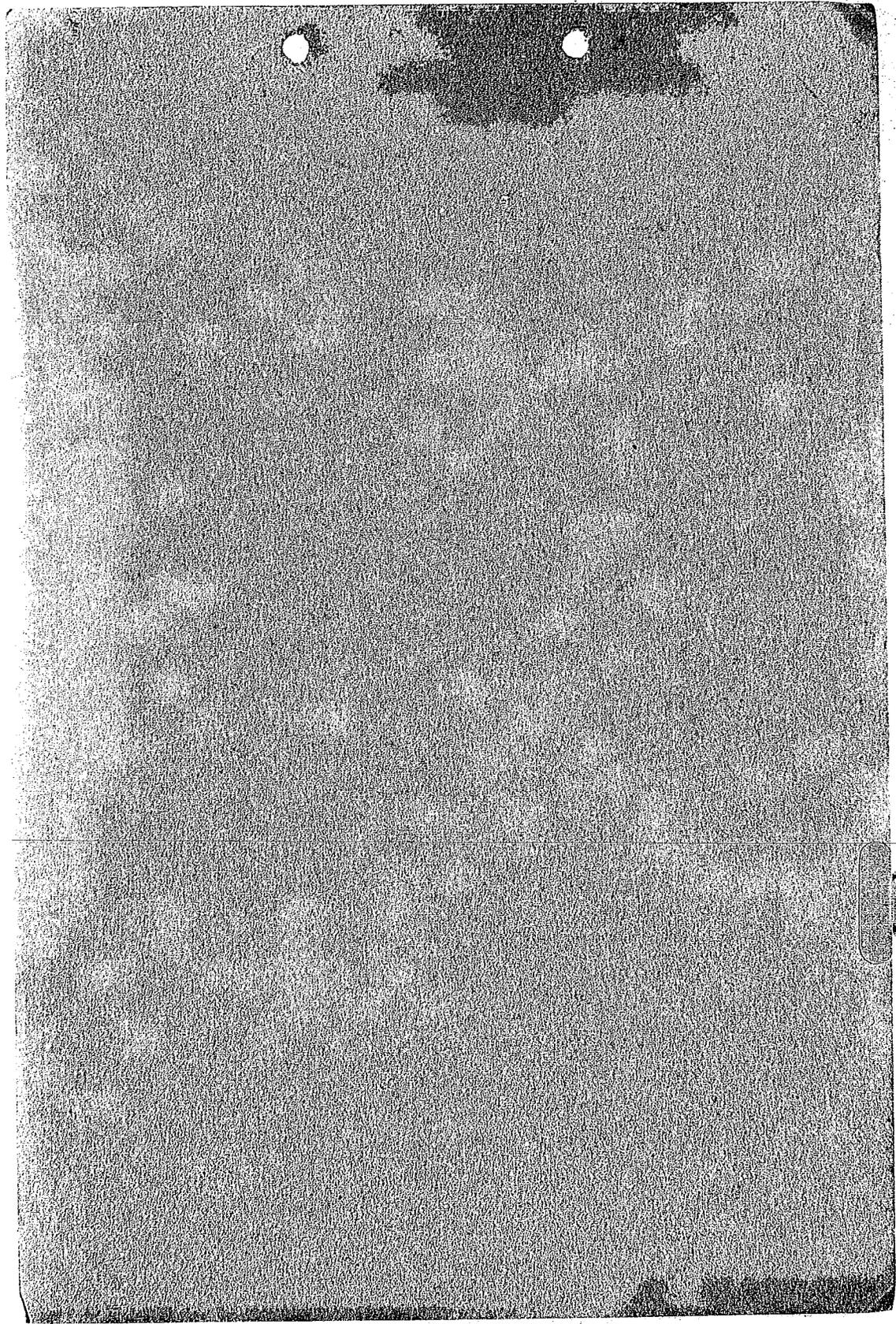


Programs with Respect to Relief  
and Rescue of Refugees; Cooperation  
with Other Agencies

Intergovernmental Committee  
Vol 3 Folder 2

000858



7

000854

280-7  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

REC-1945 JUL 26 PM 4 01

DC/L  
LIAISON

PLAIN

London

Dated July 26, 1945

Rec'd 11:05 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

7527, Twenty-sixth

FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND WRB

Executive Committee of Intergovernmental Committee

on Refugees will meet August 1. Items on agenda include:

One. Travel facilities for members staff IGC  
(EMBTel 6397, Twenty-fifth).

Two. Plenary session director proposes that next  
plenary session be held November 20-21, 1945 in London.

Three. Salary of treasurer; director proposes that  
salary of treasurer should be increased from 600 pounds  
to 1200 pounds per annum as of January 1, 1945 since  
work now requires full-time officer (sent to Department  
as 7527; repeated to Frankfurt as 52.)

Four. Statement on current activities by director.

Five. Any other business.

Six. Date next meeting.

WINANT

LMS

**CONTROL COPY**

000860

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

13C-1  
INCOMING  
TELEGRAM  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

*New York ✓*  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 JUN 15 AM 9 37

CSL-433

DC/A

PLAIN

London

Dated June 14, 1945

Rec'd 8:15 p.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

Secretary of State

Washington

6035, Fourteenth,

FOR DEPT WRB AND HARRISON

Executive Committee of Intergovernmental Committee

on Refugees held thirteenth meeting today. Request  
of French Govt that IGC assume legal and administrative  
protection Spanish refugees accepted. No other business  
transacted. Next meeting Executive Committee will be  
convened in about a month.

WINANT

MRC

000861

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

*lyc - 7*

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

AdcR-49

1945 JUN 8 AM 10 12

PLAIN

London

Dated June 8, 1945

Rec'd 7:10 a.m.

DC/L  
LIAISON

*War Ref. Bd  
(C. P. Dwyer)*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

US URGENT

5778 Eighth

FOR DEPT WRB AND EARL HARRISON

Date next meeting Executive Committee IGC fixed definitely June 13. Only business on agenda French request that IGC assume legal and administrative protection Spanish refugees in France under Convention Oct 28, 1933 benefits of which were extended to Spanish refugees by French decree Mar 15, 1945. The Convention contains provisions re sojourn of refugees issuance of travel document determination of private law concerning personal status of refugee and rights of refugee to work and receive social benefits. In short Spanish refugees will enjoy same rights as Hanson refugees. If AGC assumes legal and administrative protection of Spanish refugees in France it will be charged with taking up with French Govt questions relating to application of convention

000862

-2-5778 June 8, from London

of convention of 1933 both of general character  
and in re to particular individuals. French Govt  
would confer necessary authority on IGC and  
quasi-consular powers on its representative.  
Spanish refugees in France come within mandate of  
IGC and Emerson strongly recommends that request  
of French Govt be approved. I concur in his  
recommendations and request that I be authorized  
before June 13 meeting to vote for approval.  
Please instruct urgently.

WINANT

DJ

000863

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

JMD-1694

PLAIN  
London

Dated March 21, 1945

Rec'd 11:48 p.m.

*un P. B. 0.0*

Secretary of State

Washington

2936, Twenty-first

Department's 1967, March 14

Tenth meeting of the executive committee of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees is scheduled for 11 a.m. March 27. Agenda include discussion of Jewish refugee problem (on basis of memorandum prepared by the director), the naming of an appropriate firm for auditing the 1944 and wqorts annual accounts and statements by Dr. Kullmann aseie-tandntr on his visit to France and Belgium and by the director on current activities. Will Mr. Harrison be here to attend? Should he not arrive in time, I assume that the Department wishes me to attend the meeting as representative of the United States Government.

**CONTROL COPY**

WINANT

JM

000864

Telephone: ABBey 6593-4. 6467-8.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
ON REFUGEES.**

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

110, REGENT STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

- of -

PATRICK MURPHY MALIN

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

Mr. Albert Abrahamson,  
War Refugee Board,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

5th January, 1945.

000865

See pages 3-11

IC/EX/M9

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, HELD  
AT THE CARLTON HOTEL AT 11 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 1944.

The Meeting was attended by:-

The Right Honourable the Earl Winterton, P.C., M.P., Chairman  
and British Government Representative.

Senhor Joaquim de Sousa-Leão, representing His Excellency the  
Brazilian Ambassador, Senhor J.J. Moniz de Aragão, C.B.E.,  
(Delegate of Brazil).

The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, (Delegate of Canada).  
Mr. Morley Scott, (Substitute Delegate).

Dr. J. Ciska, (Delegate of the Czechoslovak Republic).

Monsieur Paris, representing His Excellency Monsieur Maurice  
Dejean, (Delegate of the Provisional Government of France).

Señor Don Oscar Crespo y de la Serna,  
(Substitute Delegate of Mexico).

Mr. J.A.M.E. Luns, representing His Excellency the Netherlands  
Ambassador, Jonkheer E. Michiels van Verduynen,  
(Delegate of the Netherlands).

The Right Honourable Sir George Clark, P.C., G.C.M.G., C.B.,  
(Substitute Delegate of the United Kingdom).

Monsieur C. Koukin, (Delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics).

Mr. Carlos J. Warner, representing His Excellency the Ambassador  
of the United States of America, the Honourable John G.  
Winant, (Delegate of the United States of America).

Mr. Paul Mason, (Foreign Office).

Sir Herbert Emerson (Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees).

Mr. F.W. Malin	"	"	"
Dr. G.G. Kullmann	"	"	"
Mr. S.H.G. Hughes	"	"	"

1. Refugee Children in France, Belgium and Switzerland.  
(Memorandum IC/EX/36 - 11th December, 1944.)

The Memorandum of the Director was considered. The Chairman,  
as representative of the Government of the United Kingdom, said  
that his Government noted that the Memorandum was for information  
only, and it preferred to reserve comments until detailed proposals  
were put forward. It had never been the desire of the British  
Government to seek an unduly narrow interpretation of the mandate  
of the Intergovernmental Committee. In so far, however, as the  
French and Belgian Governments may be able to handle, within

000866

their own resources, the problem of maintaining and, where possible, re-uniting with their parents children of Belgian or French nationals, or children of other nationals who have been long established in those two countries, it was clearly desirable that they should be encouraged.

The Representative of the Government of Mexico asked whether Sir Herbert Emerson and Dr. Kullmann during their visit to France had not found Spanish refugee children in a similar situation to whom help might be extended. He added that according to information held by the Mexican Government there were some hundreds of thousands of Spanish Republican refugees in France and in that number there must be a considerable proportion of children, many of them probably orphans.

The Director said that he had not got any definite information about children of Spanish refugees separated from both their parents on account of deportation or any similar cause. Nor did he know whether there were any such children who had been given asylum in Switzerland. His own view was that if there were any such children they would certainly come within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee, and he himself would recommend that help be given to them. The Director also mentioned that the French Government had proposed that the Spanish refugees should come under a similar system of protection as that afforded to the Hansen refugees. This proposal concerned him in his other capacity of High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations, and discussions were now in progress.

The Representative of the Government of Czechoslovakia asked whether U.N.R.R.A. would be participating in this work of relief.

The Director said that at the time that he was in France and Belgium, the Governments of those countries had not invited U.N.R.R.A. to undertake a programme of relief. He did not know what the position was at present. He said that he hoped shortly to submit to the Executive Committee information regarding the additional responsibilities which the Intergovernmental Committee might have to undertake in those countries in which U.N.R.R.A. did not operate.

2. Grant of Credit by the Director for Assistance to Refugees in Belgium. (Memorandum IC/EX/35 - 12th December, 1944).

The Representative of Canada, in proposing that the action of the Director should be confirmed, said that he thought the

000867

thanks of the Committee were due to the Director for the action which he had taken.

The proposal was seconded by the Representative of the Government of the United States of America, and approved.

3. Draft Resolution by Treasurer.  
(Memorandum IG/BX/38 - 13th December, 1944.)

The Resolution was approved.

4. Statement on Current Activities by the Vice-Director.

The Vice-Director reported on the chief items of activity, Headquarters and in the field, since the last meeting of the Executive Committee, and not covered by the report of the Director on the recent mission undertaken by him and the Assistant Director on the continent.

(a) Roseau and Preservation in German-occupied territory.

(i) Hungary. In keeping with the arrangement entered into during July and August with the British Foreign Office and the American War Refugee Board, information has been supplied by those two bodies concerning developments growing out of Admiral Horthy's offer to the International Red Cross. During October and November it seemed possible that some evacuation might take place from among the 4,500 Hungarian Jews who had been given Swedish protective passports, and the 8,000 who are supplied with Palestine certificates; but the progress of military events in Hungary and the German Government's unwillingness to provide transport now seem destined to disappoint even this hope. Some few hundred, mostly children, have arrived in Switzerland, which has made known its readiness to accept all who may possibly still arrive. The Intergovernmental Committee will be called into action if evacuation actually occurs and if the Swiss Government desires the help we are prepared to give, financially and otherwise.

(ii) North Italy. Our Resident Representative in Rome has been active in consulting with the Vatican and (in Berne on his way to London in early October) with other Catholic authorities, through whose good offices confidential attempts are now being

000868

made toward rescue and preservation.

(iii) Yugoslavia. In co-operation with the military authorities and representatives of the Croatian Red Cross and members of the Yugoslav Jewish community who have come to Italy, our staff there is aiding in all possible ways to provide relief to the remaining Jews in the German-held portions of Yugoslavia, and to rescue by plane those whose future seems insecure.

(b) Interim work in liberated and other areas of safety.

(i) French North Africa. The Fedhala Camp near Casablanca, which has been administered by the British and American Governments with the aid of U.N.R.R.A. personnel, has been emptied of its occupants and is to be considered now only as a reserve site for later possible outflows from Europe. The great bulk of the 800 refugees who were temporarily housed at Fedhala have either been repatriated or are somewhere on route to their homes - including the 400 Greek Sephardic Jews, about half of whom are to settle in Palestine and the other half of whom are in a camp there awaiting return to Salonika. About a hundred of the original Fedhala occupants are now employed in French Morocco and the remaining 250 have been transferred to the Camp of Philippeville in Algeria - fifty of these remainder being Spanish Republicans now returned from Jericho after having been evacuated there a few years ago from Gibraltar and the other 200 being Central European stateless refugees. Since the other refugees still in North Africa - perhaps 5,000 Spanish Republicans and half that number of Central European stateless - are at the moment either enrolled in the armed forces or labour battalions or employed privately, there seems to be no need for a regular office of the Intergovernmental Committee in Algiers at the present time. Hence, Monsieur Valentin-Smith, who has been our Resident Representative there since July, and who has co-operated most effectively with other authorities in achieving the arrangements mentioned above, is at the suggestion of the French Government becoming our Resident Representative in Paris. An assistant to Monsieur Valentin-Smith

is being appointed who will probably be regularly located at the branch office in Lyons, from which he will make occasional visits to French North Africa.

(ii) Italy. Our Resident Representative in Italy, who has been in London since the 10th October, is - after a period of illness - returning to his post within the next several days. Among the many consultations which he has had while at Headquarters was one with the Director of the Division of Displaced Persons from U.N.R.R.A. headquarters in Washington, with whom was discussed the division of responsibilities between U.N.R.R.A. and the Intergovernmental Committee in Italy. The Vice-Director was also able to take advantage of the temporary presence in London of Brigadier Lush, executive head of the Allied Commission in Italy, to discuss matters of common interest. Our staff in Italy, composed chiefly of delegates of American and British voluntary organisations, is being gradually increased, and is occupying itself with quiet but effective work with special reference to occupational retraining and the provision of emergency financial assistance. It is gratifying to note that considerable repatriation of the non-Jewish Yugoslavs, who constitute the chief single group of foreign refugees in Italy, is under way, and that among the 10,000 Palestine immigration places recently allocated for the next six months, 900 have been allocated to Italy - where selection of the group to go is now in process.

(iii) Middle East. Our newly appointed Resident Representative in Cairo, Mr. Thomas Preston, formerly of the Middle East Refugee and Relief Administration, was also in London for two months from the 10th October but has now returned to his post. Among consultations which he and the Director and Vice-Director had whilst he was here was one with Sir Edward Grieg, who has just assumed the responsibility of Resident Minister for the British Government in the Middle East. The Director and Vice-Director have had considerable discussion regarding the Middle East with the Director-General of U.N.R.R.A. and Sir William Matthews, head of the U.N.R.R.A. Cairo Office. It was agreed with them that, while bearing in mind the necessity of preparation for handling quickly such persons as may

000870

prove to be non-repatriable from that region, the representatives of both organisations should avoid encouraging any unnecessary decision on the part of the refugees not to avail themselves of repatriation opportunities. Mr. Preston will, therefore, at the start, occupy himself chiefly with discreet enquiry and preparation for such responsibilities as may devolve upon us in his Middle East area.

(c) Preparation for the long term task of resettling non-repatriables.

(i) U.N.R.R.A. The Vice-Director and the American Resident Representative attended the second meeting of the Council of U.N.R.R.A. at Montreal in September. Since then the Director and Vice-Director have had repeated talks with U.N.R.R.A. officials in London in respect of the practical definition of U.N.R.R.A. responsibilities and the proper working relations between the two organisations in fields where they may be simultaneously at work. These talks have as a major aim the preparation by the Director of a statement to the Executive Committee in the near future concerning the likely extent and nature of the residual maintenance responsibilities which the Committee may be called upon to bear.

(ii) Voluntary organisations. During his visit to the United States of America and Canada in September and early October, the Vice-Director had many valuable contacts with voluntary organisations in both of those countries. Since then the American Resident Representative has greatly developed her work in this connection, providing to the voluntary organisations - among other information - reprints of the Plenary Session materials. In response, one private organisation has sent us an unsolicited contribution of \$10,000. A number of the leaders of American voluntary organisations have recently passed through London and extensive conversations have been held with them. The Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad has, in respect of our need for further voluntary aid in Italy, as well as other matters, shown itself admirably disposed to collaborate with us without interposing unnecessary juridical questions regarding its relations with its constituent bodies.

(iii) Overseas Resettlement. The Australian Government has recently issued a most useful declaration of policy concerning post-

000871

war immigration and the Governments of New Zealand and Canada have likewise evidenced their growing interest in proper immigration into their countries. The Governments of Brazil and Mexico are also demonstrating generous humanitarianism and economic statesmanship in moving toward a policy of selective immigration as one means to the desired development of their countries, and representatives of Paraguay and Venezuela have talked with our Vice-Director and American Resident Representative concerning co-operation between their Governments and the Intergovernmental Committee. There is to be an Inter-American Economic Conference during the spring, and through the Office of the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs in the United States Government it has been suggested that there may be sufficient discussion on migration to warrant attendance by an observer from this Committee.

(iv) Dr. Kullmann is actively at work in preparation of the manifold basic materials which will be required for the discussions of the commission authorized at the Plenary Session to examine the question of identity and travel documents for stateless persons.

