

150

HISTORY OF UNRRA  
1945

150 History of UNRRA  
'45



150

26 December 1945

TO: Dr. P. W. Kuo  
FROM: Grace E. Fox  
SUBJECT: The Question of the Distribution of the Historical Studies

As sections of our confidential monographs are tentatively completed, men who have generously given us records and other information are likely to ask for copies of our studies. Such requests raise two questions which I believe should be settled officially at this time. Would you be willing to discuss the following with Commander Jackson?

1. Should copies of sections of UNRRA's history be given to any member of UNRRA's staff other than the Director General or the Senior Deputy Director General before publication?
  - a. All accounts to date of phases of UNRRA's history must be regarded as tentative until the life of UNRRA is completed and we can re-organize our writing in the light of the perspective gained at the time of the Administration's liquidation.
  - b. Any study, although it may be based primarily on confidential material given by one man, will necessarily contain other material given to the historian in confidence and hence under a promise that it would not be circulated in the immediate future.
  - c. As some members of the staff of UNRRA are apt to leave before the Administration's work is finished, it would be a temptation to take with them sections of the history concerning their work. This might lead to a circulation of confidential information which should be carefully avoided. UNRRA's history, like its correspondence, should be regarded as the Administration's property and not that of any individual.
2. Should not some statement be made by the ~~senior~~ staff at present which would give a general understanding of the plans and policy of the historian's office and avoid the embarrassment of personal requests for sections of the history? I would suggest that such a statement make the following points:
  - a. That the plan for the history of UNRRA involves
    - (1) The preparation of a series of confidential, well-documented



monographs covering the major policies and operations of UNRRA, which will become part of the secret archives of the Administration and will not be open to the public in the immediate future;

(2) The extraction from these studies of an official history to be ready for publication within a year after the liquidation of UNRRA. This should consist of two volumes covering respectively the work of the Administration at Headquarters, and Regional and Field Operations;

(3) The selection and assembling of the most significant and colorful official documents for publication in a third volume to be sold independently.

- b. That any member of UNRRA's staff may be asked to supply confidential materials and verbal information for the basic monographs and to criticize or comment on sections of them as they are completed.
- c. That, owing to the tentative nature of studies of current problems and recent history and to the need for revision of such studies in the light of the perspective to be gained upon the liquidation of UNRRA, no copy of sections of the Administration's history will be given for the possession of any member of UNRRA's staff except the Director General or the Senior Deputy Director General.

GEFox/dkc 48.7.



150

19 December 1945

TO: Colonel D. R. Oakley-Hill, Chief of Mission, Albania  
FROM: Grace E. Fox, Historian, The Secretariat  
SUBJECT: History of UNRRA

1. Plans for the History of UNRRA. The writing of the history of UNRRA will involve the following:
  - a. The preparation of a series of confidential, well-documented monographs covering the major policies and operations of UNRRA, which will become part of the secret archives of the Administration and will not be open to the public in the immediate future.
  - b. The extraction from these studies of an official history to be ready for publication within a year after the liquidation of UNRRA. This should consist of two volumes covering respectively the work of the Administration at Headquarters, and Regional and Field Operations.
  - c. The selection and assembling of the most significant and colorful official documents for publication in a third volume to be sold independently.

The historian's office at Headquarters will prepare the history of Headquarters and organize and edit the complete history. The responsibility for the basic monographs of each regional office and its field missions will be delegated to trained historians to be appointed to the respective regional offices and to competent officers in the field missions.

2. Types of Monographs to be Prepared. The monographs written in both the regional and field offices should cover the following subjects and perhaps others which may become apparent as the work progresses:

The Administrative Structure of the Office;  
Personnel, Budgetary, and Public Relations Policies;  
Relief Needs and Requirements of the Areas Covered;  
Relations with Governments;  
Relations with the Military;  
Relations with Voluntary Societies;  
Relations with Non-governmental Agencies;  
Sources, Acquisition, Transportation, and Distribution of Supplies;  
Specific Relief Programs: Health, Welfare, Displaced Persons,  
Agricultural Rehabilitation, Industrial Rehabilitation



Each monograph should be as complete and accurate an account of what happened and why, as is possible to be compiled from the written records and from interviews with the people who took part in the operations. It should recognize UNRRA's mistakes as well as its achievements. It should be fully documented and cross-referenced so that the sources used can be located later if desired. This does not mean that the final published history of UNRRA will be stuffy and over-footnoted; it is merely an attempt to have a sound scholarly base upon which to build that history. Since such monographs will serve as the main reference source and will not be circulated, they may embody the most confidential material.

