration camps, etc. In view of the fact, however, that the residents in many, if not most of these camps are being moved in view of the developments in the fighting, it is doubtful whether this concession can be implemented to any large extent.

M. Publicity for UNRRA in Switzerland

1. Mr. Tyler has made available to Journalists and others who have approached him any information about UNRRA which reached him from E.R.O. in a form suitable for publication. He will be glad to distribute anything more that may be sent him from time to time.

2. In particular, he wants six copies of all the resolutions passed at the Montreal Conference.

3. Mr. Tyler said that sympathetic and well-informed articles on UNRRA had appeared in the Swiss papers circulating in influential business and political circles. A leading Socialistic paper, Die Tdt, with a larger but less responsible circle of readers, had been highly critical. Mr. MacLelland, War Refugee Board, said there was greater need for publicity among Swiss private (voluntary) societies, who were critical through ignorance.

N. Communications between Mr. Tyler and E.R.O.

1. I gave Mr. Tyler the notes by Mr. Parnis on transmission of cables etc., and emphasised the necessity for Mr. Tyler to repeat to London my cable sent to Washington.

2. I asked Mr. Tyler to repeat to UNRRA Paris any communication sent to E.R.O. concerning displaced persons. The Paris Office will pass this on to Mr. Youngdahl for the information of SHAEF.

O. Conference of German Displaced Persons in Switzerland

Mlle. Ferriere, of the International Red Cross Committee, and Mr. MacLelland, War Refugee Board, gave us accounts of a conference, held last week of representatives of German displaced persons in Switzerland.

The item of most significance to UNRRA was that, on the question of whether or not they wished to return to Germany after the end of hostilities, opinion was divided into three sections:-

(a) German-Jews with no particular political affiliation were definitely unwilling to return.

(b) Communists and other political exiles (not being Jews) equally definitely wish to return and help to build a new Germany in co-operation with the rest of the world.

(c) Jews who are also Communists wish to return in the same way as (b).

It was estimated that class (a) (those unwilling to return to Germany) informed about 25% of the total number of German displaced persons, and it was thought that the same proportion would hold good for displaced Germans in other countries.

The opinion was expressed that among Austrian displaced persons rather less than 25% would be unwilling to return.

MS/AM.
1.3.45.

APPENDIX A

MINUTES of the meeting of Mlle. FERRIERE, member of the ICRC and Messrs. CARTER and YOUNGDAHL of the Displaced Persons Division of the UNRRA on the 6th of February 1945 in Geneva:

Present:	Mlle. FERRIERE,	Member of the ICRC
	Mr. EYRE CARTER)	
	Mr. YOUNGDAHL (UNRRA
	Mr. ROYALL TYLER)	
	Mlle. STRAHLER)	Managing Board of the "Agence
	Mr. THUDICHUM (Centrale des Prisonniers de
		Guerre."

Mr. CARTER gives a brief account of the present arrangements made by UNRRA with regard to the facilities to be extended during the early phase to Allied Nationals found in Assembly Centres in Germany.

The various points may be summed up as follows:

1. A postcard will be placed at the disposal of all Allied Nationals in Assembly Centres during the pre-repatriation period. This postcard will contain three printed sentences and is to be sent only to known addresses in the homecountry.
2. There will be a residuum of non-repatriable and stateless persons who will not be allowed to use this card nor to make any inquiries during this early phase.

It may also happen that a man having a home address where to send a postcard may know a member of his family to have been deported. He will not be able to make an inquiry during the pre-repatriation period, but will have to await his return home. The inquiry will then be directed to his National Tracing Bureau who will endeavour to solve the case with the help of the information available and open investigations if any clue exists.

Mlle. FERRIERE asks how much time is likely to elapse before Geneva is notified of such cases and Mr. CARTER replies that this will be done whenever no results have been achieved.

Mlle. FERRIERE however expresses the wish that Geneva might be immediately advised by the despatch of a duplicate card in the following cases:

- a) If there is no information available in the National Tracing Bureau;
- b) If the person sought for is believed to be outside his national boundaries.
- c) If either of the parties concerned is not a permanent resident of the country where the inquiry originates.

The ICRC does not want duplicates of cards referring to persons displaced within their national boundaries, but is of opinion that "Internationally Dispersed" cases (1) should be sent to Geneva without delay.