While in Montreal the Vice-Director and the American Resident Representative had several conversations with leading members of the International Labour Office concerning the future working relations of that Organisation, which engages chiefly in research and standardising activities, and our own Organisation, which is engaged in operations dealing with a particular class of potential migrants.

(d) Administration.

(i) The appointment of an additional Assistant Director is being actively considered, and will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval if the now outstanding tentative offer meets with an affirmative answer from the candidate to whom it has been made.

The Director has arranged for aid to be given to the present Assistant Director so that he may have time, with his other duties, to give the necessary supervision to the developing work in France, Belgium and Switzerland; and to the Vice-Director, so that he may give some detailed examination to resettlement possibilities.

(ii) The Treasurer has invited from Member Governments their

000872

respective contributions to the Administrative Expenses for 1945 and has brought into operation a Staff Provident Fund.

(iii) The Secretary has been occupied, among other things, with additions to the clerical staff and the search for enlarged office accommodation as well as with detailed arrangements growing out of the British Government's extension of diplomatic status to our senior officers.

5. Statement by the Director on the Mission of the Assistant Director and himself to France, Belgium and Switzerland.

The Director made a long statement on the visit of himself and the Assistant Director to the continent, of which the main points were the following:-

He said that they had been warmly received by the Governments of the three countries, who could not have been more helpful. In France they had had discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Prisoners of war, Deportees and Refugees, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour. They obtained very valuable information from them regarding the problem of displaced persons, and they had made various representations to them regarding the interests of those coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee. There were various groups of displaced persons in France, e.g., Belgians, Dutch, Poles, Russians, Yugoslavs, etc., who had been liberated in the course of the Allied operations. The problem in regard to these was mainly one of repatriation, and a beginning had already been made in getting some of these groups back to their own countries. It might ultimately happen that some members of these groups were not repatriable, in which case they would become the responsibility of the Intergovernmental Committee, but it was the policy of the Committee not to make assumptions of this nature until the facts were clear or to encourage persons not to return, and there was, therefore, no immediate problem affecting the Intergovernmental Committee arising out of these groups. The Director and Assistant Director had had several discussions with the officers of SHAEF regarding matters of common interest, and there had been, and would be an exchange of information. They had also

had conferences with various officers of UNRRA in France, and had re-established relations with many voluntary organisations. (The problem of German and Austrian refugees in France was not a large one, so far as numbers were concerned, but was complicated by the fact that most of them were Jews who had been in concealment and who had lost all their property and belongings. This was a general characteristic of the Jewish problem not only in France but in other countries, and the Director said that he hoped to submit to the Executive Committee in the near future his appreciation of the Jewish problem and, in particular, the refugee aspect of it as it might affect the Intergovernmental Committee.)

Monsieur le Gouverneur Valentin-Smith, the Representative of the Committee in North Africa, was in Paris when the Director reached there. He took part in the various conferences and discussions, and had already made valuable contacts. He had explained to the Director the situation in North Africa, and it had been agreed, in consultation with the French Government, that he should now be the Representative of the Committee for Metropolitan France. He would require an assistant, with headquarters probably Lyons, in the South of France. The Director thought that a capable assistant, whom he had seen, had been found, and he hoped that he would be definitely appointed in the near future.

The position in Belgium was much the same as in France, though the numbers involved were much smaller. The Director and Assistant Director had had very cordial discussions with officers of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and the Interior. They had informally discussed with them the question of having a Representative in Belgium and, as a result, the Director had officially addressed the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He had so far not received a reply. As in France, some refugees had been arrested on suspicion of collaboration. It was probable that while some of these had collaborated, others were innocent, having been denounced on suspicion only. Representations had been made regarding them to the proper authorities. The Director was quite

000874

satisfied that both in France and in Belgium there had been nothing in the nature of victimization of German and Austrian refugees, and in both countries the responsible authorities were sympathetic and anxious that no injustice should be done. (In Belgium some difficulty had arisen regarding the registration of Austrian and German refugees. During the Nazi occupation these had been in concealment under false names and with false papers. They had, therefore, to register again with the police, and they were being registered as Austrians or Germans, as the case might be. There were certain difficulties in registering them as stateless persons, but after long discussion with the Minister concerned, a Memorandum had been submitted by the Director recommending that even if it were necessary to register a person as Austrian or German, there should be an entry on the document to the effect that he was a victim of Nazi persecution, where it was clear that this was the case. Such an entry would be of great value to the refugee, not only in removing public prejudice, but in other ways.) The Minister had promised to give sympathetic consideration to this suggestion.

In Switzerland the Director and Assistant Director first visited Geneva. Switzerland was a centre of voluntary activity, both international and national, and there were many organisations which were interested in refugee work. There had been discussions with most of these. In particular, there had been conferences with various officers of the International Red Cross, with which the Committee had close relations. The Director had also been able to see something of the work which the International Migration Service was doing by way of a survey of refugees in that country. The work was being partly financed by the Intergovernmental Committee. It had the warm support of the Swiss Government, and it was already clear that it would be of considerable value.

In Berne, the Director and Assistant Director had had long talks with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice, and also with Dr. Rothmond who is head of the Federal Police and deals with refugee matters. Among other matters they

000875

had discussed the question of refugees from Hungary. There was at the time of their visit the possibility, although unfortunately, a remote one, of about 12,000 Jews from Hungary arriving in Switzerland. The Swiss Government had made all preparations for their reception, and although the Director raised the subject of financial help from the Intergovernmental Committee, it was clear that, for the present, the Swiss Government was unlikely to ask for such assistance. There was also the prospect that, on the direct request of the German Government, a certain number of refugees from an internment camp at Bergen-Belsen might be received in Switzerland. The Director has since seen in the press that some of these have arrived in Switzerland, but he had no official confirmation of this.

He took up with the Swiss Government the question of a Representative for the Intergovernmental Committee, and there was good hope that the Government would release a high official for this purpose who had had great experience of refugee matters, and who would be willing to accept the appointment. If his services could be secured, he would be of great value to the Committee.

The Director acknowledged the very valuable services which Dr. Kullmann, the Assistant Director, had given. Dr. Kullmann's knowledge of the problems concerned, and his personal relations with many of the Government officials in all three countries had been of the greatest assistance.

After discussion, the Representative of the Government of Mexico proposed a vote of thanks to the Director and Assistant Director for the work they had done during their mission, and to the Vice-Director for his work at headquarters and the lucid and valuable exposition he had given of it. This was seconded by the Representative of the Government of Canada. After the Chairman had paid a tribute to the work of the officers and the staff of the Committee, the proposal was approved.

6. It was decided that the date of the next meeting should be

000076

fixed in consultation between the Chairman and the Director.

There being no other Business the Committee adjourned.

000877

1cc  
1  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

GEK-217

PLAIN  
London

Dated December 21, 1944

Rec'd 4:58 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

11339, Twentyfirst

Ninth meeting of Executive Committee of Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees was held this morning. Committee approved the action of the Director authorizing the expenditure of 3,500,000 Belgian francs for the immediate maintenance of Austrian and German refugees in Belgium. Committee also authorized the opening with the Riggs National Bank of two special checking accounts in the name of the Intergovernmental Committee. The Director reported on his recent trip to Belgium, France and Switzerland and the Vice Director, reported on the operations of the London office during the Director's absence. The meeting was principally informatory in nature agenda and minutes will be sent by mail when minutes received.

1944 DEC 22 AM 9 17  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LAWSON)

WINANT

1 RM

000878

DEC 1 1944

Dear Miss Biehle:

I wish to thank you for your letter of November 25, 1944,  
and to acknowledge receipt of the Report of the Fourth Plenary  
Session which you forwarded under separate cover.

Your cooperation in making this material available to  
us is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle  
J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Martha H. Biehle,  
American Resident Representative,  
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,  
Room 208, 1344 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

EST RBH Hutchison:inp 11/30/44 Jd

000879

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

11D, REGENT STREET  
LONDON, S.W. 1

OFFICE OF  
AMERICAN RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
ROOM 308, 1344 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.  
308 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 25, 1944

Mr. John W. Fehle, Director  
War Refugee Board  
United States Treasury Building  
15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fehle:

Under separate cover we have sent to you a copy of the "Report of the Fourth Plenary Session" of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, just issued by this office. This bulletin contains the reports presented to our Fourth Plenary Session which met in London in August, and the resolutions and rules for constitution and for finance which were adopted at that Session. It also contains a list of the member governments, the members of the Executive Committee, and the administrative staff and resident representatives of the Intergovernmental Committee.

Sincerely yours,

*Martha H. Biehle*

Martha H. Biehle  
American Resident Representative

mhb/mm

*Handwritten note:*  
The enclosed  
is for  
Mr. Fehle

000880

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COMMITTEE  
ON REFUGEES**

**Report of the  
Fourth Plenary Session  
August 15 - 17, 1944  
London**

This report is issued by the  
American Resident Representative,  
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees  
Room 208, 1344 Connecticut Avenue,  
Washington 25, D. C.

000881

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction .....	3
2. List of Member Governments, Members of the Executive Committee, and Administrative Officers .....	5
3. Report of the Director to the Fourth Plenary Session .....	6
4. Resolutions Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session .....	31
5. Memorandum on Travel Documents for Stateless Refugees or for Refugees Who Do Not in Fact Enjoy the Protection of Any Government .....	33
6. Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees .....	42
7. Financial Regulations .....	50

## INTRODUCTION

The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees was formed as a result of the conference which was convened, on the initiative of the Government of the United States, at Evian in 1938. During the four years following the outbreak of war in 1939, the activities of the Committee were restricted; but in August 1943 the executive committee adopted a series of recommendations which involved a great expansion of the Committee's membership, scope, functions and finance. Thirty-six governments have subscribed to this reorganization as members of the Committee. Under its expanded mandate the Committee is engaged in humanitarian activities aimed at alleviating the present position of refugees and in preparations designed to assist materially in solving the post-war refugee problem.

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee in plenary session since its reorganization was held in London, August 15-17, 1944. This Plenary Session of the Committee, the fourth since 1938, was devoted largely to the consideration and adoption of rules for constitution and procedure and financial regulations. The meetings were under the chairmanship of the Right Honorable S. M. Bruce, High Commissioner for Australia, and were attended by delegates of the following thirty Member Governments: Argentine Republic, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovak Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eire, France, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, India, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Sweden, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, and Venezuela.

During the Session, Sir Herbert W. Emerson was reappointed Director, and nine governments were elected members of an enlarged executive committee. Resolutions were adopted affirming the principle of cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the refugee problem, and instructing the Director to invite the Governments of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain, Poland, and the United States of America to appoint experts to a Commission, for the purpose of examining the question of the adoption and issue of an internationally recognised identity and travel document for stateless persons, or persons not enjoying in fact the protection of any government.

The rules for the constitution and procedure, adopted on August 17, 1944, state the extended mandate under which the Intergovernmental Committee is now operating:

- "(1) The mandate of the Committee extends to all persons, wherever they may be, who, as a result of events in Europe, have had to leave, or may have to leave, their countries of residence because of the danger to their lives or liberties on account of their race, religion or political beliefs.
- (2) The functions of the Committee are to preserve, maintain and transport persons within this mandate, so far as this may be necessary and practicable.
- (3) For the purpose of carrying out its functions, the Committee may:
- undertake negotiations with Governments, whether Members of the Committee or not, cooperate with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations, the International Labour Office and other international organizations as well as with voluntary organizations concerned with the interests and welfare of refugees;
  - receive funds both from Governments and from private sources and disburse such funds in accordance with its financial regulations; and
  - appoint a Director and engage such staff and secure such offices as may be required and conclude such contracts as are necessary for this purpose.
- (4) The Committee shall carry out its functions through an Executive Committee which, subject to the control of the Committee, shall be empowered to perform all the functions of the Committee."

The administrative expenditure of the Intergovernmental Committee is shared by the Member Governments. The operational expenditure will be underwritten jointly by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Each Member will be invited to contribute voluntarily to the operational expenditure in accordance with its abilities and its interest in the humanitarian work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

The reports presented to the Fourth Plenary Session, and the rules and resolutions adopted at that time, are presented in this report.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

### MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC	EIRE	NORWAY
AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	PARAGUAY
BELGIUM	GREAT BRITAIN	PERU
BOLIVIA	GREECE	POLAND
BRAZIL	HAITI	SWEDEN
CANADA	HONDURAS	SWITZERLAND
CHILE	ICELAND	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
COLOMBIA	INDIA	UNION OF SOVIET
CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC	LUXEMBURG	SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
DENMARK	MEXICO	UNITED STATES OF
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	NETHERLANDS	AMERICA
ECUADOR	NEW ZEALAND	VENEZUELA
EGYPT	NICARAGUA	

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BRAZIL	NETHERLANDS
CANADA	UNION OF SOVIET
CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC	SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
FRANCE	UNITED STATES OF
GREAT BRITAIN	AMERICA
MEXICO	

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

SIR HERBERT W. EMERSON, *Director*  
 PATRICK MURPHY MALIN, *Vice-Director*  
 GUSTAVE G. KULLMANN, *Honorary Assistant Director*  
 JOHN GOTTLIEB SILLEM, *Secretary*  
 S. H. G. HUGHES, *Finance Officer*

### RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES IN

*Cairo*—THOMAS PRESTON  
*Paris*—M. LE GOUVERNEUR DES COLONIES VALENTIN-SMITH  
 (Formerly in Algiers)  
*Rome*—SIR CLIFFORD HEATHCOTE-SMITH  
*Washington*—MARTHA H. BIEHLE

### ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

11d Regent St., London S. W. 1

110883

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR ON THE WORK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

1. In the draft Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which have been recommended by the Executive Committee for the consideration of the Plenary Committee, the duty is imposed on the Director of presenting to the Committee certain reports relating to its work. These include an Annual Report and a statement of the work of the Committee to be presented at each Plenary Session. Normally, the Annual Report will relate to the previous calendar year, but since the Committee was re-organized in August 1943, and twelve months will have elapsed between that date and the first Plenary Session, it may be of convenience to the Member Governments if the present Report of the Director covers this period. The first Annual Report, which will be issued early in 1945, will supplement and bring up to date the information contained in this Report, and thereafter each Annual Report will cover the whole of a calendar year.

### *History of the Intergovernmental Committee.*

2. The Intergovernmental Committee came into being as a result of the Conference convened at Evian in July 1938, on the initiative of President Roosevelt. It was attended by representatives of thirty-two Governments, of which thirty-one joined the Committee. Of these the Governments of Guatemala, Panama and Uruguay later withdrew, leaving a membership of twenty-eight Governments. The persons coming within the scope of the work of the Committee were defined as follows:—

"(1) Persons who have not already left their countries of origin (Germany (including Austria) ), but who must emigrate on account of their political opinions, religious beliefs and racial origin, and (2) persons as defined in (1) who have already left their country of origin and who have not yet established themselves permanently elsewhere."

On the transfer of the Sudeten areas to Germany, involuntary migrants of German origin in those areas were included in the mandate. The main purpose of the Intergovernmental Committee was to secure by discussion with the German authorities an orderly system of migration of those who had to leave that country. Some discussions took place between December 1938 and August 1939, but without conclusive results, and the outbreak of hostilities brought them summarily to an end. Meantime, considerable progress had been made by governmental and voluntary organizations

in finding permanent homes for many persons who had had to leave their former countries, and it is estimated that out of a total number of 400,000 persons who were forced to migrate previous to the war, no less than 240,000 had been permanently settled. Many Member Governments of the Committee made most valuable contributions towards this result. Other Member Governments and particularly those of European countries, gave temporary asylum to a large number of persons, pending arrangements in progress for their emigration elsewhere. Thus, while much remained to be done, there was a reasonable prospect, had the war not intervened, of finding a solution to the particular task which the Intergovernmental Committee had undertaken. The war inevitably restricted the operations of the Committee which, however, continued its work within the limits imposed by it.

### *Reorganization of the Committee.*

3. As the field of military operations extended, the particular problem with which the Intergovernmental Committee was concerned became one small part only of a general problem of involuntary migration which grew from day to day, and affected the lives of millions of persons of many nationalities, races, creeds and communities. Under the stress and horrors of war the causes which impelled people to leave their homes grew both in number and force, so that those now displaced include many categories previously unknown to the problem of refugees and extending beyond it, since among them are many millions who may be expected to return to their homes when peace is restored.

Early in 1943, the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America, being deeply concerned with the increasing gravity of the situation, appointed representatives to examine the problem, and to recommend measures for its relief. The Conference between the representatives of the two Governments was held in Bermuda in April 1943, and among other recommendations it proposed that the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees should be reorganized and its mandate extended so that it might be better able to deal both with the immediate situation and post-war problems. The emergent necessity was to save and preserve persons who were in imminent peril because of their race, creed or political beliefs. The less urgent, but very important question was to devise machinery and means to cope with the long term problems resulting from the war. The recommendation was approved by the two Governments for the consideration of the Intergovernmental Committee. Accordingly, a meeting of the Executive Committee

000884

was convened on the 4th August 1943, by the Chairman, the Rt. Hon. The Earl Winterton, P.C., M.P., who is also representative on the Committee of the United Kingdom, and was attended by Their Excellencies the Ambassadors in London of the Argentine Republic, Brazil, the French Committee of National Liberation, the Netherlands and the United States of America, representing their respective Governments on the Executive Committee. At this meeting the Executive Committee made various recommendations to the Member Governments, the effect of which was as follows:—

*First*, it was recommended that the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee should be extended so as to include, as may be found necessary and practicable, in addition to those already within the mandate, those persons wherever they may be who, as a result of events in Europe have had to leave, or may have to leave, their countries of residence because of the danger to their lives or liberties on account of their race, religion or political beliefs.

*Second*, it was recommended that the Executive Committee should be empowered by the Member Governments to undertake negotiations with neutral or Allied States, or with organizations, and to take such steps as might be necessary to preserve, maintain and transport persons coming within the mandate.

*Third*, it was recommended that the Executive Committee should be empowered to receive and disburse for the purposes of this work both public and private funds.

*Fourth*, it was recommended that the Administrative Expenses of the Committee should be shared by the Member Governments.

*Fifth*, the Executive Committee was informed that the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America were prepared jointly to underwrite expenditures other than administrative, but that they trusted that when a clearer idea had been obtained of the funds required for the efficient conduct of the Committee's work under its new commitments, an invitation would be addressed to all the Member Governments inviting them to contribute to such expenditure in accordance with their abilities and interest in the humanitarian work of the Committee. The Executive Committee put on record its appreciation of the action of the two Governments, and recommended that an invitation in the terms suggested by them should be addressed in due course to all the Member Governments.