3. The Writing of the History of the European Missions. Commander Jackson has delegated to the European Regional Office the appointment of a competent historian who will write the history of the ERO and of the European Missions in accordance with the general plan outlined above. This historian will have to rely upon the cooperation of the reports and records officers in each mission to secure the necessary material. He will make visits to the Missions to discuss major developments with top staff engaged in actual operations and in some instances he will wish the Mission Chief to assign the writing of the monographs dealing with sections of the Mission's history to men in the Mission who are particularly qualified to tell the story of an operation and to interpret it in relation to the local setting.

Dr. Kuo, Deputy Director General in charge of the Secretariat, and I hope that you will find it possible to allow competent people on your staff to cooperate with the historian of the ERO in the writing of such monographs. As preliminaries to the writing of each Mission's history and before the ERO historian gets his work underway, we suggest

- a. That careful records be made of the major developments in the policies and operations of the Missions;
- b. That these records, e. g. minutes of staff meetings, accounts of policy-making interviews with national and local officials, important press notices, and all official documents and correspondence, be safely preserved;
- c. That as a phase of a mission's history is completed, the writing of a monograph on that subject be delegated to a competent member of the Mission staff while memories are fresh and all documents are readily available. Such monographs should be written in accordance with the standards here suggested and a copy thereof should be sent to the historian at Headquarters until the ERO historian is appointed.



150 —  
18 December 1945

TO: Brigadier-General Charles M. Drury, Chief of Mission, Poland  
FROM: Grace E. Fox, Historian, The Secretariat  
SUBJECT: History of UNRRA

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- a. The preparation of a series of confidential, well-documented monographs covering the major policies and operations of UNRRA, which will become part of the secret archives of the Administration and will not be open to the public in the immediate future.
- b. The extraction from these studies of an official history to be ready for publication within a year after the liquidation of UNRRA. This should consist of two volumes covering respectively the work of the Administration at Headquarters, and Regional and Field Operations.
- c. The selection and assembling of the most significant and colorful official documents for publication in a third volume to be sold independently.

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Relations with Governments;  
Relations with the Military;  
Relations with Voluntary Societies;  
Relations with Non-governmental Agencies;  
Sources, Acquisition, Transportation, and Distribution of Supplies;  
Specific Relief Programs: Health, Welfare, Displaced Persons,  
Agricultural Rehabilitation, Industrial Rehabilitation



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- a. That careful records be made of the major developments in the policies and operations of the Missions;
- b. That these records, e.g. minutes of staff meetings, accounts of policy-making interviews with national and local officials, important press notices, and all official documents and correspondence, be safely preserved;
- c. That as a phase of a Mission's history is completed, the writing of a monograph on that subject be delegated to a competent member of the Mission staff while memories are fresh and all documents are readily available. Such monographs should be written in accordance with the standards here suggested and a copy thereof should be sent to the historian at Headquarters until the ERO historian is appointed.



130  
~~400 Fox, Grace~~  
hm

15 DEC 1945

Mr. Dudley Ward  
European Regional Office  
U. N. R. R. A.  
11 Portland Place  
London W-1, England

Dear Dudley:

Miss Grace Fox, the Historian, has consulted me about developments in ERO respecting plans for the history of UNRRA. She gave me the attached copy of a note which she gave to Commander Jackson last October and which she believes he handed to you. She enquired particularly whether ERO had decided to appoint a full-time historian and, if so, what progress had been made in the selection of a candidate. She mentioned, incidentally, that a decision had been taken to appoint a historian for the Far East, and that attempts were now being made to fill the appointment.

251-0003 ✓  
In reply, I had to confess that I had no information on this subject to give her, but I offered to write to you and enquire informally whether you could send me (or Miss Fox) some indication of how things are progressing. I explained to Miss Fox that I knew you had many more urgent matters pressing for your attention, but that I was sure you had given to this question all consideration that was possible.

If you could find time to write to either of us about this, I am sure Miss Fox would appreciate it, as she feels rather out of touch with the historical work of ERO.

Yours ever,

A5678  
Arthur H. Robertson

Robertson:hh  
14 December 1945





*yellow*

*150-(D.P. Persons)*

10 December 1945

TO: Miss Grace E. Fox  
FROM: Fred K. Hoehler

I am returning the draft material on the history of Displaced Persons which you sent me under date of December 7. I have gone over this hurriedly and my impression is most favorable. I think Miss Clark has done an extremely good job.

