

Denmark - mission to - (Vorbo)

REPORT BY DR. C. S. NORBERG ON MISSION TO DENMARK

DENMARK'S RELATIONS WITH UNRRA

Some Facts and Observations

Before the liberation of Denmark on May 5, 1945 relations with UNRRA were channeled through the Danish Legations in London and Washington which contacted the UNRRA office in London and the UNRRA headquarters in Washington, respectively.

The day by day contacts with Danish officials in London were taken care of by Dr. C. S. Norberg who, at that time, served as head of the Northern European Section of the ERO. In preparation of a possible mission to Denmark, Dr. Norberg contacted Major General Dewing who agreed to accept Captain Hans Baasch as General Liaison Officer for UNRRA with SHAEF Military Mission to Denmark.

On the day of liberation, Mr. Baasch proceeded with the military liberation forces to Copenhagen, where he served in his liaison capacity until June 13, when Dr. Norberg arrived in Copenhagen to negotiate with the Danish Foreign Office Denmark's membership in UNRRA as visualized by the Montreal Resolution No. 51. After considerable discussion and consultation, Denmark made application for membership through the official channel of the Danish Legation in Washington, where Minister Kauffmann from time to time had discussed matters of mutual interest with the UNRRA headquarters.

B. 20 Sept.



During his first visit to Denmark, Dr. Norberg contacted the Military Mission personnel in charge of the Displaced Persons Program, and ascertained the status of the displaced persons problems within Denmark, the line of authority through the SHANF Military Mission and the Danish Foreign Office through the Danish Red Cross which had been designated by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs as the Agent of the Danish Government in all matters pertaining to Allied Displaced Persons within the realm - he also made preliminary inquiry into the possibility of having Denmark become a supplying country under the UNRRA program of requirements for non-paying countries.

Upon his return to the London office, Dr. Norberg furnished the different operational divisions of the ERO with such details and data as would be of interest to each division.

With the dissolution of the country section desks, Dr. Norberg was appointed Chief of the UNRRA Mission to Denmark, and was given a letter of authority to proceed to Copenhagen to establish a country mission in Denmark with a view to possible recruitment of Danish doctors, nurses and welfare workers from this country, as well as to continue the preliminary discussions about surplus exportable foodstuff.

Through continuous and vigorous liaison service with the different Danish Government departments, the Chief of the Mission was prepared at the Council meeting in London to inform Mr. Feenov and Mr. Cairns of the UNRRA Supply Division of a possible surplus

program of sufficiently concrete character to warrant the visit of Mr. Cairns for consultations with high-ranking Danish officials on this matter.

After the return of the Chief, the Mission has received visits of the following UNRRA officials:

Sir Ralphael Cilento, Mr. Andrew Cairns, Mr. Joel Gordon, and Mr. Harold Lund. The main results of these visits, which were made with an eye to getting concrete settlements on diverse matters with the Danish Government, may be summarized as follows:

a. Recruitment of doctors and nurses.

In a most satisfactory discussion on September 5, Dr. Frandsen, Chief of Public Health, agreed to letting UNRRA recruit 25 doctors and 50 nurses in Denmark for UNRRA medical work in Germany during the coming winter. The details of this agreement will be forwarded to the ERO through the regular channels of the UNRRA Health Division.

b. Recruitment of welfare workers.

With the arrival from Oslo of Mr. Harold Lund, the Danish program for recruitment of welfare workers was brought to a complete start after a most satisfactory conference with Mr. Koch, the permanent Undersecretary of Social Affairs, Copenhagen. The details of this work will be forwarded to the ERO Welfare Division by



Mr. Lund, who is opening a special UNRRA Welfare Recruitment office in Copenhagen.

c. Surplus Export discussions.

The many preliminary discussions with Danish Government officials and semi-official agencies on this vital question were brought into final shape during the conference in the Foreign Ministry on September 7, when Mr. Cairns returned to Copenhagen for a visit on his way from Oslo to Washington. The very frank and brilliant negotiations conducted by Mr. Cairns made an extremely favorable impression upon the Danish Government representatives, who were led by the able chairman, Mr. Hergel. On September 8, Mr. Cairns sent a long cable to the Supply Division in Washington summarizing the concrete and immediate results of this constructive conference.

While the first conference of Mr. Cairns in the beginning of September met with considerable difficulty because of the uncertainties of the Danish export situation, this new conference was characterized by a mutual will to make the best of an urgent situation. The change of approach and atmosphere may, to a great extent, be the result of the efforts of the Chief of the Mission in connection with such semi-official institutions as the National bank, the Industrial

Association, the Agricultural Association, the Fish Directorate, the Privatbanken, etc. to prepare the minds of the Danish negotiators for the extreme urgency of this whole matter.

- d. Having been advised by telephonic message on September 5 from the ERO, Mr. Gordon's arrival in Copenhagen meant that the resigning Chief of the Mission, Dr. C. S. Norborg, stay over to await the appearance of Mr. Gordon in order to introduce him to the situation in Copenhagen. Mr. Gordon took part in the different consultations with the Danish Government during the significant dates in UNHRA history in Denmark when the three-month period of diplomatic liaison was brought to fruitful conclusion by agreements being reached along such diverse lines as indicated in the above report.

Upon his departure from Copenhagen, Dr. Norborg wishes to express his keenest appreciation of the most friendly reception that has been given the UNHRA Mission by the Danish Government officials. It may truthfully be said that the public relations of this Mission could not conceivably be better than they are. Among the personalities who have made this possible, it is only fair to single out for special mentioning Mr. Christens Møller, Mr. H. H. Koch, Dr. Frandsen, Dr. Henningsen, Commander Hammerich, Mr. Fogstro-Holm, and other Danish officials.



The public relations on the diplomatic side have been very friendly and fruitful, particularly so with the American Minister, Mr. Monnett B. Davis, who at all times has been interested in listening to the observations of the UNRRA Chief as to the developments within this particular field.

It is also worthwhile to mention that the UNRRA Mission in Denmark has had a singularly friendly and positive press which, at all times, has been eager to prepare the soil for a good relationship between UNRRA's world-wide work and the Danish Nation.

The relationship between the UNRRA Mission and the SHAEF Military Mission and later on, the British Military authorities, has at all times been most friendly and constructive.

Of minor items, one might call attention to the fact that, thanks to the personal friendships which the Chief of the Mission has had with Danish officials, the UNRRA Mission has been invited to have their offices first in the private office of the Danish Surgeon General and later on to share offices with the United States Army Food Procurement Division in Copenhagen. Since the rent in both places has been free, it is only fair to mention that these arrangements were possible through the courtesy of Dr. Frandsen and Colonel Barlander, respectively.

The financial report which the Mission Chief is bringing with him to the ERO will prove that the UNRRA-Denmark Mission has been operated on a singularly inexpensive basis.