*Sixth*, with regard to the maintenance of persons coming within the mandate of the Committee, it was recommended that they

should be maintained by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in countries in which that administration operated, provided it was willing to undertake the task; but that elsewhere the Intergovernmental Committee itself should assume the responsibility after negotiation with the Government concerned. It was agreed, however, that normally the responsibility for maintenance should not be retro-active, and that Member Governments or voluntary organizations that had assumed financial commitments in respect of such persons should continue to do so. It was also agreed that the question whether new groups of refugees should be maintained by the Intergovernmental Committee or by their own Governments should be for consideration on the individual merits of each case.

In addition to making the above recommendations, the Executive Committee made the following decisions. First, that an invitation to join the Committee should be issued to the Governments of certain States, and invitations have been issued to the following:—Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Luxemburg, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Salvador, Spain, Turkey, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Yugoslavia. Second, that the Honorary Director, Sir Herbert Emerson, should be invited to continue as Director of the Committee, and that Mr. Patrick Malin be appointed as Vice-Director.

*Some effects of the reorganization.*

4. Some observations may be made regarding the scope and effect of the recommendations mentioned above. The revised mandate is very comprehensive and includes the vast majority of the many millions of persons who have been displaced from their homes as the result of events in Europe. In practice, however, the exercise of the mandate is qualified by various considerations. The Executive Committee has accepted the principle that as regards the nationals of any Member Government, while the services of the Intergovernmental Committee are at the disposal of the Government concerned, it will not include them within its practical activities except in consultation and agreement with that Government. Since the various Governments are anxious to do everything possible within their power and resources for their nationals, the responsibilities of the Intergovernmental Committee are very greatly reduced. Again, it is contemplated that in an area in which UNRRA is operating, it will assume large functions and responsibilities relating to physical relief and repatriation which might

otherwise have had to be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Committee. Moreover, it is hoped that the many voluntary organizations which have done such splendid work in the past in assisting refugees will continue and, indeed, extend their efforts, and that the assistance rendered by the Intergovernmental Committee will serve to stimulate rather than replace the help available from private sources. Nevertheless, in spite of these qualifications, the Intergovernmental Committee has assumed wide responsibilities for assisting persons within liberated territory and elsewhere. These may be expected gradually to decline in volume as countries are relieved from occupation, and particularly as the work of repatriation proceeds. The military authorities, or the National Governments, or UNRRA, acting separately or in cooperation as the case may be, will undertake many tasks which would otherwise fall to the Intergovernmental Committee, and this will be particularly so in regard to repatriation. Within a comparatively short time after the end of hostilities, it may be hoped that the great majority of the persons now displaced from their homes will have been repatriated, so that the practical task so far as the Intergovernmental Committee is concerned, will be largely confined to those unfortunate people who, for one reason or another, are unable to return to their own homes. This will involve the protection of their interests, and, in particular, the finding of new homes and new citizenship for them. It is clear that although the responsibilities of the Committee will grow less with the restoration of peace, the ultimate task will be difficult and is likely to extend over a considerable period.

Here it may be observed that it is in the sphere of finding homes for the stateless that there will be special need for international effort and collaboration. It is hoped, therefore, that the Member Governments will continue to make a generous contribution towards the solution of the problem by affording temporary or permanent asylum according to their abilities. But since there is some misunderstanding on the subject, it may be explained that membership of the Committee does not in itself connote any obligation in this respect, which is, and must clearly remain, a matter for discussion and negotiation between the Committee and each Government according to the varying conditions which will prevail in different countries.

The mandate is comprehensive, and makes no distinction on account of nationality, race or creed. This does not mean, however, that all persons coming within the definition will be automatically included within the beneficent activities of the Committee. New categories of homeless people may come into being after the war

whose inclusion would raise important questions of policy, and it may be assumed that the attitude towards them will be determined not by the wording of the mandate alone, but with regard to the views of the Member Governments.

Previous to reorganization, the financial obligations of the Committee were restricted to the cost of the Director's office and of Plenary Meetings. No funds were available for assisting refugees or for other operational expenses. This imposed narrow limits on the scope of the Committee's work. Under the new arrangements, the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America are prepared, subject to their previous approval of particular projects, to underwrite operational expenditure, while provision is made for other Governments to contribute on a voluntary basis.

The fact that the problem has now assumed world wide dimensions is reflected in the enlargement of the membership of the Committee. The Governments which were invited to send representatives to the Evian Conference in 1938 were, broadly speaking, concerned with the specific problem of involuntary migration from Germany and Austria, either because their territory was contiguous with, or adjacent to, those countries, or because they afforded temporary or permanent asylum to the refugees. There are now very few countries in the world which are unaffected by the displacements of population which have taken place in Europe, and in view of this fact the Executive Committee decided to extend invitations to join the Committee to the Governments mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Of those Governments, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Greece, Iceland, India, Luxemburg, Poland, the Union of South Africa and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have agreed to become Members. The Governments of Portugal and Turkey have been unable to accept, and replies have so far not been received from the remaining ten Governments. At the time of writing there are thirty-six Member Governments of the Intergovernmental Committee.

It may thus be said that the scheme of reorganization has very greatly extended the mandate so as to increase the number and categories of persons who may come within the activities of the Committee; it has enlarged the activities in which the Committee may participate so as to deal effectively with the problem; it contains provision for the supply of the necessary resources, and by the enlargement of the Committee it has greatly enhanced its ability to deal successfully with problems which depend for solution on international endeavour and cooperation in the fullest sense.

At its meeting of the 4th August 1943, the Executive Committee, believing that it would be the wish of the Member Governments that it should proceed forthwith with the practical programme in view of the great urgency of the immediate problems, decided to presume their approval to the recommendations which it had made. It correctly interpreted the wishes of the Member Governments, for although replies have not yet been received from all Members, those received have been favourable. The recommendations have now been embodied either in the Draft Rules of Constitution and Procedure or in the Draft Financial Regulations which will come before the Plenary Session for consideration.

The work of the Executive Committee has been concerned partly with internal organization and partly with assistance to those coming within the mandate. It will be convenient to deal first with the internal organization.

#### *Staff Arrangements.*

5. The headquarters of the Committee is in London. The Executive Committee invited Sir Herbert Emerson to continue as Director, an appointment which he has held in an honorary capacity since February 1939. Mr. Malin, an American citizen, was appointed Vice-Director; previous to his appointment he was working in the Office of Relief and Rehabilitation Operations of the Department of State, and before that had had considerable experience of refugee work on the continent, and, in particular, has had close relations with voluntary organizations. Dr. Sillem, a member of the Diplomatic Corps of the Netherlands, was appointed Secretary, and Dr. Kullmann, a Swiss citizen, who has been Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations since the 1st January 1939, and previous to that had long experience with refugees and related questions, accepted the invitation of the Executive Committee to become honorary Assistant Director. Mr. Hughes, a former British Treasury official, is Finance Officer and advises the Committee on financial and staff questions. Mrs. Latham, who has given most loyal service to the Committee since its inception in 1938, is Superintendent of the office. The staff is small, the policy being to restrict it to actual requirements and to expand as the work increases. It is the aim to make the whole establishment international in character, but in war conditions the number of candidates is very limited and in spite of every effort, it has not been possible to give full effect to this purpose.

#### *Classification of expenditure.*

6. The Executive Committee took up at once the question of the classification of expenditure of the Committee. This had an important bearing on the contributions to be made by Member Governments, since while the Administrative Expenses are to be shared according to an approved scale, the other expenditure is to be underwritten in the first place by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, other Member Governments being invited to contribute on a voluntary basis. In examining the matter, the Executive Committee gave very careful thought to the interests of those Member Governments whose normal resources are limited and to those Member Governments whose resources are very adversely affected under war conditions. It considered two alternative methods of ensuring that the contributions of such Members should not press too heavily. The first was to include in the definition of Administrative Expenses not only the cost of the Director's Office, but also the relevant expenditure of Representatives abroad (which may well reach a considerable sum after the war) and to give relief where it was necessary to particular Member Governments by allotting to them a token number of units. The second method was to restrict the definition of Administrative Expenditure within very narrow limits, so that the total sum to be shared by the Member Governments would be so inconsiderable as to make it unnecessary to allot token units to any Members. The latter system was adopted and Administrative Expenditure was defined so as to include:—

(i) The cost of meetings of the Committee in Plenary session, the Executive Committee and any Sub-Committees—comprising the special expenses involved in the actual meetings themselves, such as stenographer and interpreter service, but not the travelling expenses of delegates, which will be borne by their Governments individually.

(ii) The cost of the headquarters office of the Director—comprising staff salaries, rental, stationery and communication, travel, etc.

All other expenditure is classified as Operational.

As a result of this decision it is possible even at this early stage of the Committee's operations to make an approximate estimate of the maximum Administrative Expenditure likely to be incurred in any year. It is improbable that this sum will exceed £41,000, although it is, of course, not possible to give any guarantee to this effect. At present, the Administrative Expenditure is on a considerably lower scale than this, and the estimate for the period of six-

teen months ending the 31st December 1944, is £26,000 only, and even this may prove to be in excess of actual expenditure.

The system briefly described above, and the corresponding Intergovernmental Scale, have been incorporated in the Draft Financial Regulations which are to be submitted to the Plenary Session for its consideration. The Intergovernmental Committee as a whole will thus have the opportunity of deciding whether any modifications are necessary in the initial scale, and the Draft Regulations provide that thereafter no change shall take effect in it until approved in Plenary Session.

*Representatives in various countries.*

7. The Executive Committee has considered the form of organization which the Intergovernmental Committee will require in various countries. It is of opinion that the Committee will be unable to discharge its responsibilities unless it has accredited representatives in the various countries where there is a considerable number of persons coming within its mandate. This will particularly be the case when, after the war, provision has to be made for those who cannot be repatriated, either because they have lost their nationality or, for one reason or another, are unable to return. It is contemplated, therefore, that the functions of the Committee in a particular country will be carried out by a representative responsible to the Director, and through him to the Executive Committee. Such representation will require the agreement of the Government concerned, and this will be sought as occasion arises. One of the main duties of a representative will be to maintain close and cordial relations with the Government. He should be a person acceptable to the Government in whom it can repose full confidence, and who is of sufficient standing and experience to be given the necessary access to the Government's departments and authorities concerned. He should, therefore, ordinarily be a national of the country, who is selected after consultation with the Government. Where, owing to war conditions, it is necessary to make other arrangements, these would be regarded as of a temporary and emergent character, and would be replaced as soon as practicable by arrangements giving effect to the above principles. The broad duties of the representative would be to promote the interests of persons coming within the mandate in accordance with the general policies of the Committee, to give assistance to the Government in all matters relating to such persons, and where temporary asylum only had been given to them, to do his utmost to secure permanent homes for them. He would keep the Director informed of all relevant

matters, and if the Government were agreeable, he would act as a link in many matters between it and the refugees. He would be required to cooperate with other governmental organizations working in related fields, and it would be an important part of his work to coordinate and assist the humanitarian activities of voluntary bodies concerned with refugees; but in this, as in other matters, he would not concern himself with political questions or controversies. In territory where UNRRA was carrying out operations relating to displaced persons, he would cooperate to the fullest extent with that administration, and if UNRRA so desired, he might participate in work for which that body was responsible, being for that purpose under its orders. If it were necessary for the Intergovernmental Committee to undertake specific projects, the representative would normally be responsible for their execution, and would be given the necessary resources and staff to carry out the work. If there were no specific projects, a small staff would usually be sufficient, but it is not possible to make any precise forecast in this respect, since conditions will vary in different countries and will not be clearly manifest until some time after hostilities have ceased.

In addition to representatives in countries of temporary asylum, it may be desirable to have them elsewhere, for instance, in some countries of reception. It has already been found necessary to have a representative in Washington, whose main functions are to keep in continuous contact with the headquarter branches of UNRRA concerned with displaced persons; to represent the Intergovernmental Committee on the UNRRA Technical Committee for Displaced Persons; to act as a liaison officer between the Director and the various voluntary organizations in the United States who are doing such excellent work for refugees, and generally to keep the Director informed of developments relevant to the work of the Committee. Two other representatives have so far been appointed, the first in Italy and the second in Algiers. An account of their work will be given later. The appointment of a representative in Cairo has also been approved and efforts are now being made to obtain a suitable officer. He will be associated very closely with the work of UNRRA in the Middle East, this organization having recently assumed responsibility for the administration of the camps in that area which contain many thousands of persons displaced from their countries.

*Rules of Constitution and Procedure.*

8. Since the Intergovernmental Committee, established as a result of the Evian Conference, was set up for a limited and what was

hoped would be a temporary purpose, no formal constitution and procedure were framed. These have become indispensable with the enlargement of the functions and activities of the Committee. Draft proposals were, therefore, framed by the Director for the consideration of the Executive Committee, which appointed a Sub-Committee to examine them and to recommend to the Executive Committee such amendments and additions as might seem necessary. The Sub-Committee received valuable assistance in the technical drafting of its proposals from Mr. W. E. Beckett of the Legal Department of the British Foreign Office, and wishes to record its appreciation of his help. The Sub-Committee's proposals were then examined by the Executive Committee, and with slight modification, have been recommended to the Plenary Session for consideration.

The same Sub-Committee examined the Draft Financial Regulations, for which a similar procedure has been followed. Within the framework of the Constitution and of the Financial Regulations, rules have been framed, under the direction of the Director, to regulate matters relating to staff, including the offices of representatives abroad, finance and accounts.

#### *Cooperation with other International and Governmental Organizations.*

9. When the Evian Conference was held, there were two inter-governmental organizations concerned with refugee questions, namely, the High Commission for Refugees under the League of Nations, whose mandate included specific categories of refugees, and the International Labour Office, which was interested in the more general problems of migration. The Conference resolved that—

“The Intergovernmental Committee recognising the value of the work of the existing refugee services of the League of Nations and of the studies of migration made by the International Labour Office, shall cooperate fully with these organizations.”

Cooperation with the High Commission of the League of Nations was firmly established by Mr. Rublee, the first Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, and when he resigned in February 1939, it was completed by the appointment as his successor in an honorary capacity of Sir Herbert Emerson, who was High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations. This connection has continued, and has been extended by the appointment as Honorary Assistant Director of Dr. G. G. Kullmann, who is Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees.

The cooperation with the International Labour Office has also been continued. It has been strengthened since the reorganization of the Intergovernmental Committee by more regular contacts between the representative of the International Labour Office in London and the Director's office, and by consultations, as opportunity has offered, between the experts who are studying questions of migration on behalf of the International Labour Office and the officers of the Committee. The Director and Vice-Director were in the United States of America when the International Labour Office held its conference in Philadelphia, and they received an invitation to it. The Director, unfortunately, was able to attend only for part of one day, but Mr. Malin, the Vice-Director, attended three sessions and was, moreover, able to make contacts with delegates attending the conference, and with officers of the organization interested in refugee questions.

Within the past twelve months, two new organizations have been set up, namely, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the War Refugee Board of America, both of which are profoundly concerned with some of the problems which come within the scope of the Intergovernmental Committee. It is of the utmost importance that there should be close collaboration between them and the Committee.

Previous to the formal establishment of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Director and his colleagues were associated with the preliminary work relevant to displaced persons undertaken, on the American side, by the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, and on the British side by the Inter-Allied Post War Requirements Bureau. After informal discussion with Governor Lehman, now Director-General of UNRRA, and with officers of OFRRO and the Bureau, the Director submitted to the Executive Committee a Memorandum on the relations between the Intergovernmental Committee and UNRRA, and the Executive Committee approved this as a basis for discussions with the latter body. The relevant resolutions passed at the first session of the Council of UNRRA, held at Atlantic City from November 10 to December 1, 1943, defined in broad terms the relations between the two bodies, and in more detail the responsibilities which UNRRA is prepared to assume for displaced persons.

The Council reaffirmed the principle of cooperation between the Administration and the Intergovernmental Committee, and resolved that representatives of the Committee should be invited to attend as observers and to participate in the meetings of the Council, its committees and sub-committees and in the meetings of re-

gional committees and technical standing committees in accordance with the appropriate provisions in the Permanent Rules of Procedure. The Council instructed the Director-General to avail himself of the Intergovernmental Committee as the nature of the work and other circumstances made appropriate. With regard to the particular problem of the repatriation of displaced persons, the Council by another resolution resolved that the Director-General should take steps to ensure the closest cooperation with such agencies as the International Red Cross and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees whose assistance may be of value with a view to invoking their collaboration in the work of repatriation of displaced persons.

The Council also adopted the Report of the Committee on Policies with Respect to Assistance to Displaced Persons, from which the following is a relevant extract:—

“Another organization with which the closest cooperation will be necessary is the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which has long dealt with those persons who have been obliged to leave their homes for reasons of race, religion or political belief. UNRRA will assist in the care and repatriation of such of these persons as can, and are willing, to return to their countries of origin or of permanent residence. The Intergovernmental Committee has the function of finding places of settlement for such of them as fall within its competence, and as cannot or do not desire to be so repatriated. It should be the responsibility of the relief organization of UNRRA to assist, for a reasonable period, in the care of such of these refugees as cannot be repatriated until the Intergovernmental Committee is prepared to remove them to new places of settlement.”

Governor Lehman, the Director-General, in conveying these resolutions to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, expressed his complete personal agreement with the policies embodied therein, and his pleasure at the opportunity of working with the officers of the Intergovernmental Committee. At its meeting of the 4th January 1944, the Executive Committee adopted the following resolution:—

“The Executive Committee has had placed before it by the Director the cordial letter of the 10th December 1943, from the Honourable H. Lehman, Director-General of UNRRA with its enclosures. The Executive Committee asks the Director to convey to Governor Lehman its warm congratulations on his appointment to direct the work which is fraught with so great importance to the future of mankind, to express to him its appreciation of his offer of cooperation and to assure him of the desire

of the Intergovernmental Committee to maintain close and cordial relations between the two organizations.

The Executive Committee notes that the report of the Committee on Policies with Respect to Assistance to Displaced Persons, which was adopted by the UNRRA Council, states that ‘UNRRA will assist in the care and repatriation of such of those persons as can, and are willing to, return to their countries of origin or of former residence’ and that ‘it should be the responsibility of the relief organs of UNRRA to assist, for a reasonable period, in the care of such of these refugees as cannot be repatriated.’ It notes also that the Council recommends that the Director-General take steps to ensure the closest cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees with a view to invoking its collaboration in the work of the repatriation of displaced persons. Finally, it notes that the Council has decided to invite representatives of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees to attend as observers and to participate in meetings of the Council, its committees, and sub-committees, and in the meetings of regional committees and technical standing committees.’