I should be glad to take an hour sometime this week to discuss this material and the earlier material which I reviewed so if you will call my secretary to arrange for an appointment with Miss Clark, I shall be happy to give more time to it.

Because I am leaving UNRRA the first of the year I hope that I may at least have a draft copy of this material for my own records in order to refresh my mind on several of the things that went on while I was in London or Washington with UNRRA.

Attachment

FKHoehler/rm

*FKH*

*yellow copy*



3 December 1945

(Presented to Maj. Gen. Rook)

THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

- I. Purpose: To seek out and analyze the basic records pertaining to the development of UNRRA's policies and operations and to prepare the official history of UNRRA.
- II. Staff - at Headquarters: The historian, an assistant, and a secretary.  
in Cairo: November 1944 - September 1945, one historical records officer.
- III. Plans for the history of UNRRA:
  1. To prepare a series of confidential, well-documented monographs covering the major policies and operations of UNRRA, which will become part of the secret archives of the Administration and will not be open to the public in the immediate future.
  2. To extract from these studies an official history to be ready for publication within a year after the liquidation of UNRRA. This should consist of two volumes covering respectively the work of the Administration at Headquarters, and Regional and Field Operations.
  3. To select and assemble the most significant and colorful official documents for publication in a third volume to be sold independently.
- IV. Work to date:
  1. The collection and indexing of the US State Department documents pertaining to the origins of UNRRA, June 1940-November 1943. These are housed in the State Department but are available to the historian and her staff.
  2. The indexing and filing of all documents which are sent to the historian's office as the result of General Bulletin 64. This establishes the beginning of the bibliography for the history of UNRRA.
  3. Maintaining a file of clippings from the New York Times pertaining to UNRRA and the political and economic conditions which bear on the Administration's work.
  4. Holding and recording interviews with key officials on their return from the field or at the time of their departure from UNRRA, in order to acquire information which is important in supplementing or interpreting documents.
  5. Preparation of a tentative plan for Vol. I of the history of UNRRA, which will cover the history of Headquarters.
  6. The writing of several sections of the history of Headquarters, - 2 sections dealing with the origins of UNRRA which are held secret by the State Department, several sections covering the growth and the administrative structure, the administration of personnel, and the Administration's policy regarding displaced persons.
  7. The indexing of the records of the Balkan Mission and the completion of the history of its origins.



V. Present problems:

1. The making of adequate arrangements in Europe and the Far East for the preparation of the history of UNRRA's operations. Mr. Dudley Ward is handling the appointment of a competent historian in the European Regional Office and a similar appointment is under consideration now in Nanking.
2. General arrangements with member governments for the preservation of their national records bearing on the origins of UNRRA and their relations with UNRRA until such time as these records may be made available.

GEFox/dkc 9.8.7.



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

FORM AD-87  
(REVISED)  
(7 MAR 45)

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: 27 November 1945

CROSS INDEX: 150

TO: Commander E.G.A. Jackson

FROM: Grace E. Fox

SUMMARY: The use of highly restricted cables in the History of UNRRA

RECORD FILED: 211.41 (Restricted)

TYPIST: mal

DATE: 20 Feb 46



19 October 1945

150

## I. Plans for the History of UNRRA

1. To prepare a series of confidential, well-documented monographs covering the major policies and operations of UNRRA, which will become part of the secret archives of the Administration and will not be open to the public in the immediate future.
2. To extract from these studies an official history to be ready for publication within a year after the liquidation of UNRRA. This should consist of two volumes covering respectively the work of the Administration at Headquarters, and Regional and Field Operations.
3. To select and assemble the most significant and colorful official documents for publication in a third volume to be sold independently.

## II. Present Problem, The Writing of the History of UNRRA's Operations in China

Given the small staff at Headquarters (the historian, an assistant, and a secretary) and the vast amount of scattered, fugitive material to be sought out and analyzed, it will be possible to write at Headquarters only the monographs on the work of Headquarters and to organize and edit the official history. It, therefore, becomes necessary to delegate the responsibility for the basic monographs on the history of each regional office and its field missions to trained historians to be appointed to the respective regional offices and to competent officers in the field missions. This is consistent with the general policy of decentralization at Headquarters and it should lead to more satisfactory monographs in that studies prepared on the spot, where the authors can profit by the criticism and help of men responsible for the operations, should be more accurate and more alive than any which could be written from documents sent to Headquarters.