It is also agreed upon that in the event of a solution being found in the National Tracing Bureaux, Geneva should be informed that the case may be considered as closed.

Mr. CARTER agrees to recommend points a), b) and c) to all National Tracing Bureaux.

Reverting to point 2), stateless and non-repatriable persons constituting the residuum, it is agreed upon after discussion:

- a. that Mr. YOUNGDAHL will endeavour to obtain the agreement of SHAEF to have P10027 cards placed at the disposal of this category of persons as soon as they have been transferred to a semi-permanent camp.
- b. that the ICRC will provide the cards and deliver them when required.

In fact the whole question of rendering the International Red Cross P10027 card accessible to all inmates of Assembly Centres will be taken up with SHAEF.

3. Mr. CARTER brings up the question of notification of address to inquirers and it is decided to proceed as follows:

If two persons, "A" and "B" are looking for each other and a "concordance" is effected in our card index, both parties are to be simultaneously informed of each other's address.

Should however a third party "C" inquire for either "A" or "B" and the information requested be available in our card index, it is so communicated to the inquirer only with the expressed consent of the inquiree.

The ICRC is in full agreement with this point of view and has issued to this effect general adamant rules which are to be applied immediately in all its civilian sections.

-
- (1) Inquirer and Inquiree being away from their usual residence, unable to return there unaided, in different countries and in doubt as to each other's whereabouts.

Mr. THUDICHUM mentions the necessity of obtaining lists of deceased persons in order to complete our information on Internationally Dispersed Persons and it is decided to apply for such lists to the National Tracing Bureaux or other sources.

Problems regarding children who are too young to know their own identity are then discussed from various points of view and the decision is taken to follow the matter closely in the near future.

~~Dr. Savage~~
~~Dr. Cattle~~
~~Dr. Fashon~~
Thies been
~~Dr. Dearing~~
~~Dr. Abner~~

Mrs Johnston
 Dr Boyon
 Dr. Wood
 The Hunt
 The Smith
 Mr Adridge
 Dr. S. S.
 Dr. S. S.
 Mrs. Morris

Royall Tyler.

1 copy has been sent to UNRRA London."

28 February 1945

"Don Suisse" for the Victims of War
Information Bulletin from the Central Office

No. 1

What is the "Don Suisse"?

The Don Suisse is not a federal agency any more than it is a monopoly of relief services abroad. On the contrary it seeks to utilize private initiative and it supports, by grants of funds, the work of the entr'aide and other existing local committees.

The Don Suisse is in the first place a coordinating center. It investigates the situation of the civilian population in the regions devastated by the war. It furnishes private organizations with materials they need, makes arrangements with federal bureaus and prevents the waste of energy which would be caused if two groups were trying to accomplish the same thing.

Faithful to its neutrality, the Don Suisse cannot affiliate with UNRRA, but it maintains official relations with that great organization which might be called upon to expand in the very near future. It works in collaboration with the different branches of the International Red Cross.

The means at the disposal of the Don Suisse are very meager compared with the needs. The following principles will therefore guide its activities:

1) The geographic situation of Switzerland permits her to bring aid during the period between the cessation of hostilities and the arrival of supplies from overseas. This aid will be limited to liberated countries.

2) The aid given by the Don Suisse must first of all benefit our neighbors.

3) The assistance of the Don Suisse can also represent a sort of sponsorship of the countries to whom we are bound by strong historic and cultural ties.

4) Each operation must be envisaged in a spirit of absolute justice; aid is given wherever the suffering is greatest.

While UNRRA undertook the task of bringing, on the one hand, urgent relief (Relief) and on the other the task of "setting things going again" (Rehabilitation) the Don Suisse particularly intends to protect the victims of war from hunger, cold and epidemics. The greatest possible number of

human lives must be saved; the greatest possible number of unfortunate people must be enabled to take up their work under normal conditions.

How is relief carried out?

The Don Suisse usually works through the medium of the large mutual aid organizations (Swiss Red Cross, Oeuvre Suisse d'entr'aide ouvriere, Union Suisse de charite "Caritas", Commission d'entr'aide et de reconstruction des Eglises, etc.) and other committees which have been formed in certain cities and cantons.

The organizations to which Don Suisse funds may be granted must present sufficient guarantees of the seriousness with which they will accomplish their work; and distribution must be done without political or other consideration. The organization that calls on the Don Suisse for help must submit detailed plans and a budget to the Central Office.