The Executive Committee asks that the Director inform Governor Lehman that it appreciates and approves those statements of policy, which accord with its own judgment as to the working relations to be established between the two bodies. The Executive Committee also authorises the Director to proceed with all necessary negotiations with the Director-General of UNRRA to give practical effect to the above statements of UNRRA policy and the Director's Memorandum on Relations between the Intergovernmental Committee and UNRRA which was considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on the 18th November 1943, and there adopted as a basis for further negotiations.”

The Plenary Committee will be asked to affirm the principle of cooperation between the two organizations as stated in the above resolution. In pursuance of it, the Director and his colleagues have been in close touch with the committees and officers of UNRRA concerned with displaced persons. The Director and Vice-Director attended the second meeting of the Technical Committee on Displaced Persons held in Washington on 18th April 1944. The Director, or his representative, has regularly attended the meetings of the European Technical Sub-Committee on Displaced Persons, and has participated in its proceedings. In addition, there have been frequent consultations between the Executive of the Intergovernmental Committee on the one hand, and the administrative officers of UNRRA on the other. At the time of writing these consultations are still in progress, with the object of working out, so far as circumstances will permit, the practical details of the respective functions of the two bodies in regard to displaced persons and, in particular, the nature and duration of the assistance which

000890

UNRRA will be prepared to give to those coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee. Meantime, the Director wishes to acknowledge the active cooperation and assistance so freely given by the officers of UNRRA and in particular, by Mr. Fred Hoehler, Director of the Division of Displaced Persons, and Mr. T. T. Scott, European Director of the Division of Displaced Persons.

*The War Refugee Board.*

10. The War Refugee Board of the United States of America was established by Executive Order of the President on the 22nd January, 1944. It consists of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War, and it is charged with the responsibility of seeing that the policy of the Government of the United States is carried out, this policy being to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war. The functions of the Board include without limitation the development, plans and programmes, and the inauguration of effective measures for, (a) the rescue, transportation and maintenance and relief of the victims of oppression, and (b) the establishment of havens of temporary asylum for such victims.

In the discharge of its functions the Board is directed to cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other interested international organizations. Early in April, the Director and Vice-Director visited Washington, at the invitation of the Government of the United States, in order to discuss with the War Refugee Board the most effective means of cooperation between the two organizations, and so to avoid overlapping. They received most valuable assistance from Mr. Myron Taylor, then a Vice-Chairman of the Committee and representative on it of the Government of the United States of America. Thanks largely to his help, complete agreement was reached, and this was later confirmed by the Executive Committee. Since the functions of the two bodies coincide to some extent, it was not possible, nor indeed was it considered desirable, to attempt to define the spheres of action so as to be mutually exclusive. The War Refugee Board is particularly charged with functions relating to immediate rescue, and although it is interested, in pursuance of this aim, in the welfare of persons after they have reached places of safety, this is not its primary responsibility. It is not within its direction to undertake the post-war task of finding

homes for those who cannot return to their countries or places of established residence. The Intergovernmental Committee, on the other hand, includes within its responsibility all the functions mentioned above, but it is only in the immediate task of rescue that there is any room for overlapping. In this sphere, however, there is plenty of work for both organizations to do, and a practical arrangement was reached which it is hoped will facilitate the work of both. The principle has been accepted, without any qualification whatever, of mutual cooperation between the two organizations. Each is keeping the other informed of its activities and plans, and the two consult together regarding matters of common concern. The discussions at Washington, moreover, were fruitful in promoting particular projects. The Director desires to acknowledge the practical cooperation and assistance he is receiving from the War Refugee Board, and at the same time to pay a very warm tribute to the energy and success with which it is carrying out its task of helping the oppressed.

*Relations of the Committee with Voluntary Organizations.*

11. No one who has had experience of refugee work can fail to appreciate the great contribution which voluntary organizations have made, and are making, towards the alleviation, and often solution, of the many complex problems that are involved. Before the war they were active in many countries, and it may be confidently expected that there will be a great revival of voluntary effort everywhere so soon as conditions will allow. Meanwhile, wherever this is possible, a great volume of good will, service and money is being devoted to the cause of refugees. Some organizations are concerned with refugee questions in general, but many are interested in particular groups and, as the number of groups increase after the war, there will be a corresponding growth of private interest and endeavour. It is to the voluntary organizations that one may look, both in the immediate future and for many years after the end of hostilities, for most valuable service and support. The Executive Committee, recognizing the large part that they will play, thought it proper at a very early stage that it should consider the relations between them and the Intergovernmental Committee, and lay down certain principles for the guidance of the Director and his staff. The purpose of the Committee is to supplement, stimulate and coordinate private effort, and not to replace it, and with these objects in view to cooperate fully with responsible voluntary organizations in their humanitarian activities. In pursuance of this object, the obligation has been laid on the Director and his staff, in-

cluding the representatives of the Committee in various countries, to be accessible to all such organizations interested in any of the various classes of persons included within the mandate of the Committee, and to give no cause for complaint that they are more interested in one group than another, although from time to time a particular group, because of the actual facts, may require more attention than another. At the same time, the officers of the Committee have constantly to bear in mind that its activities are purely humanitarian, and they have to avoid being drawn into political issues or controversies. They are to encourage the voluntary organizations to furnish information of interest which they may have, and they are to give information in return regarding activities and plans, where it is not necessary in the interest of the refugees themselves, or for other reasons, to observe secrecy. Again, they are to consult organizations and individuals on particular matters of which they may have special knowledge and experience, and the Director may invite representatives to join a committee of a purely advisory character which, after consultation with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, he may find it convenient to form for the purpose of advising him in regard to particular subjects. The Draft Constitutional Rules provide for the attendance of observers at Plenary Sessions of the Committee and meetings of the Executive Committee, under conditions to be determined by those two bodies, respectively.

The Director and his colleagues have given full effect to the principle of accessibility. Very friendly relations have long been established with a number of voluntary organizations, and these have been extended and strengthened since the enlargement of the functions of the Committee. This has been the more easy since, apart from the general associations common to all the officers, the Director, in other capacities, has special connections with many of the refugee bodies in the United Kingdom; the Vice-Director, Mr. Malin, has previously worked with many in the United States of America, the Assistant Director, Dr. Kullmann, has intimate knowledge of, and cordial relations with those in Switzerland, and the Finance Officer, Mr. Hughes, has been associated since the beginning of the war with several of the organizations in the United Kingdom. The Director, Vice-Director and Assistant Director hope to renew their past relations with organizations and workers in several countries of Europe which the war has severed.

There has thus been every inclination to carry out the wishes of the Executive Committee. Indeed, there is constant, though large-

ly informal, contact with all the leading organizations engaged on refugee work to which access is possible. In particular, owing to the emergent tragic plight of the Jews, there is very close cooperation with the many organizations working on their behalf. The tours of the officers of the Committee have enabled personal contacts to be made in the United States of America, Canada, Switzerland, Portugal and Palestine.

In some cases there is formal association in certain aspects of the work. A few examples may be given. An arrangement has been made with the American Friends Service Committee, the Joint Distribution Committee and the British Friends Ambulance Unit by which representatives of these very well known organizations are working in Italy under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Committee. They are responsible to the representative of the Committee, Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, for duties performed under his control, but they correspond freely with their own organizations which prefer to pay their salaries and other expenses, except travelling. It is hoped that with the agreement of the French Authorities, a similar arrangement may be made in North Africa in regard to representatives of the American Friends Service Committee who are working there. In another sphere, the Joint Distribution Committee is doing work of very great importance on behalf of the Committee, and it is hoped to utilize the services of the International Migration Service, another long established organization, in a preliminary survey of certain groups of refugees. These cases illustrate the manner in which the Intergovernmental Committee and the voluntary bodies can work together to their mutual advantage and, what is more important, for the benefit of the people whom all are trying to help. They suggest many lines of similar development.

*The importance of cooperation.*

12. Considerable space has been given in the foregoing pages to the subject of cooperation, but no apology is needed for this. The problem is so large and complex that it can be solved only by cooperation all along the line—with the various Governments, without whose good will and active support little can be done; with the international and governmental organizations working in different portions of the same field whose contributions are of the greatest value, and with voluntary organizations and private workers, who bring not only material resources but the priceless gifts of experience, devotion and service.

000892

*Assistance to persons coming within the mandate.*

13. An account must now be given of the activities of the Committee in the sphere of practical assistance to persons coming within its mandate. It may be prefaced by three observations. First, it is the common experience of all engaged in refugee work that a very great deal of effort is necessary to obtain even small results. There is much ploughing of the sands. This is so even in normal times, but it is greatly accentuated under war conditions. Frustration and disappointment are only too often the fruits of prolonged labour. Second, when positive results are achieved it is often through the combined, or sometimes independent efforts of a number of agencies international, national, voluntary organizations or even individuals. It is necessary to bring a battery into action rather than a single gun. This is all to the good, so long as the job is done it does not matter who does it. But the fact is mentioned because in much of the work done or attempted during the past year, the Intergovernmental Committee has been associated with other agencies, and there is no wish to give the impression that it alone has been concerned. Third, in existing circumstances it would be detrimental to the life and liberty of many persons for whom efforts have been, and are being made, to make public the character of such efforts. The account is therefore not exhaustive.

By far the most important task in the immediate situation is to secure, so far as this may be done, the safety of persons in imminent peril. One way is to seek the good offices of neutral Governments, and this has been freely done. Here warm tribute may be paid to the efforts and achievements of two Member Governments of the Committee, Sweden and Switzerland, both of whom have long and honourable traditions of tolerance and humanity. A large number have been saved through their efforts, and many thousands are, at the present time, enjoying asylum and care in their countries. The Committee is especially indebted to both Governments for their response to the various approaches that have been made to them. Portugal and Spain have been hitherto the main European countries of transit, but many refugees have had to stay for considerable periods before they were able to pass on, and this has involved administrative and other difficulties to the two Governments. Although the Committee has not been directly engaged in refugee operations in those countries, it has been in constant touch with the situation there, and it has taken a definite part in the relief of the pressure resulting from the ingress of many thousands. It is, therefore, well aware of the liberal policy which the two Governments

have followed. The outflow of refugees has been in several directions. The French Nationals have gone to North Africa; the Belgians, Czechs, Dutch and Poles have gone to North Africa, the Belgian Congo, the Dutch West Indies, the United Kingdom and United States of America; stateless refugees have gone mainly to Palestine, North Africa and to Canada, which generously agreed to take a considerable number of families for the duration of the war. In order further to reduce the pressure on Spain, a refugee camp has been established in Morocco with the approval of the French Authorities, under the joint administration of the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America. The Intergovernmental Committee initiated the proposal, and is concerned with finding homes for those occupants who cannot return to their own countries or places of settled residence. Its representative, Monsieur le Gouverneur Valentin Smith, has already paid several visits to the camp, where he stayed for some days after the arrival of the first large contingent. He has given a favourable account of the conditions of the camp, and of the reception accorded to the refugees.

On the other side of Europe the passage from the Balkans is through Turkey, and during the past few months an increasing number of Jewish refugees have gone that way to Palestine. This has been made possible by the continued efforts of the American and British Ambassadors in Ankara, working very closely with the War Refugee Board, and by the cooperation of the Turkish Government in granting the necessary transit facilities. The Committee has not taken a direct part in these operations, but it is in continuous touch with them, and ready to give its services where and when it can assist. It has direct interest in other phases of work in the Balkans.

The special efforts of the Committee have been directed over a considerable period to secure permission from the Axis authorities concerned to allow children to leave their territory. As a preliminary to this, the Committee was associated with others in finding new homes for the children should they be allowed to leave. Switzerland has large plans of her own for the reception of children, and Sweden is prepared to welcome a large number if they could reach there. The United States of America offered to take 5,000, the Argentine Republic, the Dominion of Canada and Palestine offered to take 1,000 each and several other countries offered to take smaller numbers according to their ability. There would thus have been no difficulty in finding refuge for many thousands, but efforts, which have been renewed on several occasions, have so far proved

000893

unsuccessful because of the unwillingness of the authorities concerned to give the necessary permission for the children to leave. At the time of writing there is hope that Jewish children may be allowed to leave Hungary, and the matter is being actively pursued by the Committee.

From time to time the circumstances of particular groups in Europe require special attention, either because of the immediate danger in which they are placed, or because there are circumstances which hold out prospects of successful intervention which, unhappily do not exist for others in equal danger. One such group consists of persons holding passports of South American States. In conjunction with the War Refugee Board, many efforts have been made, and are continuing on their behalf.

*Work in the field.*

14. The scope of work in the field is circumscribed by the conditions imposed by the war. But it is in full progress in Italy, and a beginning has been made in North Africa. In both cases much of the necessary discussions with the relevant authorities was carried out by the Vice-Director, Mr. Malin, during a most fruitful tour of three months which he made early in the year. He visited North Africa, Italy, Egypt, Palestine and Turkey, gaining first hand knowledge of the refugee problems in the various countries, making contacts with Government officers, diplomatic representatives, the military authorities and voluntary organizations and workers, and ascertaining and promoting the means by which the Intergovernmental Committee could help. He received the greatest assistance and courtesy from all. He spent several weeks in Italy, visiting the refugee camps and studying the actual and potential problems in so far as they affect the Intergovernmental Committee. At the suggestion of the Allied Control Commission, he was able to prepare the way for an arrangement by which a representative of the Committee is attached to the Commission, with the duty of assisting its Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission work relating to refugees of other than Italian nationality. The Committee was fortunate in securing as its representative Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, who took over his duties in Italy on 30th April. As already mentioned, he has associated with him representatives of three long-established voluntary organizations with much experience in the field of refugee assistance and general relief. He is collaborating with the missions charged with the protection of the interests of various nationals. He and his colleagues are thus able, under the best auspices, to take up all branches of the work—

classification and survey of groups of individuals, welfare, employment, camp administration, the finding of new homes for those who cannot be repatriated and so on. They have embarked on their mission with zeal and efficiency. Apart from these comprehensive tasks, Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith gave great assistance in organizing the selection, collection and departure of a group of 571 Jewish refugees for Palestine. He is also engaged in efforts to trace persons coming within the Committee's mandate, who were in Italy at some time during the war, but cannot now be found. The work that is being done by Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith is not only of great value in itself and of much benefit to the refugees concerned, but the knowledge and experience so gained of actual conditions in Italy will serve as some indication at least of the conditions likely to be found in other countries, of the problems that will occur there and of the measures that will be necessary to solve them.

In North Africa the representative of the Committee, Monsieur le Gouverneur Valentin Smith, took up his duties on the 1st July only, and it is, therefore, too early to say how the work will develop. But he has made an excellent start and he is assured of the good will and confidence of the French Authorities, to whom the Committee is indebted for sparing his services. French North Africa contains many refugees of different groups, and an important function of the representative will be to assist the authorities in the execution of the liberal policy which they have adopted, and in bringing to their notice ways by which it can be advanced in the knowledge that any representation he may make will be received with sympathy and understanding. The relations so established will, it is hoped, set the pattern for the much larger tasks in France itself.

*Visit of Assistant Director to Switzerland.*

15. Dr. Kullmann, the Assistant Director and Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations, was invited by the Swiss Government to visit Switzerland for the purpose of discussing various refugee problems. The necessary facilities having been obtained for him by the Swiss Government, he spent five weeks there early in the year. During his visit he discussed many refugee matters with high Government officials, including post-war problems. He visited some of the camps in which refugees are accommodated and saw for himself the liberal policy which is pursued towards them, and the practical and sympathetic character of the measures taken for their benefit. He had valuable talks with representatives of the International Red Cross, both on general

000894

matters and on particular questions. Here it may be mentioned that the Committee has close links with the International Red Cross. It has frequent contact with its mission in London, is continuously exchanging information with Geneva and is particularly interested in the scheme for tracing relatives which has been initiated by it. It is acquainted with the untiring efforts that the International Red Cross has made and is making to relieve suffering in Europe, and to give every assistance within the opportunities available to persons coming within the functions of the Intergovernmental Committee. The renewal of personal contacts made by Dr. Kullmann strengthened the close cooperation which already exists. Even before the war, Switzerland was a very active field of refugee work; wider opportunities and greater necessity have arisen during the war, and the many voluntary organizations operating there have used every available opportunity to help. Dr. Kullmann learnt much of their difficulties, their needs and their success. Finally, he gained a picture of refugee problems in various countries and knowledge of practical ways in which the Intergovernmental Committee could assist.

*Post-war problems.*

16. Since the functions of the Committee extend to the post-war period, much of the time and thought of the Director and his colleagues have been directed towards post-war problems. Many indications of this have been given in previous paragraphs. The consultations with UNRRA relate almost entirely to this aspect of the Committee's functions, and they cover a wide field. Many voluntary organizations are taking a lively and practical interest in the matter, and there is frequent exchange of views. The future is the dominating anxiety of most refugees, and they seek advice and guidance.

The Director has had informal talks with several Governments regarding the prospects of immigration after the war, and the prospects of absorption of refugees where these have been admitted on a temporary basis, and various plans for settlement have been examined. These discussions and investigations are of value even though they cannot be carried to a conclusion at the present stage, when it is not possible, on the one hand, for most Governments to forecast the economic situation, or, on the other hand, for the Intergovernmental Committee to give more than a general indication of the total number of non-repatriable persons for whom new homes will have to be found, or of the groups of which the total will be composed.

Meanwhile, progress is being made in some matters which have a close bearing on the welfare of refugees after the war. The Intergovernmental Committee has been associated with the military authorities, UNRRA and other interested agencies in devising means of communication between displaced persons and their relatives during the transitional period, and in establishing an efficient system by which they will be able to trace relatives whose whereabouts are unknown. This is a matter of great importance, since the war has resulted in wide dispersal of families, the members of which are often scattered over several countries. Another matter of great concern to the stateless will be the provision of suitable travel documents. The Executive Committee has asked the Plenary Committee to consider the appointment of an Expert Commission to examine this technical subject, and to make recommendations. An opportunity has recently occurred by which the Intergovernmental Committee has been able to use the agency of the International Migration Service to carry out a survey of certain groups of displaced persons. The results will be of value, not only for the purpose of finding homes for particular individuals where this is necessary, but also as giving broad indications of the problems likely to arise in regard to similar groups of which surveys cannot at present be made.

*Financial Estimates.*

17. The calendar year has been adopted as the financial year, and in future the financial estimates will cover the period from 1st January to 31st December in each year. It was found convenient, however, to take as the initial period the sixteen months beginning the 1st September 1943, and ending 31st December 1944. The budget estimates are classified under two main heads, (i) Administrative, and (ii) Operational. The estimate of Administrative Expenditure for the initial period, as approved by the Executive Committee, is £26,000, and the contributions of Member Governments have been fixed on this basis. Should the actual expenditure be less than the estimate, account will be taken of this in the estimate for 1945, the next financial year, and the Member Governments will automatically be given the benefit of a corresponding reduction of contributions. When the estimate of operational expenditure for the initial period was considered by the Executive Committee early in January 1944, it was not possible to make more than a very rough forecast of what would be necessary, since this depended on a number of intangible factors connected with the progress of the war. With the approval of the Governments of the

000895

United Kingdom and United States of America who have agreed to underwrite operational expenditure, an estimate was adopted of a round figure of one million pounds, and the two Governments have made the necessary provision. At the present time, it appears probable that, while the whole of this sum will not be spent, a considerable portion of it will be required.