During his present trip to London, Commander Jackson expected to arrange for the appointment of a trained historian to ERO who would be responsible for the basic monographs on ERO and the European Missions. Mr. Gaines has made plans for similar work in the Southwest Pacific area. No provision, however, has yet been made for the writing of the history of UNRRA's operations in China.

Given the extent of UNRRA's program in China and the number of branch offices to be established, the writing of this history will be a large and difficult task. Furthermore, its importance is great, as the China operations may be the chief measure of UNRRA's success. A historian of recognized standing, who could depend on the cooperation of trained people in the branch offices, is needed to prepare the basic monographs on the China program. He would work in accordance with directives from the historian at Headquarters.



Such directives would be intended to establish a common approach to the subjects of the monographs and uniform standards of documentation in order to have studies of similar form and quality eventually returned to Headquarters, from which to distill the official history of UNRRA.

### III. Types of Monographs to be Prepared

The monographs written in both the regional and field offices should cover the following subjects and perhaps others which may become apparent as the work progresses:

- The Administrative Structure of the Office;
- Personnel, Budgetary, and Public Relations Policies;
- Relief Needs and Requirements of the Areas Covered;
- Relations with Local Governments;
- Relations with the Military;
- Sources, Acquisition, Transportation, and Distribution of Supplies;
- Specific Relief Programs: Health, Welfare, Displaced Persons, Agricultural Rehabilitation, Industrial Rehabilitation.

Each monograph should be as complete and accurate an account of what happened and why, as is possible to be compiled from the written records and from interviews with the people who took part in the operations. It should recognize UNRRA's mistakes as well as its achievements. It should be fully documented and cross-referenced so that the sources used can be located later if desired. This does not mean that the final published history of UNRRA will be stuffy and over-footnoted; it is merely an attempt to have a sound scholarly base upon which to build that history. Since such monographs will serve as the main reference source and will not be circulated, they may embody the most confidential material.



150  
11 October, 1945

TO: Mr. George A. Graham, Executive Secretary, Committee on Records of  
War Administration

FROM: Grace E. Fox

SUBJECT: PRESENT STATUS OF UNRRA'S HISTORICAL PROGRAM

A report to date on the status of UNRRA's historical program cannot answer fully the questions asked in your memorandum of September 27th. Unlike national war agencies, UNRRA's heaviest work is yet to be done, provided the necessary funds are appropriated by the national governments. We are still expanding our programs and cannot now estimate accurately the scope of the work which our history should cover.

Furthermore, we have not yet set up effective machinery for writing the history of regional and field missions, although plans for this work are maturing satisfactorily.

We have also been too much concerned with the establishing of procedures and the seeking out of records to have arrived at any conclusions regarding means and extent of the reproduction of our studies, most of which are yet to be written.

Our plan at present involves three types of work:

1. To prepare a series of confidential, well-documented monographs covering the major policies and operations of UNRRA, which will become part of the secret archives of the Administration and will not be open to the public in the immediate future.
2. To extract from these studies an official history to be ready for publication within a year after the liquidation of UNRRA. This should consist of two volumes covering respectively the work of the Administration at Headquarters, and Regional and Field Operations.
3. To select and assemble the most significant and colorful official documents for publication in a third volume to be sold independently.

The work accomplished to date includes

1. The organization and indexing of the records of the State Department and OFRRO, dealing with the origins of UNRRA;
2. The current compilation of bibliography (that is, index cards to manuscripts and cables covering many phases of the work of UNRRA);
3. The tentative completion of several sections of confidential monographs on the history of Headquarters;



Page 2.

Present Status of UNRRA's Historical Program

4. The indexing of the records of the Balkan Mission and the completion of three monographs on the early history of the Balkan Mission.

GEFox-dkc 4. 8. 7.





150

10 October 1945

THE HISTORY OF UNRRA

(Presented to Commander Jackson,  
11 October 1945)

I. Plans for the History of UNRRA

1. To prepare a series of confidential, well-documented monographs covering the major policies and operations of UNRRA, which will become part of the secret archives of the Administration and will not be open to the public in the immediate future.
2. To extract from these studies an official history to be ready for publication within a year after the liquidation of UNRRA. This should consist of two volumes covering respectively the work of the Administration at Headquarters, and Regional and Field Operations.
3. To select and assemble the most significant and colorful official documents for publication in a third volume to be sold independently.

