
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II

File No. 1492-A

1943 November 9

**Address-Signing Agreement Setting up the United
Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration**

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
SIGNING OF AGREEMENT SETTING UP THE UNITED NATIONS'
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

NOVEMBER 9, 1943

*Smithsonian. This is an extract of the first nation
the UNRRA is welcome
you*

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations -- United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty per cent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nations have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration -- commonly known as UNRRA.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declarations of Moscow, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations in facing problems of mutual need and interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are: "determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area..... the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services". That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA -- each nation according to its own individual resources -- to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

It is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon and completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all the united and associated nations acting together. No one country could -- or should -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will be blackened as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scorch the earth behind them.

So it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA,

first, to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, and, second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants which will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine, food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the countries under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa -- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily and Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.

The assistance rendered to the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis -- rather than the cooperation of only two nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

When victory comes there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked

together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions which are necessary to win the war and to build the foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have been ground under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of ALL the world to balance the want of ALL the world. In UNRRA we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, which can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency which will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

Like in most of the difficult and complex things in life, nations will learn to work together only by actually working together. Why not? They have common objectives.

It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the signing of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

Such is the spirit and such is the positive action of the United Nations at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back -- all over the world.

In defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, tolerance, independence, and security.

Tomorrow the UNRRA begins its first conference -- and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of freedom from want. The forces of the United Nations march forward and the peoples of the United Nations march with them.

*I hope you will like this letter,
in your definition
of & I wish you all the success in the world.*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Original reading copy.

ADDRESSEES
OF THE
PRESIDENT
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT SETTING UP THE
UNITED NATIONS' RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
IN THE EAST ROOM
NOVEMBER 9, 1943
BROADCAST NATIONALLY AT 12.30 PM., EWT

Gentlemen, on behalf of the host nations, I welcome
you to this historic conference.

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations -- United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty percent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security, and above all peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nation -- you gentlemen who represent them -- have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration -- commonly known as UNRRA, being a simpler word.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January first (1), 1942.

Coming after the Declarations of Moscow recently, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations and their associates in facing problems of mutual need and mutual interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are: "determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area.....the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services." That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA -- each nation according to its own individual resources -- and to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

I think it is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the

self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon, (and) completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this so called New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all of the united and associated nations acting together. No one country could -- or should, for that matter -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will almost inevitably be blackened as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scorch the earth behind them.

So, it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA, first to assure a fair distribution of available supplies

among all of the liberated peoples, and second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win a victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know common wants -- the human wants that (which) will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine and food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- and of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the territories (countries) under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa -- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. And that in just one year. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the allied armed forces in

French Africa, in Sicily, in (and) Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.

The assistance rendered (to) the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis -- rather than on the cooperation of only two nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

When victory comes there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, and self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, and on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions that (which) are necessary to win the war and to build the

foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have been ground under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of ALL the world to balance the want of ALL the world. In UNRRA we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, a mechanism that (which) can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency that (which) will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

As (Like) in most of the difficult and complex things in life, nations will learn to work together only by actually working together. Why not? We nations (They) have common objectives. It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the signing of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

Such is the spirit and such is the positive action of the United Nations and their associates at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back -- all over the world.

In defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, and tolerance, independence, and security.

Tomorrow at Atlantic City, the UNRRA begins its first formal conference -- and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of a thing called freedom from want. The forces of the United Nations are marching forward, (and) the peoples of the United Nations march

with them.

So, my friends, on this historic occasion, I wish you
all the success in the world.

(applause)

Draft 1-ZOK

SIR.
DRAFT 4

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations — United Nations ^{and} those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately 80 percent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nations have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration — commonly known as UNRRA.

This [is the first actual operating] agency [set up by the United Nations — the first medium for putting ^{will help to put} into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declarations of Moscow, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. ^{If} This is one more strong link joining the United Nations in facing problems of mutual need and interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are: "determined that

immediately upon the liberation of any area.....the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services." That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA -- each nation according to its own individual resources -- to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

It is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

The Germans and the Japanese have carried ^{on} their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind; that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs
~~agricultural~~
and raw materials, and even of the industrial machinery upon which their
workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been [systematically]
~~carrying out their plan to administer as far as possible, all European~~
~~heavy industry in Germany itself, making the other countries economic~~
vassals, utterly dependent upon and completely subservient to the Nazi
tyrants.

This then was the purpose of the so-called New Order — one
or two countries with all the removable wealth of the earth; and the rest
of the world reduced to slavery and bare subsistence.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all the united and associated nations acting together. No one country could -- or should -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other people's lands. Additional regions will be blackened as the German and

in their retreat
Japanese forces ~~are~~ ~~are~~ ~~the~~ ~~back~~ ~~toward~~ ~~their~~ ~~homelands~~ ~~and~~ ~~scorch~~ ~~the~~
earth behind them.