Under its mandate, the Executive Committee is empowered to receive funds from private sources. So far, contributions amounting to £5,100 have been received, and these will be used for operational expenditure for the assistance of refugees in Europe. Contributions received from private sources will be shown in the accounts separate from money received from public sources.

The Draft Financial Regulations provide that the annual budget estimates of the Executive Committee shall be submitted by the Director to the Executive Committee not later than the 30th September in each year, and that the Executive Committee, having considered them, shall recommend them, with such changes as it may consider necessary, to the Committee for consideration at its next Plenary Meeting, provided that if no such meeting be held before the commencement of the financial year to which the estimates relate, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to give final approval to the estimates as recommended by it. This procedure, if adopted by the Plenary Committee, suggests the desirability in the future of fixing the date of Plenary Sessions of the Committee some time in November or December of each year, so that the Plenary Committee will have the opportunity of examining, discussing and approving the annual financial estimates.

*Acknowledgments.*

18. The Director, for himself and on behalf of his colleagues, wishes to express his appreciation and thanks for the assistance and consideration they have received from the Members of the Executive Committee, and in particular, from the Chairman, who has given much time to the discussion of various matters with the staff, and has assisted them on many occasions in the solution of difficulties. The Director wishes to record his gratitude to the officers and staff for their loyal support and help during a period when the work has been difficult and often heavy.

H. W. EMERSON,  
*Director.*

25th July 1944.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERN- MENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

- I. COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS—A Resolution relating to cooperation of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees with other governmental organizations concerned with the various aspects of the refugee problem:

*RESOLVED.*

(1) That the Committee re-affirms the principle adopted at the Evian Conference of cooperation with the refugee services of the League of Nations and with the International Labour Office.

(2) That the Committee approves and confirms the action of the Executive Committee in conveying to the Director-General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration an appreciation of the offer of cooperation made by that Administration, and an assurance that the Intergovernmental Committee desires to maintain close and cordial relations between the two organizations.

(3) That the Committee approves and confirms the arrangements made, under the authority and with the sanction of the Executive Committee, for close cooperation between the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board of the United States of America.

(4) That the Committee invite representatives of the above mentioned organizations to attend as observers and to participate in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee, its committees and sub-committees in accordance with the Rules of Constitution and of Procedure.

(5) That the Committee instructs the Director to collaborate with the above mentioned organizations and with all intergovernmental agencies whose assistance and cooperation may be of value, in the furtherance of the policies and purposes of the Intergovernmental Committee.

- II. COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS—A Resolution affirming the principle of cooperation with non-governmental organizations in their humanitarian activities, insofar as they relate to the welfare of refugees coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees:

Recognizing the services that have been rendered to the cause of refugees by voluntary organizations and workers in many countries, and appreciating the valuable contribution that they can make towards a solution of the refugee problem,

**RESOLVED.**

(1) That the Committee approves and confirms the action taken by the Executive Committee to ensure cooperation with voluntary organizations in their humanitarian and non-political activities, insofar as they relate to the welfare of persons coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee.

(2) That the Committee desires to continue and extend the close association between itself and the refugee services of the International Red Cross.

(3) That in pursuance of the above principles, the Committee instructs the Director to maintain close and sympathetic relations with voluntary organizations, and to avail himself of their services insofar as they are humanitarian and non-political, and are relevant to the functions and activities of the Committee.

**III. RESOLUTION CONCERNING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS—**

The Committee, having examined the Memoranda of the Director and the Assistant Director, and recognizing the need of an early examination of the question of the wider provision of internationally recognised identity and travel documents for persons coming within its mandate whether stateless or not in fact enjoying the protection of any Government,

**RESOLVES,**

(1) That the Director be instructed to invite the Governments of Argentine, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, to appoint experts to a Commission, with power to add to its members, to be convened by him for the purpose of examining the question of the adoption and issue of an internationally recognised identity and travel document for stateless persons, or persons not enjoying in fact the protection of any Government;

(2) That this Commission of Experts submit a report on its findings for the consideration of the Executive Committee;

(3) That the Executive Committee be empowered, if it considers it desirable, to make Recommendations to various Governments.

**MEMORANDUM ON  
TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR STATELESS  
REFUGEES OR FOR REFUGEES WHO DO NOT IN  
FACT ENJOY THE PROTECTION OF ANY  
GOVERNMENT**

Presented to the Fourth Plenary Session of the  
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

I. When embarking on its task of finding permanent homes for refugees placed under its mandate, the Intergovernmental Committee will be confronted with the problem of provision being made for valid travel documents for those persons who do not enjoy the protection of any Government, and are therefore, either in law or in fact, stateless.

Such a problem does not arise in respect of the repatriation of the large group of displaced persons on the Continent able and willing to return to their country of origin or residence. As regards this category, UNRRA, which is to act as repatriation authority, in cooperation with the Governments concerned, will make collective arrangements for the transport of groups with a common destination whose return has been authorised by the representative of the country to which return is being made, and no special travel document will be required.

Non-returnable persons who do not enjoy the protection of any Government will be found in European neutral countries, in Allied unoccupied countries, and in newly liberated Allied territories. Should they have to re-emigrate to countries of final settlement overseas they will need to be provided with a travel document recognised by the countries of transit and final destination, e.g., a document on which the authorities of these countries will be prepared to affix transit and entrance visas.

Recognition of such travel document may also imply that the authorities concerned will be prepared, on presentation of such a document, to issue another document on which the visa of final destination may be affixed.

II. After the last war the Governments were confronted with a similar problem. As a consequence of the far-reaching political changes brought about by the war of 1914-1918, and the immediate post-war period, many people had lost touch with the countries to which they formerly belonged and in many cases had lost their previous nationality, without being in a position either to recover it, or to acquire a new nationality within a reasonable space of time.

These persons without nationality were not as a rule in possession of the papers of identity required by the regulations of the State in which they resided, and their freedom of movement was therefore in many cases much restricted.

There were also hundreds of thousands of Russian and Armenian refugees who were placed in 1921 under the protection of a League High Commissioner.

The Governments, collaborating through the medium of the League of Nations, endeavoured to make provision for identity and travel documents by two methods: (a) in respect of the specified categories of refugees placed by mutual consent under the protection of the League, i.e., the Russians, and later on, Armenians, Saar refugees, Germans and Austrians, an internationally recognised travel document was provided by various intergovernmental Arrangements and Conventions; (b) in respect of other persons the International Conference on Passports, which met in Geneva in May 1926, considered it desirable that certain facilities for travelling should be granted to persons without nationality, and requested the League of Nations to prepare, with the assistance of experts of those States most immediately concerned, a draft Arrangement based upon the principle of the introduction of an internationally recognised identity document. Subsequently, the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit of the League, which met in 1927, adopted four Recommendations concerning the issue of a uniform type of document to persons who are without nationality, or of doubtful nationality, in consequence of the war or from causes arising directly out of war, the non-delimitation of frontiers, or a conflict of laws, pending an international settlement of this matter.

The two methods outlined in (a) and (b) are analysed in more detail in the following paragraphs of this note.

III. As regards provision of travel and identity documents for specified groups of refugees placed under an international authority, action taken can be briefly summarised as follows: Already in 1922, i.e. one year after Dr. Nansen had been appointed League High Commissioner for Russian Refugees, a conference of Government representatives was held in Geneva, which drew up an Intergovernmental Arrangement providing for the issue and recognition of a special identity and travel document for Russian stateless refugees (this travel document is commonly called the "Nansen Passport").

To hasten the entry into force of the new measure a flexible pro-

cedure was adopted. The draft Arrangement was communicated to League and non-League Members in the form of a Recommendation. Acceptance of the provisions of this Arrangement with or without reservations, was to be notified to the Secretary-General of the League by a formal declaration.

This simple method led to the adoption of the Nansen Passport for Russian refugees by 53 countries. In 1924 the scheme was extended to Armenian refugees, and 35 States adopted the new measure.

The new identity and travel document had a validity restricted to a period of one year, and when it was first drawn up it did not confer the right to return to the country of issue unless that right was expressly granted, and an endorsement made on the certificate to that effect.

However, experience having shown that many States were unwilling to affix an entrance permit on a travel document which did not guarantee to the holder the right of return to the country of issue, and therefore did not facilitate the free movement of refugees necessary for enabling them to find a country of final settlement in Europe, a supplementary Intergovernmental Arrangement drawn up in 1926 provided, *inter alia*, the right of return. This new Arrangement was adopted by only twelve Governments.

Subsequently, the provisions setting up the Nansen Passport were incorporated in the International Convention Concerning the Status of Refugees, signed in Geneva on October 28th, 1933 (Russians, Armenians, assimilated categories, and, since 1935, Saar refugees). This diplomatic instrument, which provided in its Article II paragraph 2 the right of return, was only ratified by eight States.

The problem of providing refugees from Germany and Austria with a travel document was less acute in the first years of their exodus, as the German Government did not resort at an early date to "en masse" denationalisation. It is true that thousands of persons were denationalised between 1935 and 1941 by individual decrees, but only much later, on November 25th, 1941, a German Decree provided for the "en masse" denationalisation of all German Jews having taken ordinary residence abroad. Other refugees from Greater Germany, although deprived in fact of German diplomatic and consular protection, i.e., being unable to obtain prolongation of validity of their German passports, were not denationalised formally.

Nevertheless, the Provisional Arrangement concerning the status of refugees coming from Germany, signed in Geneva on July 4,

000899

1936, made provision for the issue of a travel document similar in form and content to the document previously adopted for Russians, Armenians, and other categories of refugees. These provisions were incorporated subsequently into the International Convention Concerning the Status of Refugees coming from Germany, signed in Geneva on February 10, 1938. By an additional protocol, its clauses were extended to refugees from Austria after the Anschluss. The Arrangement was put into force by six Governments; the Convention was ratified by only two Governments, further ratifications being held up owing to the outbreak of the war.

IV. The Arrangements and Conventions for the specified groups of refugees outlined above made the following provisions regarding the issue of travel and identity documents:

- "(a) It shall not contravene any law or regulation governing the supervision of aliens in any country;
- (b) It shall in general be valid for one year as from the date of issue;
- (c) The renewal or extension of the travel document shall be a matter for the issuing authority, until such time as the holder may be able to secure the issue of a fresh travel document. Should a refugee lawfully take up residence in another territory to which the Convention or the Arrangement apply, the authorities of that territory shall be required to supply him with a new travel document.
- (d) Consuls specially authorised by the country issuing the certificate shall be able to extend its validity for a period which shall not as a rule exceed six months;
- (e) The identity certificate shall be made out in the language of the issuing country, and also in French;
- (f) Children under 16 years of age shall if necessary be included in the certificate of their parent(s);
- (g) The fees for the issue of certificates shall not exceed the lowest tariff applied to passports. It is recommended that when certificates are issued to destitute persons no charge whatever shall be made."

Arrangements and subsequent Conventions also provided:

- "1. (a) That the travel document shall entitle the holder to leave the territory where it has been issued, and to return thereto during the period of the validity of the said travel document;
  - (b) The Governments acceding to the Arrangement or the Convention reserve the right in exceptional cases to limit the period during which the refugee may return, such limitation being noted on the travel document.
2. The competent authorities of the territory to which the refugee

desires to proceed shall, if they are prepared to admit him, affix a visa to the travel document of which he is the holder.

- 3. The authorities of the territories of transit undertake the grant of facilities for the issue of transit visas to refugees who have obtained visas for the territory of final destination."

It will be noted that the issue of travel documents to refugees based upon Intergovernmental Arrangement or Convention remains entrusted to the Government on whose territory the refugee applicant resides.

In this connection, the question arose as to the procedure to be followed to ascertain whether an applicant qualified under the one or the other of the eligible categories of persons benefiting from the Arrangements or Conventions.

In some cases representative bodies of the refugees themselves in the country concerned were authorised to certify that the applicant for a travel document was a bona fide refugee belonging to the category eligible for the issue of a travel document. Such a statement had then to be countersigned by the accredited representative of the League High Commissioner. In other countries the authorities issue the certificate on the basis of their own records of the individual applicant concerned, or upon application through the accredited representative.

V. As regards stateless persons, or persons of doubtful nationality, who do not belong to the above-mentioned specified groups of refugees under the protection of an international authority, the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit of the League, in 1927, adopted four Recommendations to the Governments.

Recommendation I relates to the issue of a uniform type of document to persons who are without nationality or of doubtful nationality, in consequence of the war or for causes arising directly out of war, the non-delimitation of frontiers, or a conflict of laws, pending the international settlement of this matter. The title of the document was to be "Identity and Travel Document"; at the foot of the first page the following two statements were to be printed one below the other:

- "1) The holder of the present document is not qualified to obtain a national . . . . . passport (the blank to be replaced in the document by a printed indication of the country of issue).
- 2) Information which the authority issuing the identity and travel document may consider necessary."

000899

On the fourth page, below the statement as to the countries for which the document is valid, was to be printed in conspicuous characters the words: "The holder is authorised to return to . . . . . (name of country which issued the document) during the validity of the present document."

It was understood, however, that each country would, when issuing the document, have the right to strike out, in exceptional cases, the reference to the return. It was further understood that countries adopting the present Recommendations would continue to accept under the same conditions as heretofore the document valid for the journey, but containing no mention of return, habitually issued by Governments, which would make a declaration to this effect to the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

Recommendation II provided:

1. that the Government which had issued an identity and travel document would be entitled if it thought fit, to extend the validity of the document through its officials at home, or its representatives abroad; that it would be able in the same way to renew the document or prepare a new one when the original document had expired, on the understanding that the said identity and travel document might always be withdrawn by the territorial authority of the country of issue;
2. that the authorities of the country in which the holder of the identity and travel document happened to be might, if the document had expired, prepare a new one;
3. that the authority issuing a new identity and travel document would withdraw the document which had expired.

Recommendation III provided:

1. that the period of validity of an identity and travel document would in principle be six months;
2. that, save in certain special or exceptional cases, this document would be valid for all countries or for as many countries as possible;
3. that each Government would be left free to adopt such provisions as it may consider necessary for the visaing of the document in question, though every endeavour would be made to grant visas under as simple and favourable conditions as possible;
4. that in the matter of charges levied for the issue of an identity and travel document, and the granting of visas, the provisions set out in the final act of the Passport Conference at Geneva of May 18, 1926, would be observed, unless special circumstances warranted their modification.

Recommendation IV provided that documents issued before the entry into force of the foregoing provisions to persons without na-

tionality, or of doubtful nationality, should remain valid until the said documents had expired.

Further, the attention of the Governments adopting the foregoing Recommendations was drawn to the following points:

- 1) The issue of an identity and travel document did not entitle the holder to claim the protection of the diplomatic and consular authorities of the country which issued it, and did not confer on these authorities the right of protection.
- 2) Neither the issue of the identity and travel document, nor the entries made thereon could determine or affect the actual status of the holder, particularly as regards nationality, as this document, though based on presumptions worthy of consideration, could not prevail against a legally established status.
- 3) The above-mentioned four Recommendations were in no way to affect the laws and regulations in the different countries governing the conditions of admission to, and residence and establishment in, their respective territories. Nor did they affect the special provisions of the laws and regulations concerning persons to whom the said Recommendations applied.
- 4) The said Recommendations in no way affected the resolutions adopted, or to be adopted, or the agreements concluded, or to be concluded, concerning specified groups of refugees.

These Recommendations were adopted by eleven European and three non-European States. Nine Governments replied that they would continue the issue of their own travel document for foreigners, or issue to eligible persons documents similar to the Nansen Passport, while the United States confirmed that American Consuls would accept from aliens unable to present passports in connection with their applications for immigration visas appropriate documents of identity in lieu of passports.

It will be noted that the Recommendations met only with a limited response; neither was a uniform travel document adopted nor provision made for recognition of the identity and travel document by other countries; it being left to each country to consider from case to case whether it would recognise such a document and affix its own visas on it.

VI. As regards past action of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in connection with travel documents, attention may be drawn to the Resolution adopted at Evian on July 14th, 1938, which recommended under 8 (e):

"In those individual immigration cases in which the usually required documents emanating from foreign official sources are found not to be available, there should be accepted such other

000900

documents serving the purpose of the requirements of law as may be available to the immigrant, and that, as regards the document which may be issued to an involuntary emigrant by the country of his foreign residence to serve the purpose of a passport, note be taken of the several international agreements providing for the issue of a travel document serving the purpose of a passport and of the advantage of their wide application."

VII. When considering, on the basis of previous efforts and achievements, what course of action should be followed by the Intergovernmental Committee to make travel and identity documents available to persons under its mandate, the following points should be borne in mind:

- (i) It is not advisable to combine provision for the issue of a valid travel document with other arrangements relating to the legal status of the refugee.
- (ii) The mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee comprises persons already covered by previous Arrangements and Conventions, and persons not so covered.
- (iii) For the specified categories already covered by previous Arrangements and Conventions, the best policy to follow may prove to be to press for a wider application of the issue of such documents and for their recognition by other States.
- (iv) As regards persons not covered by previous Arrangements, two alternative measures may be envisaged by the Intergovernmental Committee, viz:
  - (a) to draw up an Arrangement providing for the issue of a uniform internationally-recognised travel and identity document to specified groups of refugees coming under the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee.  
In this Arrangement the new specified groups would be clearly defined, and, moreover, the Governments adopting the Arrangement would confer upon the Intergovernmental Committee power to prescribe further groups as the need arose.
  - (b) to press for a wider and fuller application of the Recommendations of the 1927 General Conference on Communications and Transit relating to the issue of travel and identity documents to persons having no nationality or a doubtful nationality.

In this connection attention is drawn to the fact that the Recommendations were drafted before the emergence of National Socialist domination on the European Continent, i.e., before the emergence of a large number of persons compelled to leave their country of origin or of settled residence who, while not being formally denationalised, do not enjoy in fact the protection of their Government of origin and can therefore neither obtain issue nor renewal of validity of their national travel documents.

- (v) While it is to be anticipated that traditional immigration countries (notably in the Western Hemisphere) will not be prepared to issue such travel documents in view of their own immigration legislation, they should nevertheless be approached with a view to obtaining their recognition of such documents, so as to facilitate re-emigration overseas of refugees.
- (vi) As travel facilities for emigration overseas is of paramount importance for the categories of refugees under the Intergovernmental Committee mandate, the clause of return, which gave rise to so much controversy in the past, need not be inserted, as it was mainly designed to afford freedom of movement between European countries.