II. Present Problem

Given the small staff at Headquarters (the historian, an assistant, and a secretary) and the vast amount of scattered, fugitive material to be sought out and analyzed, it will be possible to write at Headquarters only the monographs on the work of Headquarters and to organize and edit the official history. It, therefore, becomes necessary to delegate the responsibility for the basic monographs on the history of each regional office and its field missions to trained historians to be appointed to the respective regional offices and to competent officers in the field missions. This is consistent with the general policy of decentralization at Headquarters and it should lead to more satisfactory monographs in that studies prepared on the spot, where the authors can profit by the criticism and help of men responsible for the operations, should be more accurate and more alive than any which could be written from documents sent to Headquarters.

At present there is no machinery in either the regional or field offices to do this historical work. Unless it can be set up in the near future, the official history of UNRRA must be limited to policies and developments reflected in the work of Headquarters. This history alone would have great value but it would omit the actual experience and results of relief operations in specific fields.

III. Specific Requirements

1. The appointment of historians of recognized standing to the European Regional Office and to the China Office to write the basic monographs on the history of these offices and to direct the historical work of their respective field missions.



2. The setting up of arrangements in each field mission whereby the primary history of the mission may be prepared. This could be done in one of the following ways:
  - a. The Chief of Mission might assign the preparation of several monographs on the major developments in the policy and operations of the Mission to each of several trained social scientists on the Mission staff who would be specially qualified to write on a given phase or phases of the Mission's development.
  - b. The Chief of Mission might assign to one highly competent person the responsibility for seeing that adequate records are maintained of the life of the Mission and for writing the basic monographs on the Mission.
3. The historian at Headquarters should be enabled to issue directives and suggestions to the historians in the ERO and in China and through them to the officers responsible for the history of the field missions. Such directives would be intended to establish a common approach to the subjects of the monographs and uniform standards of documentation in order to have studies of similar form and quality eventually returned to Headquarters from which to distill the official history of UNRRA.

#### IV. Types of Monographs to be Prepared

The monographs written in both the regional and field offices should cover the following subjects and perhaps others which may become apparent as the work progresses:

The Administrative Structure of the Office;  
Personnel, Budgetary, and Public Relations Policies;  
Relief Needs and Requirements of the Areas Covered;  
Relations with Local Governments;  
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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

FORM AD-87  
(REVISED)  
(7 MAR 45)

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: 8 October 1945

CROSS INDEX: 150

TO: Frank S. Gaines

FROM: Grace E. Fox

SUMMARY: RE: History of the Southwest Pacific Area

RECORD FILED: S.W.P.A.O. 150

TYPIST: LAS

DATE: 1/14/46



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

FORM AD-87  
(REVISED)  
(7 MAR 45)

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: 8 October 1945

CROSS INDEX: 150

TO: Mr. Frank S. Gaines

FROM: Grace E. Fox

SUMMARY: History of the Southwest Pacific Area

RECORD FILED: S.W.P.A.O. 150

TYPIST: LAS

DATE: 1/30/46



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

FORM AD-87  
(REVISED)  
(7 MAR 45)

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE:

Middle East Office - 270

CROSS INDEX:

400 - Simeon, Elizabeth King  
Balkan Mission - 140  
150

TO:

Dr. Fox -

FROM:

T. T. Waddington - Chf. M.E. O.

SUMMARY:

Transmitting two copies of the "Report on the  
Origin of the Balkan Mission" by Elizabeth  
King Simeon.

RECORD FILED:

Middle East Office - 270

TYPIST:

MMP

DATE:

21 Dec. 1945.



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

FORM AD-87  
(REVISED)  
(7 MAR 45)

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: No date

CROSS INDEX: 150

204.3

TO: Joseph D. Cooper

FROM: P. W. Kuo

SUMMARY: Draft Administration Order Relating to Records Program.  
In view of the fact that the Historian has a continuing  
interest in the transfer and final disposition of UNRRA  
records, I would like to suggest the addition of the  
phrase "inconsultation with the office of the Historian"  
at the end of 2.4

RECORD FILED: 212.3

TYPIST: MMP

DATE: 9 November 1945.



UNITED NATIONS  
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

~~400-706, Grace~~  
27 September 1945  
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TO: Mr. David B. Vaughan  
FROM: ~~Dr.~~ P. W. Kuo *PKW*  
SUBJECT: The Historian's Need for the Highly Restricted Cables

In compiling the history of UNRRA it is important that the Historian have access to the day-by-day records of a highly restricted nature such as the cables which are not circulated in either the secret or free books. As you know, her office prepares daily digests of the policy-making cables which are indexed and filed according to subject. I should greatly appreciate your making it possible for Miss Fox to receive daily copies of the cables which are on the most restricted list. She will analyze and index them and return them to the cable room. The regular flow of this material to her office will save endless time in searching out these major policy documents when the subjects which they cover are being considered for the history. I hope very much that it will be possible for you to cooperate with me on this.