So it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA, first, to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, irrespective of ~~ability to pay~~ and, second, ~~to deliver supplies to the liberated nations~~ in quantities sufficient to ward off death by starvation or exposure ~~among these people~~.

It would be supreme irony for us to win victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants which will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine, food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the countries under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate about the desirability or effectiveness of the United Nations' policy of aiding the liberated peoples. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa -- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. Besides, they are meeting ~~many of the~~ important needs of the allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily and Italy, and ~~the~~ giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships, and ~~warehouses and other operations~~.

The will and speed with which the people of French Africa ~~have helped themselves~~ ~~are now helping us~~ ~~and our allies are dividing~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~help and relief which we sent them after our successful~~ military progress in that area. And the same process is being repeated in Sicily and Southern Italy.

The assistance rendered to the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States. Our

British Allies supplied such items as coal, while we supplied such material as spare parts for agricultural machinery. Both countries acted jointly in this way, in much the same manner that they have acted in complete concert in the triumphant military campaigns of the past year.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis — rather than the cooperation of two nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

In the same way, when the shooting stops and victory comes, it will also be to the self-interest of the United Nations, to furnish essential supplies and services to the liberated peoples. It will not only be an act of charity and common humanity to help the men, women and children who have been through years of torture, illness and undernourishment. Without the foundation stone of such assistance, the winning and the maintenance of a secure peace might be impossible.

Nation-wide There can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these

countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions which are necessary to win the war and to build the foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have/ground been under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of ALL the world to balance the want of ALL the world. In UNRRA we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, which can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency which will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

It is not merely words on paper or hope alone that form the essential connections among nations to win the war and to keep the peace. Actions and habits of action, too, are of significant importance. Like

in most of the difficult and complex things in life, nations ~~ever~~ learn
to work together only by actually working together. *Why not? They have*

~~all~~ common objectives.

It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the signing of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

The key point of the Moscow Declarations is recognition of "the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states, and open to membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security."

That far-sighted and eternally important declaration was made by the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and China. It has been approved overwhelmingly by the Senate and by the people of this country.

Such is the spirit and such is the positive action of the United Nations at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back -- all over the world.

Contrast this with the actions of our enemies. When they were seemingly all powerful, when they thought they were winning, they increased their oppressions and cruelties upon their neighbors. But today, when they are weakening, when the German and Japanese leaders know that they are losing the war, they begin to talk belatedly and hypocritically of the "freedom" and "independence" of the enslaved nations of Europe and Asia.

But they cannot use these words convincingly because they themselves have never begun to understand what freedom and independence really mean.

The United Nations, ~~on the other hand~~, in defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, tolerance, independence, and security.

Tomorrow the UNRRA begins its first conference -- and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of freedom from want.

The forces of the United Nations march forward and the peoples of the United Nations march with them.

STATEMENTS FILE

HOLD FOR RELEASE.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

NOVEMBER 9, 1943

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be broadcast in connection with the signing of the Agreement Setting up the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 12:30 P.M., E.W.T., Tuesday, November 9, 1943. The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Gentlemen, on behalf of the best nations, I welcome you to this historic conference.

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations—United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty per cent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and above all peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nations have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration — commonly known as UNRRA, being simple documents.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declarations of Moscow, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations in facing problems of mutual need and interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are: "determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area.... the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services". That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA — each nation according to its own individual resources ~~and~~ to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

I think it is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

(OVER)

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon, and completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all the United and Associated Nations acting together. No one country could -- or should -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will be blackened as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scratch the earth behind them.

So, it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA, first, to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, and, second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants ^a that will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine, food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the ^{territories} under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa -- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily, and Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.

And that is just one year.

The assistance rendered to the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis — rather than ~~on~~ the cooperation of only two nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

When victory comes there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, ~~and~~ on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions ~~which~~ which are necessary to win the war and to build the foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have been ground under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of ALL the world to balance the want of ALL the world. In UNRRA we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, ~~which~~ can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency ~~which~~ will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

As ~~this~~ ^{the} in most of the difficult and complex things in life, nations will learn to work together only by actually working together. Why not? They have common objectives. It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the signing of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

Such is the spirit and such is the positive action of the United Nations at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back — all over the world.

In defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, and tolerance, independence, and security.

Tomorrow the UNRRA begins its first ^{annual} conference — and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of freedom from want. The forces of the United Nations march forward, and the peoples of the United Nations march with them.

(are) ^{at Atlantic City,}

a thing called

So, my friends, on this ^{historic} occasion I wish you all the success in the world.
(applause)

HOLD FOR RELEASE.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

NOVEMBER 9, 1943

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be broadcast in connection with the signing of the Agreement Setting up the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 12:30 P.M., E.W.T., Tuesday, November 9, 1943. The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

(6024) CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.
~37

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations—United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty per cent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nations have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration — commonly known as UNRRA.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declarations of Moscow, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations in facing problems of mutual need and interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are: "determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area.... the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services". That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA — each nation according to its own individual resources — to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

It is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

(OVER)

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon and completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all the United and Associated nations acting together. No one country could -- or should -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will be blighted as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scour the earth behind them.