G. G. KULLMANN,  
*Assistant Director.*

18th July 1944.

000901

## RULES FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND PROCEDURE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

### Article I. MEMBERSHIP.

(1) The Members of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (hereinafter called the Committee) are all Governments which have accepted Membership thereof for the purpose of participating in the humanitarian work for which the Committee has been created and have not ceased to be Members under paragraph 5 of this Article.

(2) The Members of the Committee on the 1st June, 1944, were the Governments set out to the Schedule of these Rules.

(3) Any other Government shall become a Member if it accepts, by a letter addressed to the Director, an invitation to become a Member addressed to it in accordance with Article II (5), as from the first day of the month next following the month in which this acceptance is given.

(4) A Government, by becoming a Member of the Committee, thereby undertakes to afford its general support to the work of the Committee. No resolution adopted by the Committee imposes any specific obligation on any Member, even if the representative of the Member has voted in favour of the resolution, unless the Member, or its Delegate on its behalf, and being duly authorised, has expressly accepted the obligation in question.

(5) Any Member Government may, by giving notice in writing to the Director, cease to be a Member as from the 31st December of the year following that in which such notice is given.

### Article II. MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

(1) The mandate of the Committee extends to all persons, wherever they may be, who, as a result of events in Europe, have had to leave, or may have to leave, their countries of residence because of the danger to their lives or liberties on account of their race, religion or political beliefs.

(2) The functions of the Committee are to preserve, maintain and transport persons within this mandate, so far as this may be necessary and practicable.

(3) For the purpose of carrying out its functions, the Committee may:

(a) undertake negotiations with Governments, whether Members of the Committee or not, co-operate with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations, the International Labour Office and other international organisations as well as with voluntary organisations concerned with the interests and welfare of refugees;

(b) receive funds both from Governments and from private sources and disburse such funds in accordance with its financial regulations; and

(c) appoint a Director and engage such staff and secure such offices as may be required and conclude such contracts as are necessary for this purpose.

(4) The Committee shall carry out its functions through an Executive Com-

mittee which, subject to the control of the Committee, shall be empowered to perform all the functions of the Committee.

(5) The Executive Committee may invite non-Member Governments to become Members of the Committee.

### Article III. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.

(1) The official languages of the Committee shall be English and French, documents issued officially by the Committee shall be in both languages.

(2) A Member shall, on request, be also entitled to receive translations in its own language of final decisions or resolutions of the Committee (or of its subordinate committees).

### Article IV. THE PLENARY COMMITTEE. COMPOSITION.

(1) Each Member may be represented by one Delegate at plenary meetings of the Committee.

(2) Each Member shall inform the Director of the name of its Delegate. Each Member is free to change its Delegate at any time, on giving notice to the Director.

(3) Delegates may, if they so desire, appoint substitute Delegates to sit on their behalf if they are unable to sit. A substitute Delegate may attend all meetings but (except as provided in paragraph 4) shall not speak or vote if his principal Delegate is present. The names of substitute Delegates shall be communicated to the Director and all subsequent changes thereof.

(4) A substitute Delegate may speak and vote at any meetings where his principal Delegate is acting as chairman and is for this reason precluded from voting.

### Article V. SESSIONS OF THE PLENARY COMMITTEE.

(1) The Executive Committee shall convene a regular plenary session of the Committee not less than once a year, and may convene a special plenary session whenever it may deem it necessary.

(2) If requests therefor are received by the Director from the Delegates of not less than one-third of the Members of the Committee, the Executive Committee shall, within thirty days from the date of the receipt of the last request necessary to make up the number of one third, issue notifications convening a special plenary session to be held not less than twenty-one days and not more than thirty days from the date of the notification, unless a special plenary session has already been convened to take place before that time.

(3) Notifications convening regular plenary sessions shall be issued not less than sixty days, and notifications convening special sessions not less than twenty-one days, before the date of the first meeting.

(4) The notifications will be addressed to Member Governments (with copies to Delegates and substitute Delegates whose names have been notified) and will state the time and place of the first meeting.

*Article VI.*

**AGENDA FOR PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.**

(1) The agenda of each plenary session of the Committee shall be proposed, in the first place, by the Executive Committee. It shall include all items proposed for inclusion by the Committee at the previous plenary session and all items proposed by the Executive Committee itself. The Executive Committee shall further consider for inclusion any item proposed by any Delegate, and transmitted to the Director at least forty days in advance of the plenary session, and any item suggested by the Director.

(2) The agenda, as proposed by the Executive Committee, shall be communicated to Member Governments (with copies to Delegates and substitute Delegates whose names have been notified) as long as possible in advance of, and in any case not less than three weeks before, the opening day of the session.

(3) The Executive Committee may later include other items in a supplementary agenda, and shall consider for inclusion any further item proposed by any Delegate, and transmitted to the Director at least ten days in advance of the session. The supplementary agenda shall be at once communicated to Member Governments (with copies to Delegates and substitute Delegates whose names have been notified).

(4) The Committee may revise or add to the agenda as proposed by the Executive Committee.

*Article VII.*

**CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN AT PLENARY SESSIONS.**

(1) At the opening of each plenary session, the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall preside until the Committee has elected a Chairman for the session.

(2) At the opening of each plenary session, the Committee shall elect a Sub-Committee on Nominations, consisting of nine Delegates. This sub-committee shall, as its first task, submit to the Committee the name of a Delegate for the office of Chairman, of another Delegate for the office of Vice-Chairman and of a third Delegate for the office of Deputy Vice-Chairman for the current plenary session.

(3) The Committee shall, after consideration of the report of the Sub-Committee on Nominations, elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Deputy Vice-Chairman. The Committee is free to elect delegates whose names are not submitted in the report of the Sub-Committee. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Vice-Chairman shall hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected.

(4) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the plenary session. He shall direct the discussions, ensure observance of these Rules of Procedure, accord the right to address the Committee, put questions to the Committee, and announce the results of all votes.

(5) In the absence of the Chairman during a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman, and in the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Deputy Vice-Chairman shall act.

(6) No Delegate shall vote when acting as Chairman, except to give a casting vote when the voting is equal.

*Article VIII.*

**PROCEDURE FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT A PLENARY SESSION.**

(1) The presence of Delegates representing one-half of the Members constitutes a quorum at a plenary session, except that at a meeting where a vote for the modification of these Rules or Financial Regulations is being taken, the presence of Delegates representing two-thirds of the Members is necessary for a quorum.

(2) Meetings of a plenary session shall be held in public. The Committee may, however, decide that any particular meeting or any part of a meeting shall be held in private.

(3) The Committee may invite public international organisations, non-Member Governments or authorities, voluntary refugee, relief, welfare or other organisations to send observers to attend all or any of its meetings in plenary session and under conditions as the Committee may determine.

(4) Decisions may be taken in plenary session by a simple majority vote of the Delegates present and voting, except in those cases when these Rules or the Financial Regulations provide for a special majority.

(5) Unless the Committee decides otherwise by a majority vote of not less than two-thirds of the Delegates present and voting, proposals (other than proposals relating to internal procedure), which would involve action by the Committee, shall not be put to the vote at a plenary session before they have been submitted to and reported upon by the Executive Committee or the appropriate sub-committee and the report has been in the hands of Delegates for not less than twenty-four hours.

(6) A majority vote of not less than two-thirds of the Delegates present and voting is required for the adoption of any amendment to these Rules or the Financial Regulations.

(7) The Chairman shall decide:

(i) when a debate on a question is to be closed,

(ii) any question of the application or interpretation of the rules of procedure, including the question whether the proposal is one for the adoption of which a special majority is required.

Nevertheless, any Delegate may question the ruling of the Chairman, and if he so requests a vote shall be taken on the matter. The ruling of the Chairman shall stand, unless a two-thirds majority of the Delegates present and voting vote for a reversal of the ruling.

(8) Voting shall be by roll call:

(i) in those cases where a special majority is required for the adoption of a proposal;

(ii) whenever not less than five Delegates so request either in advance of the vote or immediately after a vote by show of hands; and

(iii) when the Chairman is in doubt as to the result of a vote by show of hands.

When the voting is by roll call, Delegates shall be called upon to state their vote in the English alphabetical order of the names of Members whom they represent.

(9) A secret ballot shall be taken on decisions relating to individuals whenever not less than three Delegates shall so request.

(10) Except as provided in paragraphs 8 and 9, all voting shall be by show of hands.

(11) Delegates may speak in either of the official languages. If a Delegate wishes to speak in another language, he may do so by permission of the Chairman, but this permission may be conditional on his providing an interpreter to translate his speech into one of the official languages. Speeches made in one official language will be translated into the other official language by an interpreter provided by the Committee if any Delegate present so requests.

#### Article IX.

#### RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS IN PLENARY SESSION.

(1) The text of all resolutions and formal decisions adopted in plenary session shall be transmitted to each Member and to each Delegate and substitute Delegate as soon as possible after the end of the session. These texts may be made public.

(2) Copies of the minutes of all public meetings in plenary session shall, when the minutes have been approved by the Executive Committee, also be transmitted to each Member and to each Delegate and substitute Delegate. These minutes may be made public.

(3) The minutes of private meetings in plenary session shall, after they have been approved by the Executive Committee, also be transmitted to Members and to Delegates and substitute Delegates, but they shall be kept confidential and filed separately from the minutes of public meetings.

(4) After their approval by the Executive Committee the minutes can only be amended if a Delegate so requests in a plenary session and the Committee decides that they shall be amended.

(5) The minutes referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be in the form of a summary of the proceedings. A verbatim report of all meetings in plenary session shall be made and filed, and be made available when required. The verbatim reports shall not, however, be distributed or made public unless in any particular case the Committee in plenary session or the Executive Committee so decides. Copies of verbatim reports shall, however, be supplied to Members on their request.

#### Article X.

#### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(1) The Executive Committee shall consist of nine Members, each having been elected by the Committee in plenary session, to hold office for two years. A Member may continue to hold office on the Executive Committee although two years have elapsed from the date of its election until the Committee in plenary session has made an election to fill its place. A Member shall be at all times eligible for re-election to the Executive Committee. If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Executive Committee between two plenary sessions, the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy by itself appointing another Member Government to hold office until the next plenary session.

(2) Each Member of the Executive Committee shall appoint one Delegate to represent it on the Executive Committee.

(3) Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article IV apply to Delegates representing Members on the Executive Committee.

(4) The Executive Committee shall elect its own Chairman from amongst the Delegates of Members of the Executive Committee, who shall be elected for two years but may continue to act, although two years have elapsed from the date of his election until the Executive Committee has held an election to fill his place. A Delegate who is retiring from the chair shall be eligible for re-election.

(5) In the case of the absence of the Chairman, or in the case of an unexpected vacancy in the office of Chairman (as, for instance, in the event of the Chairman ceasing during his period of office to be a Delegate of a Member on the Committee or of his resigning for some other reason) any Delegate representing a Member of the Executive Committee may be appointed by the Executive Committee temporarily as Acting Chairman. Paragraphs 4 and 6 of Article VII shall apply to a Delegate acting as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

(6) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened:

- (i) whenever the Chairman, after hearing the views of the Director, considers it necessary;
- (ii) in the case of a vacancy in the office of Chairman whenever the Director considers it necessary;
- (iii) whenever any Delegate of a Member of the Executive Committee shall request the convening of a meeting by a letter addressed to the Director.

In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (iii) the meeting shall be convened within ten days of the date of the receipt of the request unless a meeting has already been convened to take place within fourteen days of that date.

(7) Whenever possible, the agenda for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be communicated to Delegates sitting on the Executive Committee not less than three days before the meeting.

(8) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held in private but the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article VIII apply to meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Delegate of a Member of the Committee, which is not a Member of the Executive Committee, shall be invited to attend in a consultative capacity, any meetings of the Executive Committee at which action of special interest to that Member is being discussed.

(9) The presence of Delegates representing five Members of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee.

(10) Decisions may be taken in the Executive Committee by a simple majority vote of the Delegates present and voting, and voting shall be by show of hands unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

(11) Paragraphs 7 and 11 of Article VIII apply to meetings of the Executive Committee.

(12) The minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be in the form of a summary and not a verbatim report. Unless in any case the Executive Committee decides otherwise no verbatim report shall be made of meetings of the Executive Committee.

Copies of the minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee shall be

submitted as soon as possible in draft to each Delegate attending the meeting and Delegates may, within ninety-six hours of their receipt, submit to the Director their suggestions for the correction of the minutes.

The final version of the minutes as corrected by the Director in the light of suggestions thus received shall be circulated to Delegates sitting on the Executive Committee, substitute Delegates and to the Members of the Executive Committee.

Thereafter the minutes can only be amended if, at a meeting of the Executive Committee, a Delegate requests their amendment and his proposal is carried by a majority vote in the Executive Committee.

(13) Reports on the work of the Executive Committee for each period of six months shall be prepared by the Director and shall be communicated to all Members of the Committee and to all Delegates of such Members. These reports may be published.

#### Article XI.

##### SUB-COMMITTEES.

(1) The Sub-Committee on Nominations referred to in paragraph 2 of Article VII shall also propose to the Committee the names of Members for election in plenary session to the Executive Committee, when there are vacancies to be filled and, if so requested, the names of Members (or of Delegates, as the case may be) for appointment to any sub-committee which may be set up by the Committee. The Committee in plenary session is, however, free to elect and appoint Members (or Delegates) whose names have not been proposed by the Sub-Committee on Nominations.

(2) The Committee may, by decision taken in plenary session, authorise the establishment of other temporary or permanent sub-committees and may either determine the composition of such sub-committees or authorise the Executive Committee to do so.

(3) Unless the Committee in plenary session (or the Executive Committee as the case may be) has decided otherwise, all sub-committees shall elect their own Chairman and if necessary a rapporteur, and fix their own quorum.

(4) The meetings of sub-committees shall be held in private. Paragraphs 7 and 11 of Article VIII apply to meetings of sub-committees. Subject to any directions given by the Committee in plenary session, it shall be left to each sub-committee to determine to what extent it is necessary that minutes should be kept of its meetings. The reports and minutes of meetings of sub-committees shall be confidential, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

#### Article XII.

##### THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE.

(1) The Committee, in plenary session, shall appoint a Director, who shall be a person nominated by the Executive Committee. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Director the Executive Committee may appoint an Acting Director, who may assume all the duties and functions of the Director until the appointment of a new Director can be submitted to the Committee in plenary session.

(2) The Director shall serve under a contract which shall be signed on behalf of the Committee by the Chairman of the Executive Committee and it shall be a term of his contract that six months' notice of termination can be

given on either side. The Executive Committee has the power to dismiss the Director for misconduct.

(3) The Director is the chief executive officer of the Committee. The Director is responsible for carrying out all the functions of the Committee in accordance with the decisions of the Committee in plenary session, and of the Executive Committee.

(4) The Director may be present (or be represented by one of his subordinate officers) at all meetings of the Committee in plenary session, of the Executive Committee and of all sub-committees. He (or his representative) may speak at any such meeting but shall have no vote.

(5) The Director shall conduct all correspondence on behalf of the Committee, the Executive Committee or any sub-committee. He is responsible for the distribution of all documents, the preparation of all minutes and reports and the provision of such secretarial and other facilities as the Committee, the Executive Committee or any sub-committee may require.

(6) Subject to the directions of the Executive Committee, the Director shall make such arrangements as are necessary for office accommodation for the staff of the Committee and for accommodation for meetings of the Committee in plenary session or of the Executive Committee or any sub-committees. He may sign on behalf of the Committee any contracts which are necessary for the purpose.

(7) The Director is responsible to the Executive Committee and the Committee for the administration of the finances of the Committee, in accordance with the financial regulations and the decisions of the Committee or Executive Committee.

(8) (i) The Director shall prepare at the beginning of each year a report of the work of the Committee during the past year. This report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee and presented to the Committee at its next regular plenary session, together with any comments thereon which the Executive Committee may desire to make.

(ii) At any other plenary session of the Committee the Director shall present a statement of the work of the Committee since the last plenary session.

(iii) The Director shall from time to time prepare such other reports or statements relating to the work of the Committee as he or the Executive Committee may consider to be necessary.

(iv) Unless the Committee in plenary session decides otherwise, the reports and statements referred to in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) above, and, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise, the reports of statements referred to in sub-paragraph (iii) above shall be made public.

(9) The appointment of the four officers of the Committee next in seniority to the Director shall be made by the Executive Committee. (Vice-Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Director.) All other officers and employees of the Committee shall be appointed by the Director. The contracts of all officers (other than the Director) shall be signed on behalf of the Committee by the Director, but the Executive Committee shall approve the contracts of the four senior officers aforesaid and may require any other contracts of service to be submitted to its approval.

000905

(10) The four senior officers referred to in paragraph 9 shall only be dismissed by the Executive Committee for misconduct, but the Director may suspend any one of them from duty, pending a decision of the Executive Committee.

(11) All officers and employees of the Committee shall be responsible to the Director in respect of their work. The Director may delegate any of his duties to one or more of his subordinate officers but (unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise), he shall remain responsible for the work so delegated. In case of his temporary absence or incapacity to act, the Vice-Director, if available, shall act for him, but if the Vice-Director is not available, the Director shall appoint another senior officer to act for him as Director.

(12) The Director is responsible for ensuring that the financial regulations are observed and budget provisions not exceeded in the matter of all staff appointments.

## FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

### I. THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

The financial year of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) shall be the calendar year.

### II. CLASSIFICATION OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Receipts and Expenditure shall be classified under two main heads:

- (i) Administrative and
- (ii) Operational.

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE.

(a) The Administrative Expenditure will include:—

- (i) The cost of meetings of the Committee in plenary session, the Executive Committee and any sub-committees—comprising the special expenses involved in the actual meetings themselves, such as stenographer and interpreter service, but not the travelling expenses of Delegates, which will be borne by their Governments individually.
- (ii) The cost of the headquarters office of the Director—comprising staff salaries, rental, stationery and communication, travel, etc.

(b) The Administrative Expenditure shall be shared by the Member Governments in the manner indicated in sub-paragraph (c) below.

#### *Intergovernmental Scale.*

(c) Administrative Expenditure will be shared by Member Governments in accordance with a scale to be fixed from time to time by the Committee in plenary session, and referred to hereafter as the Intergovernmental Scale, by which an appropriate number of units is assigned to each Member, and the share of that Member is in proportion to the number of units so assigned. The initial scale shall be that set out in the Appendix to these Regulations.

#### *Changes in the Intergovernmental Scale.*

(d) The Executive Committee may recommend to the Plenary Committee any modification in the Intergovernmental Scale, but no change shall take effect until it has been approved in plenary session.