~~1075~~  
File  
see Mr  
Vaughan  
memo of  
Oct 6<sup>th</sup>  
add to  
Mr Kew

*is*

X-211.41-(copies)



1301

26 September 1945

Dear Mr. Harris,

I have read with great interest your Notes on the History of Personnel Administration in UNRRA. I want you to know that I deeply appreciate your interest and help in our work on the history of UNRRA. Mrs. Clausen and I are especially grateful to you for taking the time during these last busy days in Washington to pull together this extremely valuable summary of the development of your Department. I trust I can persuade other Division Chiefs to do likewise.

If at any time I may help you in connection with UNRRA materials which you want to use in your lectures at Berkeley, I hope you will let me know. Mrs. Clausen and I also would like your judgment on her survey of personnel administration when it is completed.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Grace E. Fox

Mr. Joseph P. Harris

GEFox/dkc

7-EJ





2 July 1945

Miss Nora F. E. Cracknell  
United Nations Relief and  
Rehabilitation Administration  
European Regional Office  
11 Portland Place  
London, W.1, England

Dear Miss Cracknell:

I am sorry to have waited so long to answer your letter of 10 May. I have waited hoping to be able to write you about further development of the plans for the history of the European missions. The matter still remains unsettled.

I regret that it has seemed best for me to stay in Washington during the Council session and that I cannot look forward to discussing these problems with you personally in the near future. I believe, however, that Commander Jackson and Dr. Kuo are considering our problems and that there will be some decision about them when they can discuss matters fully with Mr. Mooney during the next two months.

I shall be most interested in hearing more about your dealings with HMG regarding their records pertaining to the origins of UNRRA. I also hope that the history of the Allied Requirements Bureau and the Inter-Allied Committees can be pulled together within the not too distant future. I realize fully that it is impossible for you to combine this research and writing with all your work on the reports and hope that the Historical Records Section may have additional personnel shortly. In regard to your note on negotiations with Allied Governments, I rather expect you will find more material on each of UNRRA's services in the offices of the chiefs of those divisions.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Grace E. Fox  
Historian, Secretariat

GEFox/dke 4. 6. 7.

Taken by Miss Garrett, 2 July 1945



Form  
(Revised)  
(7 Mar 45)

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: 2 July 1945

CROSS INDEX: 150

TO: Dr. P. W. Kuo

FROM: Grace E. Fox

SUMMARY: Preparations for Writing the History of the Third Meeting of the Council

RECORD FILED: 124.3 (History)

TYPIST: mar

DATE: 6/16/45

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9 June 1945

TO: Roy F. Hendrickson  
FROM: George Xanthaky  
SUBJECT: Attached memoranda re the history of UNRRA

In my judgment the missions' only job with respect to the history of UNRRA is the maintenance and preservation of adequate records of its operations.

X The ERO should be asked to see that important documentary materials such as agreements signed with governments and other agencies, minutes of important meetings, transcripts of phone calls, copies of correspondence, etc. are kept in both their own office and in the missions. One historian attached to the ERO should be able to do this.

*Gene*



Form  
(Revised)  
(7 Mar 45)

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: 27 June 1945

CROSS INDEX: 150

TO: Mr. Corrington Gill

FROM: P. W. Kuo

SUMMARY: The Historian's Need for Budget Office Records.

RECORD FILED: 215

TYPIST: mar

DATE: 8/25/45

x ERO 150 ✓

x 400 Cracknell ✓

150

26 June 1945

To : Dr. Kuo

From : Grace E. Fox

Subject: Questions Pertaining to the History of UNRRA

I have had a long conversation with Dr. Dai and Dr. Weinberg about problems of immediate concern to the history of UNRRA. Among the many questions we discussed there are several matters which we believe deserve consideration at the time of the Council Meeting in London and the assembling of UNRRA's major officials.

1) THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION IN THE ERO

This should involve the appointment of a trained historian to relieve Miss Cracknell of the major responsibility for the history of the ERO and the European field missions. Her work as Reports Officer is certainly a full time job, but she would be a valuable assistant to an incoming historian because of her knowledge of the Leith-Ross records from the time of the earliest plans for the creation of UNRRA. Would it be possible for you to discuss this question with Mr. Mooney in the light of the new developments in administrative organization since our conversation with him in March? It seems essential that plans be made for the history of the European missions under the direction of ERO before the early history is lost.