After finding out where aid can be given it submits the project to the Executive Committee who may grant or refuse the funds requested.

The contribution of the Don Suisse consists of supplies delivered, or eventually of payment in money if it is necessary to send specialists such as doctors, technicians, social workers, etc. The Don Suisse concerns itself with the request for export permits, regulates the question of transportation and it also maintains relations with foreign authorities.

There are cases where the Don Suisse itself proposes a specific operation and takes charge of it.

Organization

Under the National Committee of the Don Suisse, presided over by Mr. Wetter, former Federal Councillor, the Executive Committee directs the work.

The practical operations are entrusted to the Central Office whose chief is Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati, Schaubplatzgasse 39, Berne. Under the Central Office are the following sections:

1. The Relief Section examines the proposals emanating from the Entr'Aide and sees that they are carried out. Its chief is Mr. Carl A. Egger.
2. The Commercial Service under the direction of Mr. U.V. Benziger is in charge of purchases which are made through the proper federal offices (OGIF, OGA). Each bill is countersigned by the Price Control Office before it is paid by the Commercial Service.
3. The Personnel Section receives the applications of those who wish to put themselves at the disposal of the Don Suisse. It works in collaboration with the organizers of courses in social work.

4. The Fund Raising Section, Bergstrasse 29, Zurich, organizes the fund raising drives in the whole of Switzerland. It includes sections on press and propaganda. Its director is Mr. E. A. Graf.

5. The Documents Service, directed by Mr. R. Jaquet, keeps them informed of the needs of regions requiring assistance.

6. The Information Service under the direction of Mr. A. R. Lindt informs the public on the nature and the plans of the Don Suisse and on the relief it supplies. It also keeps the Central Office informed on public opinion.

The relations it maintains with the different existing organizations does away with the necessity of the creation of a complicated administrative machinery by the Don Suisse itself. The different services now operating in Berne employ 25 workers and the fund-raising department employs 32 people.

The Relief Services of the Don Suisse

I. France

Different regional committees have given assistance to the people who live along the border, acting as precursors of the Don Suisse. These have already done the following:

1. The Basle Committee gave lodging in Haute Alsace to civilian refugees close to the border. Medical supplies were distributed at Mulhouse.

2. Two tons of powdered milk were sent to the children of Marseille.

3. Five tons of hooks and five tons of nails have been put at the disposition of the people of Maurienne by the Union Suisse de Charite "Caritas" to repair the roofs of their houses.

4. L'Oeuvre suisse d'entr'aide ouvriere (workers mutual aid), to which the Don Suisse gave funds, has been able to keep its canteens operating in the Berliet factories at Lyon where it takes care of young people and has extended its activities to the Somua factories and to the employees of the P.T.T. (Post, Telephone, Telegraph Co.) 18 tons of food have been furnished for this purpose by the Don Suisse, and clothes have been distributed to families who have no means of support.

5. A medical mission from the Swiss Red Cross has been sent into Normandy and Brittany. Nurseries with children's dispensaries have been opened in the cities of LeHavre, Caen and Brest. Each group is furnished

with equipment which permits it to be self-sufficient; that is, they are given barracks, and all necessary equipment and medical supplies.

6. Thirty-five tuberculous French students were received at Leysin by the Centre d'Accueil of the international university sanitarium.

7. The Committee of the Jura region to aid the bombed out areas of Belfort and Monthellard has sent 9 tons of food and medical supplies and 40 tons of apples to two French Cities. This shipment also included building tar paper, oiled paper, etc.

8. Twenty-five wagons of apples were sent to the city of Marseille where they will be distributed by the Swiss Red Cross in cooperation with the Marseille authorities.

The following operations, for which funds have already been obtained, are now in preparation:

*1. To help the inhabitants of Vercors rebuild their houses, the Swiss Red Cross is sending them 40 wagons full of wood, machinery with which to work it, and tools. Swiss mechanics will go along to help set up the machinery.

*2. The Basle Committee will open canteens in Haute-Alsace.

*3. The Union Suisse de Charite is going to furnish the sinistres in the region of the Moselle food, medical supplies, clothes and building materials. Social workers will look after the children.

