

M. E. O. CAMPS

700

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700



9203R Third Cut

UNRRA

M. E. O. Camps - 700
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: 933
TO: Cairo
REPEATED: Caserta 999; London 7212
RECEIVED CABLE SECTION: 21/11/45 - 3:30 p.m.
DISPATCHED: 21/11/45 - 5:05 p.m.

Vessel EXECUTOR cleared New York 9 November for Alexandria, Egypt.
ETA Gibraltar 21 November with following cargo for Cairo Camps; (in
long tons): 1 case comparators; 80 cases surgical bandages 7; 2
drums chloride of lime; 1 case motion picture film; 11 cases scrubbing
brushes. Total: 8 long tons.

Drafted by:
MApel (Supply)
21 November 1945

DISTRIBUTION

DG - 2
SDDG - 1
DDG (Hendrickson) - 1
OCM - 2
DA - 2
OFE - 5
Services - 4
DP-c - 1
DP - 2
Supply - 15
FILES - 4

(FREE BOOKS)

30 September 1944

TO: Mr. H. Sokolov.

FROM: K. A. Aickin

SUBJECT: Supply Arrangements for Middle East Camps

Middle East Camps - 700
K (arrangements)

The terms of reference of the Middle East Supply Center, which include the coordination of all civilian supplies for the Middle East area and the programming of all civilian imports for that area, make it clear that supplies for UNRRA's refugee camps in the Middle East will have to be cleared through MESC. The primary purpose of MESC is the conservation of shipping space to the Middle East, and it or related agencies still control the allocation of shipping space to the Middle East.

The draft working arrangement dated 28 September, copy of which is attached, appears to be satisfactory. Paragraph 3 places on UNRRA an obligation to keep MESC informed as to import programs and gives MESC the right to comment to Washington and London on such programs. What is to be avoided is the necessity for triangular clearance of all programs before shipment can be effective. It is essential that it be clearly understood that neither procurement in North America nor shipment from North America to the Middle East will be held up on any program merely because no comment, favorable or otherwise, has been received from MESC or from London on the basis of MESC's views.

The necessity for supplying copies of programs to MESC and for its forwarding such copies to London arises from the fact that shipping to the Middle East is allocated by the London office of the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board, which must of course have full particulars of contemplated imported programs so as to determine the shipping allocation.

Shipping allocated by the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board for operation between North America and the Middle East is actually controlled by the Shipping Subcommittee of the Middle East Supply Committee (Washington), which is the combined body responsible for MESC policy matters in Washington, and the detailed work of dealing with shipping documents and like matters is done by the New York office of the Combined Agency for Middle East Supplies, which is the combined licensing agency for commercial shipments to the Middle East.

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The fact that MESCO and its related combined agencies thus control all shipping to the Middle East makes it necessary for UNRRA to work through them in arranging supplies for the Middle East camps. Moreover, the Council Resolutions do of course require UNRRA to cooperate with the various Combined Supply Agencies.

Inquiries are being made as to whether copies of the basic documents setting up Middle East Supplies Committee (Washington) and Combined Agency for Middle East Supplies can be obtained and if they are available a further memorandum on their exact powers and functions will be furnished.

The important thing is to establish satisfactory working arrangements with the Shipping Subcommittee of the Middle East Supplies Committee (Washington) and the New York office of the Combined Agency for Middle East Supplies. This will of course be facilitated by personal contacts with the officials concerned.

The question of import licenses, referred to in paragraph 4 of the draft working arrangement, is important because the normal procedure in the Middle East is that after clearance of import programs for each country by MESCO, the governments concerned issue to the importers import licenses which enable them to import the goods in question. In the ordinary course of events no goods may be imported without an import license from the government concerned. UNRRA should therefore arrange with each government for the waiver of all import license requirements in respect of relief supplies required for the operation of UNRRA refugee camps. Such arrangements would most conveniently be made in Cairo. The Cairo office should be asked to look into this question immediately and to make the necessary arrangements.

Attachment
KAAickin/mh
29 sept 44