2) THE NEED FOR OFFICIAL DEFINITION OF THE FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REPORTS OFFICERS NOW BEING APPOINTED TO THE VARIOUS FIELD MISSIONS AND AREA OFFICES IN RELATION TO THE PREPARATION OF THE HISTORY OF UNRRA

Will it be possible for these officers to write the first narrative history of local administration and operations? If not, who will write that history? Furthermore, what provisions are being made for the regular maintenance and preservation of records of the work of the missions?



- 3) THE NEED FOR CLOSE OBSERVATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN LONDON AND INTERVIEWS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DELEGATIONS TO GAIN THEIR COMMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE PROCEEDINGS TO BE NOTED FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL HISTORICAL RECORD

Can Miss Cracknell be asked to do this? If so, shall I write her to that effect?

- 4) THE NEED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ALL THE NATIONAL RECORDS BEARING ON THE ORIGINS OF UNRRA IN ORDER THAT EVENTUALLY A FAIR ACCOUNT OF THE EARLY DIPLOMATIC HISTORY MAY BE WRITTEN

Can we reconsider at this time a request to the Member Governments for action on this subject? It might be accomplished in one of three ways--

1. A Council Resolution.
2. A letter to the Member Governments signed by the Director General.
3. A letter to the Member Governments signed by the Director General followed by a Council Resolution or the Resolution followed by a letter.

I shall greatly appreciate your judgment on these questions.

GEFox:ly 4.8.7.

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

150

NUMBER: 1237  
FROM: London  
DATED: 28 May 1945  
RECEIVED: 28 May 1945 - 5:30 p.m.  
Clear

Please clarify your 1297 especially last paragraph.

DISTRIBUTION

DG (2)  
SDDG (1)  
ORL (2)  
OCM (2)  
FA (2)  
\*Sc (3)  
PT (2)  
T (2)

(39)



UNRRA

## OUTGOING TELEGRAM

**NUMBER:** 1297  
**TO:** London  
**DATED:** 16 May 1945  
**DISPATCHED:** 16 May 1945 - 6:40 p. m.  
Clear

For Mooney.

Following from Ruvo quote Missions Personnel and Accounts records being maintained in accordance with instructions received. Further plans advised on receipt your airmail suggestions and decision future operations of Mission unquote. Please reply bearing in mind Fox letter thirty April. Xanthaky letter never sent owing to transfer of Mission to London.

Drafted by:  
GIFox (Sec.)  
16 May 1945

DISTRIBUTION

Lehman (2)  
Jackson, R. (1)  
Jackson, H. (3)  
Xanthaky (2)  
Gill (2)  
Harris (2)  
Dayton (2)

(40)

x440 Secretariat ✓

150

x BRO 440 ✓

21 May 1945

To: Roy F. Hendrickson

From: H. E. Caustin *HC*

Subject: UNRRA History

X We are at the present time pursuing an illogical and wasteful policy in respect of the preparation of an history of UNRRA. At Headquarters there is an official Historian plus an assistant; in ERO an Assistant Historian and at various points in the field there are people who double the job of Historian with some other related job. While all these people are working, they are not producing much since (a) there is practically no general recognition that their job is worth doing, and (b) they are too few to do a respectable job anyway.

Either we should abandon the whole idea of an official history or we should give the project reasonable support and staff so that a workmanlike job can be done within a short period after UNRRA's dissolution.

My own view for what it is worth is that we cannot afford not to prepare for a good historical study of UNRRA. All other major war activities are being very fully documented and studied. The ARA history is a very thorough and careful study and has a wealth of important detail and documents. We have ourselves an interest in seeing that an objective and well documented history should exist. In its absence there will no doubt be plenty of garbled versions put out and no possibility of refutation by reference to authority.

(a) appoint at once

If this view is accepted we need to ~~appoint at once~~ a first-class Historian for ERO to handle the whole European operation, and (b) strengthen the Headquarters Historian so that there is some prospect of an adequate job being done here.



150

27 April 1945

TO: Robert Blinn  
FROM: Grace E. Fox 9.8.7.  
SUBJECT: Record Programs in Balkan Country Missions

I am sending these drafts to you first in case I haven't understood the exact tone we should use in writing to the Mission Chiefs. I thought you should also see my letter to Mr. Mooney. I shall appreciate your comments as soon as possible, as I would like to get the material through Dr. Kuo's hands and out today.