*4. The Red Cross will open canteens on the Riviera for the distribution of milk. This will reach 10,000 children and will last 3 months.

*5. The Swiss Society of Quakers will send three huts to Normandy which will be used as workshops for sewing and carpentry.

*6. The Commission d'entr'aide et de reconstruction des Eglises will send 10 huts to lodge the homeless on the La Manche coast.

*7. The Oeuvre Suisse d'entr'aide ouvriere will extend the work begun at Lyon to St. Etienne.

*8. The Comite vaudois d'aide au Department du Jura has received funds to assist a particularly badly struck village. It will also send barracks, clothes and medical supplies into other localities.

*9. The Swiss Red Cross will send 2 huts for canteens which they will open at Valance and LePouzin. Clothes and medical supplies will be distributed.

II. Belgium

The Swiss Red Cross has installed at Merxem (Antwerp), Kessel-Loe, Tournai, Angleur (Liege) and St. Ghislain (Mons) dispensaries for mothers and children to whom 156 tons of food and medical supplies have been distributed.

A rest at Leysin is also planned for 50 Belgian students.

III. Holland

Although Holland is not one of the countries that is a neighbor of Switzerland and although the war has not yet left her territory, her food situation and the cultural ties which unite her with our country justify the aid which has been given her. Switzerland was, moreover, the only country who could go in.

1. The first project was conceived by a committee in Basle. It was a plan to send food to Rotterdam by the boat "Tamina." But the military situation prevented the realization of that plan. The cargo of the "Tamina", 215 tons of food and medical supplies, was then sent across Belgium in care of the Mixed Commission of the International Red Cross to the liberated parts of Holland where these supplies were distributed by the Dutch Red Cross.

2. The cargo "Henry Dunant" left Lisbon on January 26, 1945.

It was loaded with 4,850 tons of food which had been taken from the stocks of Swiss merchandise in warehouses in Portugal which could not at that time be transported to Switzerland. On board the ship there was a delegate of the International Red Cross Committee. The "Henry Dunant" reached the Swedish port Göteborg on 13 February and then went to the Dutch port Delfzijl. The distribution of this food to the civilian population of occupied Holland is to be done by Swiss people living in Holland.

3. The Don Suisse bought the Mixed Commission 2670 tons of cereals which were in warehouses in Germany. That shipment permitted 500,000 inhabitants of the cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam to obtain for one month a supplementary bread ration of 210 grams. There, too, the Swiss in Holland were charged with the distribution.

4. Then, after the Mixed Commission has assured itself of the possibility of shipping by train to Amsterdam, the Don Suisse will arrange for another shipment of 190 tons consisting of medical supplies from the American Red Cross and of food bought a long time ago for Holland.

These supplies will be distributed by a Dutch organization under the control of Swiss people in Holland and of a delegate of the International Red Cross.

Fund-raising by the Don Suisse

In various ways, the fund-raising campaign of the Don Suisse appeals to all classes of Swiss people and reaches all groups. A great number of activities were undertaken to reach the people of all levels of society and to arouse interest from the top to the bottom of the social scale.

The Don du Travail (Workers' Donation) collects the contributions of the workers and the employees who give 2, 5 or 10 francs deducted from their weekly salary for several weeks and for which they get receipt-stamps. The Don de l'Economie approaches all large businesses (banks, insurance companies, business houses); it is expected that these will give 1% of their net profits and 1% of their capital. The Don de la campagne (Country Donation) will be a gift in kind whose size will depend on the next crops. Also the Dons de l'Artisanat et du Commerce de Detail (Donation of the Craftsmen and retail business men) will be in kind rather than in money. The Don des Arts (Donation of the Arts) will gather together the works of our artists, books with authors' inscriptions and manuscripts which will probably be put in a lottery. The Don des 3000 Communes (Donation of the 3000 communes) and the Don des 25 Cantons (Donation of the 25 cantons) will include the subscriptions voted by the authorities of the cantons and the communes. In the schools they will collect the Don de la Jeunesse (Young Peoples' Donation); a small booklet will give information on the services rendered by each pupil. The young people will also aid in the sale of badges. The Don des Societes requests that a collection box be placed in the offices and that parties be arranged for the benefit of the Don Suisse. A Don Suisse abroad is also planned. The P.T.T. (Post, Telephone, Telegraph Co.) have issued stamps for the victims of war, purchase of which will constitute the Don des Philatelistes. On the 3rd and 4th of March there will be a country-wide sale of badges. The Action des Boles de Lait of the Swiss Red Cross (Milk Fund for Children) planned for next May will this year be devoted to the Don Suisse. A Prayer Service to be held on Armistice Day is being arranged. The blue contribution sheet will bring in large donations inspired by the reading of our pamphlet to which it is attached and a special letter urges the most affluent Swiss people to participate in the Don Suisse by making large contributions.