So it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in those areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA, first, to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, and, second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared ~~for what~~ what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants which will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrid evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine, food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the countries under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa -- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made if possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily, ~~and~~ Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.

20.

The assistance rendered to the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis — rather than ~~in~~ the cooperation of only two nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

When victory comes there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions which are necessary to win the war and to build the foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have been ground under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of ALL the world to balance the want of ALL the world. In UNRRA we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, which can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency which will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

In most of the difficult and complex things in life, nations will learn to work together only by actually working together. Why not ~~now~~ have common objectives. It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the signing of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

Such is the ~~spirit~~ and such is the positive action of the United Nations at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back — all over the world.

In defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, tolerance, independence and security.

Tomorrow the UNRRA begins its first conference — and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of freedom from want. The forces of the United Nations march forward, and the peoples of the United Nations march with them.

9 v m m
f c t
c m

11/9/1961.3

)))

File Mr. Latta

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

NOVEMBER 9, 1945

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be broadcast in connection with the signing of the Agreement Setting up the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 12:30 P.M., E.W.T., Tuesday, November 9, 1945. The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President



RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
SIGNING OF AGREEMENT SETTING UP THE UNITED NATIONS'
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

NOVEMBER 9, 1943

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations -- United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty per cent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nations have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration -- commonly known as UNRRA.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declaration of Moscow, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations in facing problems of mutual need and interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are "determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area..... the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services". That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA -- each nation according to its own individual resources -- to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

It is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon and completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all the united and associated nations acting together. No one country could -- or should -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will be blackened as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scourch the earth behind them.

So it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA,

first, to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, and, second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants which will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine, food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the countries under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa — and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily and Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.

The assistance rendered to the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis -- rather than the cooperation of only two nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

When victory comes there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked

together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions which are necessary to win the war and to build the foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have been ground under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of ALL the world to balance the want of ALL the world. In UNRRA we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, which can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency which will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

Like in most of the difficult and complex things in life, nations will learn to work together only by actually working together. Why not? They have common objectives.

It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the signing of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

Such is the spirit and such is the positive action of the United Nations at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back -- all over the world.

In defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, tolerance, independence, and security.

Tomorrow the UNRRA begins its first conference -- and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of freedom from want. The forces of the United Nations march forward and the peoples of the United Nations march with them.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

NOVEMBER 9, 1945

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be broadcast in connection with the signing of the Agreement Setting up the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 12:50 P.M., E.W.T., Tuesday, November 9, 1945. The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

SIGNING OF AGREEMENT SETTING UP THE UNITED NATIONS'
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

NOVEMBER 9, 1943

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations — United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty per cent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nations have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration -- commonly known as UNRRA.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declaration of Moscow, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations in facing problems of mutual need and interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are "determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area..... the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services". That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA -- each nation according to its own individual resources -- to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

It is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon and completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

-4-

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all the united and associated nations acting together. No one country could -- or should -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will be blackened as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scorch the earth behind them.

So it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA,

first, to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, and, second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants which will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine, food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the countries under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa -- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily and Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.

The assistance rendered to the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis -- rather than the cooperation of only two nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

When victory comes there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked

together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions which are necessary to win the war and to build the foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have been ground under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of ALL the world to balance the want of ALL the world. In UNRRA we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, which can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency which will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

Like in most of the difficult and complex things in life, nations will learn to work together only by actually working together. Why not? They have common objectives.

It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the signing of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

Such is the spirit and such is the positive action of the United Nations at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back -- all over the world.

In defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, tolerance, independence, and security.

Tomorrow the UNRRA begins its first conference -- and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of freedom from want. The forces of the United Nations march forward and the peoples of the United Nations march with them.

HOLD FOR RELEASE.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

NOVEMBER 9, 1943

CAUTION: The following address of the President, to be broadcast in connection with the signing of the Agreement Setting up the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, MUST BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE until released.

NOTE: Release to editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER THAN 12:30 P.M., E.W.T., Tuesday, November 9, 1943. The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic East Room are representatives of forty-four nations—United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these forty-four nations include approximately eighty per cent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security and peace.

Representatives of these forty-four nations have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration -- commonly known as UNRRA.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declarations of Moscow, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations in facing problems of mutual need and interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are: "determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area....the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services". That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of UNRRA — each nation according to its own individual resources — to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

It is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men -- undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope -- ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon and completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this New Order must be assumed not by any individual nation but by all the united and associated nations acting together. No one country could -- or should -- attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs -- either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting UNRRA is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will be blackened as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scorch the earth behind them.

So it will be the task of UNRRA to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for UNRRA, first, to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, and, second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants which will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine, food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest -- of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the countries under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa -- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies and agricultural equipment; and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily and Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.