#### *Assignment of units to new Members.*

(e) The Executive Committee shall assign to a new Member Government a number of units based upon the Intergovernmental Scale current at the time that the Member joins the Committee, which shall be subject to confirmation or amendment at the next meeting of the Committee in plenary session.

### IV. OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

(a) The Operational Expenditure will include all expenditure other than Administrative Expenditure, and in particular

- (i) the basic cost of materials and services directly involved in the preservation, maintenance and transfer of persons coming within the mandate of the Committee and the cost of any administration immediately attributable to such schemes or projects, and
- (ii) the cost of the offices of the representatives of the Committee in various countries, including the salaries of the staff, rent, stationery and correspondence, travelling and other expenses.

#### *Contributions to Operational Expenditure.*

(b) Operational Expenditure will be underwritten jointly by the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America. Each Member shall be invited to contribute voluntarily to the Operational Expenditure in accordance with its abilities and its interest in the humanitarian work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

### V. ANNUAL BUDGET.

#### *Preparation of Estimates.*

(a) The Director shall prepare annually a budget covering the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Committee for the ensuing year. The budget shall be prepared in two parts, the first part showing the estimated Administrative Receipts and Expenditure, and the second part showing the estimated Operational Receipts and Expenditure.

#### *Submission of the Estimates.*

(b) The Director shall submit the budget estimates to the Executive Committee not later than the 30th September in each year. He will submit with them two separate memoranda, the first relating to the Administrative part of the estimate, and the second to the Operational part. The memoranda will explain and justify the estimates made under each part.

#### *Consideration by the Executive Committee.*

(c) The Executive Committee shall consider the estimates and shall recommend them, with such changes as it may consider necessary, to the Committee for consideration at its next plenary meeting, provided that if no such meeting be held before the commencement of the financial year to which the estimates relate, the Executive Committee is empowered to give final approval to the estimates as recommended by it.

### VI. SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET.

The Director may submit at any time a supplementary budget to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consider the supplementary estimates as submitted and shall recommend them, with such changes as it

000906

may consider necessary, to the Committee for consideration at its next plenary meeting, if any, held within the financial year, provided that:—

- (i) if there is no such meeting, it may finally approve the estimates, or
- (ii) if the expenditure is of an urgent character, it may approve the estimates subject to confirmation by the Committee.

#### VII. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.

##### *Administrative Expenditure.*

(a) The final approval of the estimates shall constitute an authorisation to the Director to incur Administrative Expenditure during the year to which the estimates relate for the purposes for which they have been approved up to, but not exceeding, the amount approved under the main head of Administrative Expenditure.

##### *Operational Expenditure.*

(b) Notwithstanding the final approval of the estimates of Operational Expenditure, the agreement of the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the United States of America, so long as they underwrite such expenditure, shall be required on any specific scheme or project before it is approved. Subject to such agreement, the approval by the Executive Committee of a specific scheme or project shall constitute an authorisation to the Director to incur expenditure, within the amount sanctioned for such scheme, and within the provision of the sanctioned estimates of Operational Expenditure for the year in which the expenditure is incurred.

#### VIII. COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

When the estimates for the financial year are finally approved or as soon as possible afterwards, the Director shall send to each Member an explanatory memorandum, and (a) request it to remit its contribution towards the Administrative Expenditure as soon as possible after the beginning of the calendar year for which it is due, and (b) invite it to contribute voluntarily towards the Operational Expenditure in accordance with its abilities and its interest in the humanitarian work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

#### IX. SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS.

The Director shall prescribe a procedure to secure careful accounting for all funds and other property of the Committee, and shall require all officials, employees and agents of the Committee to comply with such procedure. The accounts shall provide for the record of receipts and payments under the main heads of the estimates. The Executive Committee may, if it thinks fit, require the procedure to be submitted to it and give directions thereon.

#### X. AUDIT.

The annual accounts of the Committee, including those of representatives of the Committee abroad, shall be audited by an auditor or auditors, to be approved by the Executive Committee. The auditor, or auditors, shall report to the Executive Committee after completion of the annual audits. A copy of the audit report, or reports, shall be filed in the office of the Director, and shall be available to any Member upon request.

**PROCEEDINGS**

of the

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**ON REFUGEES**

---

**MINUTES**

**OF THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**

of the

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**ON REFUGEES**

held in London from August 15th, to August 17th, 1944.

---

*Enc to R 194 from Carou*

000908

# MINUTES

OF THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

of the

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

ON REFUGEES

held in London from August 15th, to August 17th, 1944.

000909

# Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

## MINUTES

of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on  
Refugees held in London from August 15th, to August 17th, 1944.

1. The Member Governments participating in the Session were represented by the following  
Delegates and Substitute Delegates:—

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.	<i>Delegate:</i> His Excellency Señor Dr. Don Miguel Angel CÁRCANO, K.B.E. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Señor Don Rodolfo MUÑOZ.
AUSTRALIA.	<i>Delegate:</i> The Right Honourable S. M. BRUCE, C.H., M.C., F.R.S. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Major R.H. WHEELER.
BELGIUM.	<i>Delegate:</i> Monsieur LEPAGE. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Monsieur Van der PITTE.
BOLIVIA.	<i>Delegate:</i> Señor Don Juan PEÑARANDA.
BRAZIL.	<i>Delegate:</i> His Excellency Senhor J. J. MONIZ de ARAGÃO, C.B.E. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Senhor Gastão NOTHMAN.
CANADA.	<i>Delegate:</i> The Right Honourable Vincent MASSEY. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Mr. R. G. ROBERTSON.
CHILE.	<i>Delegate:</i> His Excellency Señor Don Manuel BIANCHI. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Señor Don Leon SUBERCASEAUX.
COLOMBIA.	<i>Delegate:</i> His Excellency Señor Dr. Don Jaime Jaramillo ARANGO. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Señor Dr. Don Abel BOTERO.
CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC.	<i>Delegate:</i> His Excellency Dr. Vladimir SLAVIK. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Dr. Alexander KUNOSI.
DENMARK.	<i>Delegate:</i> Mr. Gustav RASMUSSEN. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Mr. Sten GUDME.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.	<i>Delegate:</i> His Excellency Señor Dr. Don Ricardo PEREZ -ALFONSECA.
EGYPT.	<i>Delegate:</i> His Excellency Hassan NASHAT Pasha. <i>Substitute Delegate:</i> Mr. M. Waguih ROSTUM.
EIRE.	<i>Delegate:</i> Mr. M. H. ELLISON, M.A.

000910

FRANCE.

*Delegate:* His Excellency Monsieur Maurice DEJEAN.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Monsieur F. FORESTIER.

GREAT BRITAIN.

*Delegate:* The Right Honourable Earl WINTERTON, P.C., M.P.  
*Substitute Delegate:* The Rt. Hon. Sir George CLERK, P.C., G.C.M.G., C.B.

GREECE.

*Delegate:* Mr. Jean A. ROMANOS.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Mr. Basil MOSTRAS.

ICELAND.

*Delegate:* His Excellency Mr. Stefán THORVYARDSSON.

INDIA.

*Delegate:* Sir David B. MEEN, C.I.E., O.B.E., D.Sc.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Mr. W. B. ENGLAND, M.B.E.

LUXEMBURG.

*Delegate:* Monsieur N. P. REINESCH.

MEXICO.

*Delegate:* Señor Don Oscar CRESPO y de la SERNA

NETHERLANDS.

*Delegate:* His Excellency Mr. H. Van BOEYEN.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Mr. G. F. FERWERDA.

NEW ZEALAND.

*Delegate:* Miss L. C. M. MCPHEE.

NORWAY.

*Delegate:* Mr. Ingvald SMITH-KIELLAND.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Mr. Hans CAPPELEN.

PARAGUAY.

*Delegate:* Miss May STORK.

POLAND.

*Delegate:* His Excellency Count Edward RACZYNSKI.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Mr. M. ZALESKI.

SWEDEN.

*Delegate:* Baron I. K. G. E. LAGERFELT.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

*Delegate:* Mr. R. JONES.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Mr. D. SOLE.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

*Delegate:* Mr. Constantine KOUKIN.  
*Substitute Delegate:* Mr. Boris KARAVAEV.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Delegate:* His Excellency the Honourable John Gilbert WINANT.

VENEZUELA.

*Delegate:* His Excellency Señor Don José Rafael POCATERRA.

*SPECIAL OBSERVERS—*

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE: Mr. Clifton ROBBINS.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE: Lt. Col. Charles de WATTEVILLE.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (SHAEP)

Lt. Col. Charles SHOTTLAND.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION (UNRRA)

Mr. Fred K. HOEHLER

Mr. T. T. SCOTT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD: Mr. Josiah DUBOIS.

2. The Agenda of Business before the Committee was as follows:—

1. Opening Statement by the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

2. Election of a Sub-Committee on Nominations for the purpose of submitting for the consideration of the Plenary Committee the names of three delegates for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Vice-Chairman respectively, for the current Plenary session.

3. Election by the Plenary Committee of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Vice-Chairman for the current Plenary Session.

4. Election by the Plenary Committee of a sub-committee to examine and report on (1) the draft Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and (2) the draft Financial Regulations.

5. A Statement by the Director on the functions and activities of the Intergovernmental Committee since its reorganisation in August, 1943, and general discussion thereon.

6. Consideration and adoption by the Plenary Committee of (1) Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee and (2) Financial Regulations, after draft Rules and Regulations.

7. Election of the Executive Committee. (If the procedure proposed in Article XI, (1) of the draft Rules for the Constitution and Procedure is adopted by the Plenary Committee under the preceding item of the Agenda, it will be necessary to make a reference to the Sub-Committee on Nominations, asking it to propose the names of members for consideration of the Plenary Committee).

8. Consideration of a draft resolution affirming the principle of co-operation with other governmental organisations concerned with the various aspects of the refugee problem, and in particular, the following organisations:—

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, High Commission for Refugees under the League of Nations, International Labour Office, and The War Refugee Board of the United States of America.

9. Consideration of a draft resolution affirming the principle of co-operation with non-governmental organisations in their humanitarian activities, insofar as they relate to the welfare of refugees coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

10. Appointment of Director.

11. Travel Documents.

Item 1 of the Agenda.  
3. The Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Right Honourable Earl Winterton, Delegate of Great Britain. On behalf of the Executive Committee he welcomed the Delegates and he conveyed a message of welcome from His Britannic Majesty's Government. He said that it was proposed to follow the Draft Rules for the Constitution and Procedure so far as circumstances would allow, and explained that accordingly the Committee would elect the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Vice-Chairman for the Session. He informed the Delegates that the Executive Committee had anticipated what he believed would be the unanimous wish of the Committee and had afforded facilities to representatives of the Press and of voluntary organisations to attend the Session, but that the Draft Rules provided for discussion of any matter in private, if the Committee so wished, and these provisions would be applied if necessary.

Item 2 of the Agenda.  
4. The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the following Member Governments be appointed to the Sub-Committee on Nominations, namely—Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Greece, India, the Union of South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.

The proposal was unanimously agreed.

5. The CHAIRMAN then temporarily adjourned the Session in order to enable the Sub-Committee to consider its recommendations for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Vice-Chairman.

Item 3 of the Agenda.

6. After a short adjournment, the Committee resumed its Session, when the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Nominations, the Right Honourable Sir George Clerk (Substitute Delegate of Great Britain), reported that the Sub-Committee unanimously proposed the following names for the consideration of the Committee for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Vice-Chairman of the Session respectively:—

For the office of Chairman... The Rt. Hon. Stanley M. Bruce, High Commissioner and Delegate of Australia.

For the office of Vice-Chairman H.E. Monsieur Maurice Dejbran, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Delegate of France.

For the office of Deputy Vice-Chairman... Mr. N. P. Rinesch, Delegate of Luxembourg.

The Committee, having considered the report of the Sub-Committee, unanimously approved its proposals. The Right Honourable Earl Winterton then vacated the Chair, which was taken by the Right Honourable Stanley M. Bruce, who expressed his deep appreciation of the honour conferred upon him by his fellow Delegates.

Item 4 of the Agenda.

7. The CHAIRMAN proposed, for the consideration of the Committee, the following Member Governments to constitute a Sub-Committee to examine and report on (i) the Draft Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and, (ii) the Draft Financial Regulations: Argentina, Eire, France, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United States of America, Venezuela. The Committee, having considered the proposal of the Chairman, elected the Member Governments proposed by him to constitute the Sub-Committee.

Item 5 of the Agenda.

8. The DIRECTOR made a statement on the Functions and Activities of the Intergovernmental Committee since its reorganisation in August, 1943.

The DIRECTOR asked that his written report of the 25th July, 1944, which had been in the hands of the Delegates for some days, might be regarded as his main statement, and that he might be allowed to supplement it with a few observations on the more important matters.

He stressed the necessity of a written constitution and written rules of procedure for the purpose of orderly and efficient administration. He referred to the day to day contacts with other governmental and international organisations working in the same field, and in this connection was glad to say that the International Labour Office, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force, the War Refugee Board of the United States of America and the International Red Cross were represented at the meeting. He paid a tribute to the work of the War Refugee Board, with which the Committee had close relations. He explained the respective functions, in respect to displaced persons, of the Committee and of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the most important distinction being that, while U.N.R.R.A. would undertake the physical relief of all such persons and the repatriation of those who were able to return to their own countries, it would not undertake the task of finding homes for those who were unable to return. This would be the responsibility of the Committee. Moreover, in countries in which U.N.R.R.A. did not operate it might be necessary for the Committee to undertake duties which that organisation would otherwise have performed. After the war the Committee would be concerned mainly, but not entirely, with stateless persons, and the Director stressed the disabilities and sufferings of the stateless. He said that in helping such persons to find new homes and new citizenship, the Committee would often be helping not only the refugees themselves, but also the Governments who had given temporary asylum to them. Thus the Committee is a friend, not only of the refugees, but of Governments, and the Director laid great stress on the necessity of establishing relations of friendship between the Member Governments and the Committee. For this reason it was intended that the normal administrative arrangement in a country, in which the Committee had work to do, should be to have a representative there who would be a national of the country, selected in consultation with that Government, enjoying its confidence, and who would act as a link between the Committee and the Government.

The Director referred to the splendid services rendered by voluntary organisations, and the necessity of close co-operation between them and the Committee. He emphasised the immediate task of the Committee in helping those especially in countries occupied by the Axis, who came within its mandate. This task was not confined to the stateless, in fact, the great majority were nationals of Member Governments, and although the Committee only acted at the invitation of, and in consultation with the Government concerned, their services were at the disposal of the Government in affording help to its nationals.

The Director made special reference to the recent offer of the Hungarian Government to allow certain classes of Jews to leave their territory. He assured the Delegates that the Committee was in close touch with the situation, and although he was not in a position to say more, he was able to give

an assurance that the offer was being actively pursued and that there was every reason to suppose that it would lead to positive results. He said that it might well be necessary in this connection to make an appeal for assistance to Member Governments.

A general discussion followed.

Mr. W. B. ENGLAND (Substitute Delegate of India), said that he was instructed by his Government to suggest, for the consideration of the Plenary Session, that the Committee's mandate should be extended to cover refugees and refugee problems arising in countries now occupied by the Japanese.

Mr. OSCAR CASERO Y DE LA SERRA (Delegate of Mexico), made the suggestion that important documents relating to the Committee and its work should be translated into Spanish for the benefit of the Latin American States. He said that this would not only be a great convenience to them, but would be of value to the refugee cause in securing wider publicity. He also expressed the hope that Spanish refugees would receive assistance from the Committee. He stressed the importance of co-operation with voluntary organisations.

His EXCELLENCY HASSAN NASHAR PASH (Delegate of Egypt), said that there were many refugees who would wish to return to their own countries if they were guaranteed the right of citizenship, security of life and property and the opportunity to lead a free life. He thought that an important way of solving the problem was to see that these rights were guaranteed.

His EXCELLENCY COUVT EDWARD RACZYNSKI (Delegate of Poland), referred with deep feeling to the tragedy of his own country and his own people and to the great difficulties of bringing help to more than a very small number of those who were suffering. It was the more necessary to help those who the opportunity occurred. He referred to the case of a group of Jews, mainly Polish Jews, who had obtained South American passports, and were interned in Vittel and other internment camps. He suggested that the Committee should help them.

His EXCELLENCY DR. VLADIMIR SLAVIK (Delegate of Czechoslovakia), made an appeal that the Committee should assist the Czechs.

His EXCELLENCY DR. DON RICARDO PEREZ ALFONSO (Delegate of the Dominican Republic), referred to the work done by the Committee before the war, in which many Governments, including his own, had given assistance.

The DIRECTOR replied to points that had been raised.

In regard to the suggestion made by the DELEGATE OF INDIA, he paid a tribute to the liberal action of the Government of India in giving asylum to refugees. Many of these had had to flee from their countries as a result of events in Europe, and so far as they were concerned, the Government of India would be entitled to receive assistance from the Committee. So far as refugees in territory occupied by the Japanese were concerned, the Director did not know of any way in which immediate assistance could be given to them. It seemed probable that when these territories were liberated the main problems would be those of physical relief and repatriation. These were matters which came directly within the responsibility of U.N.R.R.A., and the operations of that organisation extended to the East. The Government of India, he had no doubt, would press its claim on U.N.R.R.A., of which she was a Member. He doubted whether the problem would arise of finding new homes and new citizenship for those who could not return to their own countries for, happily, statelessness was unknown in the East. He therefore suggested, for the consideration of the Government of India that the matter might be held in abeyance until it was known whether there were, in fact, problems which did not come quite definitely within the responsibility of U.N.R.R.A.

In reply to the points made by the DELEGATE OF MEXICO, the Director said that the Executive Committee would no doubt wish to consider the suggestion that the more important documents of the Committee be translated into Spanish for the benefit of the Latin American countries. He was able to assure the Delegate that help was, in fact, being given by the Committee, through its representative, to Spanish refugees now in North Africa.

With regard to the point made by the DELEGATE OF EGYPT, the Director said that he was personally in complete agreement with the suggestion that everything possible should be done to make conditions favourable for the return of refugees to their own countries, not under compulsion or duress, but of their own free will, so that they might live there a free, full and happy life.

With regard to the point made by the DELEGATE OF POLAND, the Director said that although it was not in the interest of refugees themselves that he should go into details, there were ways in which help could reach persons in countries occupied by the Axis, and he was glad to say that the Committee was giving such help which he believed was reaching some Polish citizens. With regard to

those persons who had Latin American passports, he said that the Committee, in close collaboration with the War Refugee Board, had been doing their utmost for many months to find a means of saving them. A few had, in fact, been exchanged for German nationals. Efforts were still being made on their behalf.