The Documentation Service of the Don Suisse would be grateful if people returning from abroad would kindly get in touch with it and give it information on conditions in countries through which they have travelled. The Documentation Service is at Laupenstrasse 9, Berne. Tel. 2, 74, 14.

*We ask you please not to speak of these activities since they have not yet been announced to the press.

DEC 26 1944

NOTE OF THE MEETING AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON 27 NOVEMBER 1944 ON UNRRA'S
RELATIONS WITH NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

Present:	Mr. E. L. Hall Patch in the Chair	}	F.O.
	Mr. Hoyer-Miller		
	Mr. A. D. Marris		
	Mr. A. Camps		
	Mr. A. Lincoln		
	Mr. Dudley Ward	}	UNRRA
	Mr. Herbert		
	Mr. H. E. Caustin		

Mr. Ward described the reports which UNRRA had received as to the Swiss Government's intentions regarding the provision of relief to European countries upon the cessation of hostilities in Europe. In view of the substantial sums the Swiss proposed to devote to relief the Administration had decided that it would be advisable to integrate the Swiss programme as closely as possible with UNRRA's own operations. With this in view the Administration intended to notify its representative in Berne of its general position regarding contributions and relief activities by neutral countries and to ask him to approach the Swiss Government in order to ascertain whether it would be ready to receive a small technical Mission which could discuss supply and financial questions. Mr. Ward quoted a Washington telegram on this subject.

Mr. Herbert referred to proposals which had been made regarding the use of Swiss manufacturing capacity for the production of relief goods from raw materials sent into Switzerland under appropriate safeguards. He explained that such a proposition was not particularly attractive to the Administration which would wish in the first instance to utilize the manufacturing capacity in, for example, textiles in France, Belgium and Czechoslovakia first. Considerable difficulties might be expected if the Administration were to place orders in Switzerland at a time when unemployment was a serious problem in newly liberated territories. On the other hand Mr. Herbert said, urgent spot requirements, particularly in the field of textile goods which the Swiss might be able to satisfy from existing stocks, might be extremely useful and the Administration would certainly be prepared to take up any such supplies as were available.

The Foreign Office representatives at first took the position that any approach to the Swiss should be based on the presumption that as a neutral country the Swiss should be expected to make a substantially larger contribution towards relief as a preliminary to joining UNRRA. After further discussion in the course of which it was pointed out that the UNRRA Mission was not regarded as inviting Swiss participation in the Administration, it was thought that the question of membership was not a matter which could be profitably raised with a neutral country at the present time; such an invitation could only be accepted by a neutral after the cessation of hostilities.

The Foreign Office representatives then took the position that the best line to pursue with the Swiss was to encourage the maximum contribution towards relief purposes as an independent Swiss initiative.

For practical reasons it would be essential to coordinate this as closely as possible with the UNRRA programme and a visit of technical experts having this as its object would be desirable, subject to the comments of the political advisers of the Foreign Office. Mr. Hall Patch emphasized that such negotiations should not receive any publicity whatever and should be presented solely as technical discussions; that the less said about the Mission the better its chances of success would be. In any event the Swiss Government's assistance to relief should not be regarded as a contribution to UNRRA but as an entirely separate gift by Switzerland made directly and, if necessary, in the name of Switzerland to the destitute people of whatever countries the Swiss wish to aid.

Mr. Hall Patch promised to inform the Administration as early as possible as to the full Foreign Office view.

A proposal that the Swedish Government should be approached with regard to the provision of supplies for Poland was also discussed and it was agreed that the same general considerations applied as in the case of the proposed Swiss Mission.

The question of opening negotiations with the Turkish Government in order to integrate the relief work being undertaken by Turkish official and voluntary agencies in Greece was also discussed. It was agreed that this could best be discussed in the light of the information which would be available after Sir William Matthews visit to London.