150

27 April 1945

TO: Dr. Kuo  
FROM: Grace E. Fox 4. 8. 7.  
SUBJECT: Record Programs in Balkan Country Missions

In recent conversations with Mr. Blinn and Mr. Welk in the Bureau of Areas about the need for accurate records of the Balkan Country Missions, they have approved my drafting the appended cable and letters to the Chief of these Missions. Since the transfer of the responsibility of these Missions to the E. R. O. is taking time, much valuable material may be lost if we wait until the Secretariat in London is able to establish a record program. I am writing the full story to Mr. Mooney, as you will also see, hoping for his support of the policy when he takes over the responsibility. Mr. Xanthaky will sign the letters to the Balkan Missions, if you approve of this entire plan.



150

31 March 1945

TO: Kenneth Dayton

FROM: Grace E. Fox

Many thanks for letting me see these diaries. They throw light on the development of numerous phases of UNRRA's history. I fear I shall be asking for another chance to talk with you before this history is written to my satisfaction.

GEF/ej 4.8.7

15-0  
27 March 1945

TO: Dr. Kuo  
FROM: Grace E. Fox  
SUBJECT: Cables Needed in the Historian's Office

Under the recent cable regulations I believe you know that it is impossible to get copies of cables for permanent retention in the Historian's files. It is equally difficult to borrow cables for temporary use for research and writing purposes after they have once been returned to the cable office. I have, therefore, had to ask my secretary to spend too large a percentage of her time copying cables which seem of policy-making importance as the cable book passes through by office. Given the shortage of secretarial aid throughout UNRRA this seems a great waste of time and energy.

I have also been led to understand that the Communications Section contemplates allowing each Division or Bureau which receives a cable book to retain its cable book in its files. I would, therefore, like to ask that when this regulation goes into effect the cable book coming to the Secretariat may be given to me for my permanent retention after it has been read by the members of the Secretariat who customarily see it. I shall be glad to arrange for this with Mr. Vaughan personally if I hear nothing from you to the contrary. It would be understood, of course, that any member of the Secretariat who wished to refer to the cables would always have access to them in my office.

GEF/ej 4.8.7.



26 February 1945

TO: Helen Jeter  
FROM: Grace E. Fox  
SUBJECT: Historical Records in Regional Offices and Country Missions

As you discuss narrative reporting with the E. R. O. and the field missions, I should be grateful to have you explain to them my concern with the keeping of the primary records of the Administration's policy and the procedures suggested therefore. Letters to the Balkan, Italian, and Yugoslav Missions concerning these procedures have already gone forward. Hence I should also welcome your observations as to whether they are being adopted and how they are working out.

It is obvious that if an official history of UNHRA is to be ready for publication shortly after the liquidation of the Administration, the history of each regional office and field mission must be written currently with their operations. Such work is closely related to narrative reporting and can be carried on in conjunction with it. Special reports on important local issues are merely essential segments of the overall historical narrative.

My main concerns for each country mission from its beginning, therefore, are:

1. That accurate and complete records of the development of mission policy are maintained; e.g., minutes of staff meetings, memoranda of important interviews, telephone conversations, etc.
2. That a chronological record of the main events in the life of the mission in the form of a confidential diary be kept in the office of the Chief of Mission
3. That local background materials bearing on the relief and rehabilitation program be systematically collected; e.g., government decrees, military orders, official bulletins, price lists, rationing regulations, newspaper editorials, etc.
4. That these various records and the available statistical reports be organized and collated and that a first draft of the history of the mission be written as the mission program unfolds.

GEF/ej 2. 8. 7.  
c/c Dr. Kuo  
Dr. Welk

FORM AD-87  
125 FEB 1946

UNRRA

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE

25 January 1945

CROSS INDEX

212.2

150 -

TO

Dr. Kuo

FROM

G. E. Fox

SUMMARY

Statement re the historical records section

RECORD FILED

140 - (Historical Records Section)

TYPIST

kw

DATE

22 May 1947



FORM AD-87  
(25 FEB 1946)

UNRRA

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE

4 January 1945

CROSS INDEX

150

TO

Dr. Kuo

FROM

G. E. Fox

SUMMARY

Questions pertaining to the historical records section in the proposed  
Administrative Reorganization

RECORD FILED

140 - Historical Records Section

TYPIST

kw

DATE

22 May 1947