With regard to the matter mentioned by the DELEGATE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC the Director said that many Member Governments had given most valuable assistance before and during the war and he was glad to testify to the help given by the Government of the Dominican Republic. It had made a very generous offer to receive a large number of refugees, and the President of the Republic, Generalissimo Trujillo, had himself given land for the purpose of a settlement. A pioneer settlement had been established, and he and the Vice-Director had had the opportunity of discussing its prospects when they were in the United States of America earlier in the year.

THE CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should adjourn until 11 a.m. on Thursday, 17th August, and that, in the meantime, the Sub-Committee appointed to examine and report on the Draft Rules and Regulations should meet.

The proposal was unanimously adopted and the Committee adjourned.

9. The Session of the Committee was resumed at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 17th August, 1944, the Right Honourable Stanley M. Bruce, being in the Chair.

Item 6 of the Agenda.  
10. THE CHAIRMAN called upon the Chairman of the Sub-Committee appointed to examine and report on the Draft Rules and Regulations to present his report.

HIS EXCELLENCY COUNT EDWARD RACZYNSKI, (Delegate of Poland), as Chairman and Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee, presented the report of the Sub-Committee (Annexure). With the approval of the Delegates the Chairman put the report to the Session as a whole, and the report was adopted.

11. THE CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that, under the Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which has just been adopted, it was necessary that the Sub-Committee on Nominations should propose to the Committee the names of Members for election in Plenary Session to the Executive Committee. The Committee accordingly adjourned in order to enable the Sub-Committee on Nominations to consider and make its proposals.

After a short adjournment the Session was resumed.

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Nominations, the Right Hon. Sir George Clark (Delegate of Great Britain), reported that the Sub-Committee unanimously proposed that the following Member Governments be invited to be Members of the Executive Committee:—Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The proposal, having been considered by the Committee, was unanimously adopted.

Item 8 of the Agenda.  
12. The Committee considered a Draft Resolution affirming the principle of co-operation with other governmental organisations concerned with the various aspects of the refugee problem, and in particular, the following organisations:—

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration;  
High Commission for Refugees under the League of Nations;  
International Labour Office; and  
The War Refugee Board of the United States of America.

The Committee adopted the following Resolution:—

"(1) That the Committee re-affirms the principle adopted at the Evian Conference of co-operation with the refugee services of the League of Nations and with the International Labour Office.

(2) That the Committee approves and confirms the action of the Executive Committee in conveying to the Director General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration an appreciation of the offer of co-operation made by that Administration, and an assurance that the Intergovernmental Committee desires to maintain close and cordial relations between the two organisations.

(3) That the Committee approves and confirms the arrangements made, under the authority and with the sanction of the Executive Committee, for close co-operation between the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board of the United States of America.

(4) That the Committee invite representatives of the above mentioned organisations to attend as observers and to participate in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee, its committees and sub-committees in accordance with the Rules of Constitution and of Procedure.

(5) That the Committee instructs the Director to collaborate with the above mentioned organisations and with all intergovernmental agencies whose assistance and co-operation may be of value in the furtherance of the policies and purposes of the Intergovernmental Committee."

Item 9 of the Agenda.  
13. The Committee considered a Draft Resolution affirming the principle of co-operation with non-governmental organisations in their humanitarian activities, insofar as they relate to the welfare of refugees coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

HIS EXCELLENCY COUNT EDWARD RACZYNSKI (Delegate of Poland), in supporting the Draft Resolution referred to the excellent work that was being done by voluntary organisations, and expressed the confident hope that the co-operation between them and the Intergovernmental Committee would be continued and extended. He mentioned in particular the work of the International Red Cross, and the desirability of close relations with that organisation. His Excellency referred to the assistance which the International Red Cross had been able to give to persons interned in the camp of Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia.

The Committee adopted the following Resolution:—

"Recognising the services that have been rendered to the cause of refugees by voluntary organisations and workers in many countries, and appreciating the valuable contribution that they can make towards a solution of the refugee problem,

#### RESOLVED,

(1) That the Committee approves and confirms the action taken by the Executive Committee to ensure co-operation with voluntary organisations in their humanitarian and non-political activities, insofar as they relate to the welfare of persons coming within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee.

(2) That the Committee desires to continue and extend the close association between itself and the International Red Cross.

(3) That in pursuance of the above principles, the Committee instructs the Director to maintain close and sympathetic relations with voluntary organisations, and to avail himself of their services insofar as they are humanitarian and non-political, and are relevant to the functions and activities of the Committee.

Item 10 of the Agenda.  
14. THE CHAIRMAN invited a nomination for appointment to the office of Director. HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE JOHN GILBERT WINAART (Delegate of the United States of America), proposed the name of Sir Herbert Emerson, paying a tribute to his past services to the Committee.

The proposal was seconded by THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL WINTERTON (Delegate of Great Britain), who also spoke highly of the services of Sir Herbert Emerson. He further took the opportunity of referring in warm terms to the services rendered to the Committee by Mr. Myron Taylor, who was until recently the representative of the United States of America on the Committee, and one of the Vice-Chairmen. Owing to the very important duties which Mr. Myron Taylor now performs as the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Vatican, he is unable to continue his direct association with the Committee, but Earl Winterton had had a letter from him saying that his interest in the activities of the Committee continue, and that he is always ready to give his help in furthering its objects. Earl Winterton also referred with appreciation to the services of Mr. George Rublee, the first Director of the Committee.

Earl Winterton further said that he had been personally associated with the Intergovernmental Committee since its inception at the Evian Conference in 1938, and that during the whole period of its existence its work had been carried on in a spirit of the utmost friendliness between the Member Governments. He and his colleagues on the Executive Committee greatly appreciated, and were grateful for, the support they had received from the Member Governments.

The proposal to appoint Sir Herbert Emerson was supported by HIS EXCELLENCY MONSIEUR MAURICE DEJMAN (Delegate of France), and was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Sir HARARF EATSON expressed his thanks to the Committee for the confidence thus shown in him, and paid a high tribute to the work of his colleagues Mr. Patrick Malin, Dr. J. G. Sillen, Dr. G. G. Kullmann, Mr. S. H. G. Hughes and Mrs. Latham, and to the support and assistance he had received from them.

15. The Committee considered the proposal that had been made by the Executive Committee that an Expert Commission be appointed to examine the question of Travel Documents. The Committee adopted the following Resolution:—

"The Committee, having examined the Memoranda of the Director and the Assistant Director, and recognising the need of an early examination of the question of the wider provision of internationally recognised identity and travel documents for persons coming within its mandate whether stateless or not in fact enjoying the protection of any Government.

RESOLVED,

1. That the Director be instructed to invite the Governments of Argentine, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, to appoint experts to a Commission, with power to add to its members, to be convened by him for the purpose of examining the question of the adoption and issue of an internationally recognised identity and travel document for stateless persons, or persons not enjoying in fact the protection of any Government;

2. That this Commission of Experts submit a report on its findings for the consideration of the Executive Committee;

3. That the Executive Committee be empowered, if it considers it desirable, to make recommendations to various Governments."

16. MR. CONSTANTINE KOVCHIN (Delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), handed to the Chairman the following note which the Chairman, having read to the Committee, directed should be inserted in the records of the meeting:—

"With reference to item 6 of the Agenda

'Since the Soviet Government have no relations at all with the organisations of the League of Nations, they reserve their opinion in regard to Article II. (3) (a) of the Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.'

"With reference to item 8 of the Agenda

'We consider it necessary to inform the Session that our Statement, already made in regard to Article II. (3) (a) of the Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, applies also to Item I. of the Resolution relating to co-operation of the Intergovernmental Committee with other governmental organisations concerned with the various aspects of the refugee problem.'

17. HIS EXCELLENCY SENHOR J. J. MONIZ DE ARAUJO (Delegate of Brazil), proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Right Honourable Stanley M. Bruce, which was received with acclamation. THE CHAIRMAN in thanking the Delegates expressed the hope that, as a result of the Session, the Committee would be strengthened in the work it is doing for the assistance and relief of refugees.

18. THE CHAIRMAN then declared the Session closed.

ANNEXURE

Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION  
15th August, 1944.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO EXAMINE AND REPORT ON (1) THE DRAFT RULES FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND PROCEDURE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE, AND (2) THE DRAFT FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

Rapporteur: HIS EXCELLENCY COUNT RACZYNSKI (Poland).

The Sub-Committee met on August 18th and was able to complete its tasks in the course of one meeting. There were present the representatives of the following Member Governments:—

- Argentina
- Eire
- France
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Sweden
- United States of America.

In addition, the Director, Vice-Director, Assistant Director, and Finance Officer were in attendance.

The Sub-Committee appointed His Excellency Count Raczyński as Chairman and Rapporteur.

1. The draft Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee were first examined article by article. The following recommendations are made:—

(a) Draft Article IX. (5).

The Sub-Committee understood that the intention is that the Minutes shall be in the form of a summary of the proceedings, and that they will not necessarily include summaries of all the speeches. In order to make it clear that the word "summary" applies to the proceedings and not to the speeches, it is proposed that the first two sentences of Article IX, paragraph (5) be amended to read as follows:—

"The minutes referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be in the form of a summary of the proceedings. A verbatim report of all meetings in Plenary Session shall be made and filed, and be made available when required."

(b) Draft Article X. (1).

The Sub-Committee observed that no provision had been made in the Rules to fill a vacancy in the Executive Committee occurring between two Plenary Sessions. It recommends that provision be made accordingly by the addition of the following sentence at the end of Article X. (1):—

"If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Executive Committee between two Plenary Sessions, the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy by itself appointing another Member Government to hold office until the next Plenary Session."

The Sub-Committee further recommends that the drafting of the first sentence of Article X. (1), be improved so as to read as follows:—

"The Executive Committee shall consist of nine Members, each having been elected by the Committee in Plenary Session, to hold office for two years."

(c) The Sub-Committee recommends that the following changes be made in the French translation in order to conform more clearly with the English text:—

(a) Article X, paragraph 8, for the words "est invité" substitute "sera invité"; and for the words "est appelé" the words "sera appelé."

(b) Article X, paragraph 12, for the words "résund" substitute the word "résumés"; for the word "procès-verbal," substitute the word "procès-verbaux."

2. Subject to the above recommendations, the Sub-Committee recommends to the Plenary Committee the adoption of the draft Rules for the Constitution and Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, and recommends for approval the French translation of the English text.

3. The Sub-Committee reports for the information of the Plenary Committee that, with reference to Article III. relating to the official languages of the Committee, the Director gave an assurance that he would consult with the Member Governments of Spanish speaking countries with a view to making executive arrangements to supply them with a translation in Spanish of important documents.

4. The Sub-Committee examined article by article the Draft Financial Regulations. It recommends that the Draft Financial Regulations be adopted without amendment by the Plenary Committee.

000915

SECRET

UNRECORDED

55 From: London

Dated: Nov. 28, 1944

Recd.: December 5, 6p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

**CONTROL COPY**

A-1418, November 28, 1944.

X  
With reference to Embassy's despatch No. 18700,

October 18, 1944, transmitting the Record of the Proceedings of the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, at which the budget estimates for administrative expenses of the Committee for the year 1945 were approved, there is quoted below a letter dated November 24, 1944, received from the Treasurer of the ICR requesting a remittance as soon as possible of \$1944, the contribution of the United States Government, for the 1945 administrative expenses and inquiring when this payment may be expected:

"I am directed by the Chairman to inform you that at the last meeting of the Executive Committee the budget estimates for Administrative Expenses for the year 1945 were approved. These expenses are defined in paragraph III (a) of the Financial Regulations of the Committee approved by the last plenary session.

"The estimates submitted to the Committee provide for the expenditure during 1945 of 221,700 as compared with a revised estimate of expenditure for the year 1944 of \$10,000.

"The/

000916

London/1418

-2-

"The administrative expenditure of the Committee has been rising during the past few months and will increase considerably as large territories in Europe are liberated. Further appointments to the staff will be necessary and, as the present office accommodation is inadequate, additional accommodation is needed, including the provision of a Committee Room.

"In considering what sum should be fixed as a basis of contributions from Member Governments it is necessary to provide for a sufficient working balance to enable the Committee to function during the early part of each year, as the collection of contributions is spread over the whole year and no considerable part of them can be expected at the beginning. It is necessary that the working balance should also include a small margin for unforeseen contingencies. The Executive Committee have provided a working balance of £10,000 for both of these purposes. On these assumptions the calculations of the amount to be recovered in contributions is as follows:

Estimated expenditure	£21,700
Working balance	<u>£10,000</u>
Total	£31,700
Estimated opening balance, 1945	<u>£17,300</u>
Amount required in contributions	<u>£14,400</u>

"The total number of units allotted to the present Member Governments in accordance with the Intergovernmental Scale is 791.5. There are still several Governments who have not replied to the invitation to join the Committee, and should any of these accept, the total number of units will be increased accordingly. For the present purpose, however, the actual number of units of existing

Members/

000917

London/1418

-3-

Members is taken as the basis for the allocation of contributions. A single unit will thus be £14,400 divided by 791.5 or £18 approximately. It will be noted that this compares with the unit of £37 for the 16 months ended 31st December, 1944.

"The contribution of Your Excellency's Government will, therefore, be:

$$£18 \times 108 = £1944$$

"I have, therefore, the honour to request Your Excellency's Government - (a) to remit the above contribution as early in 1945 as may be convenient and (b) to intimate the date or dates on which payment may be expected."

The Department's instructions are respectfully requested.

WILKINSON

000918

*New Refugee Board  
(Trans)*

AIR MAIL

UNRESTRICTED

London, October 18, 1944.

No. 18700

Subject: Proceedings of the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

**CONTROL COPY**

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

- 1/ I have the honor to enclose herewith the record of the Proceedings of the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which was held in London on October 5, 1944. Also enclosed are copies of the Agenda, which include three memoranda and one letter from the Brazilian Ambassador.
- 2/

Items 3 and 4 in the record of Proceedings, relating to the estimates of the administrative and operational expenses of the Intergovernmental Committee for 1945, were referred to in the Embassy's telegram No. 8362 of October 5.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

John M. Allison,  
Second Secretary of Embassy.

Enclosures: (all in triplicate)

- 1/ Record of Proceedings.  
2/ Agenda, including three memoranda and one letter from Brazilian Ambassador.

RECEIVED  
OCT 20 1944  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

RECEIVED  
OCT 20 1944  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

000919

IC/EX/M/8 Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 1870 of 10-18-44  
from the Embassy at London, England.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, HELD AT  
THE CARLTON HOTEL AT 11 A.M. ON THURSDAY THE 5TH OF OCTOBER, 1944.

The meeting was attended by:-

- His Excellency the Brazilian Ambassador, Senhor J.J. MONIZ DE ARAGÃO,  
C.B.E. (Delegate of Brazil)  
Senhor G.R. NOTHAM (Substitute Delegate)
- Mr. Morley SCOTT (Substitute Delegate of Canada)
- Dr. J. CISAR (Delegate of the Czechoslovak Republic)
- M. PARIS, representing His Excellency M. Maurice Dejean (Delegate  
of the Provisional Government of France)
- Señor Don Oscar GRESPO y de la SERNA (Substitute Delegate of Mexico)
- M. J.A.M.H. LUNS, representing His Excellency the Netherlands  
Ambassador, Jonkheer E. Michiels van Verduynen  
(Delegate of the Netherlands).
- M. C. KOUKIN (Delegate of the U.S.S.R.)  
M. M.B. KARAVAIEV (Substitute Delegate)
- The Right Honourable Earl WINTERTON, P.C., M.P. (Delegate of  
Great Britain)
- The Right Honourable Sir George CLERK, P.C., G.C.M.G., C.B.,  
(Substitute Delegate)
- His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America,  
the Honourable John G. WINANT (Delegate of the  
United States of America)
- Mr. Sidney BROWNE
- Mr. Paul MASON (Foreign Office)
- Sir Herbert EMERSON (Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees)
- |                   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Dr. G.G. KULLMANN | " | " | " |
| Dr. J.G. SILLEM   | " | " | " |
| Mr. S.H.G. HUGHES | " | " | " |
| Dr. A. COHEN      | " | " | " |
| Mrs. S. LATHAM    | " | " | " |

1. Election of Chairman.

The Director, in the Chair, asked the Committee to proceed  
to the election of a Chairman. It was proposed by His Excellency  
the Ambassador of the United States of America, and seconded by  
His Excellency the Brazilian Ambassador, and agreed unanimously,  
that the Executive Committee should appoint Lord Winterton as  
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

000920

Lord Winterton then took the Chair.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for the honour bestowed on him and their confidence in re-electing him as Chairman.

2. Letter from His Excellency the Brazilian Ambassador to the Director, dated the 6th September, 1944, with the offer of the Government of Brazil to give asylum to five hundred Jewish children from Hungary.

The Chairman expressed the gratification of the Committee.

The Director added that since the letter was circulated to Members, a communication had been received from the Government of Mexico offering to give asylum to four hundred Hungarian refugees.

The Chairman asked the Delegate of Mexico to convey the appreciation of the Executive Committee to his Government.

3. Estimates of the Administrative Expenses of the Committee for the year 1945 (Memorandum IC/EX/32. 12th September, 1944)

The estimates were considered and approved.

4. Estimates of the Operational Expenses of the Committee for the year 1945. (Memorandum IC/EX/33. 12th September, 1944)

The Director explained that, as for 1944, it was not possible to make an approximate estimate of the Operational Expenses. They would certainly be considerably higher than for 1944, and a round figure estimate of two million pounds was, therefore, proposed. He explained that the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America would, in accordance with the financial arrangements made with them, be asked to furnish funds only as these were necessary.

His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America stated that he approved of the estimate, but that it would be necessary for him to notify His Government of any increase in the allotment for 1945 as compared with that of 1944.

Lord Winterton, as Delegate of the United Kingdom, said that His Majesty's Government were prepared to approve the estimate of two million pounds on the understanding that they would be able to

consider the matter in January next, before deciding how much should be provided in the estimates for 1945.

The Director explained that it would be necessary to consult the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America before effect could be given to the estimates as approved by the Committee.

The Committee approved the estimates of the Operational Expenses for 1945, subject to the consent of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

5. Proposal to establish a Provident Fund (Memorandum IC/EX/34. 13th September, 1944)

The memorandum of the Director and the Regulations for the Staff Provident Fund were adopted, the Director being authorised to make such alterations in the wording of the Regulations as might be found necessary.

6. Statement of Director on Current Activities.

The Director then made a statement on current activities. He said that Mr. Patrick Malin, the Vice-Director, had attended the meeting of the Council of U.N.R.R.A. in Montreal, and that he was expected to return within the next few days. The press reports of the meeting seemed to suggest that in several directions the decisions reached would, indirectly, assist the work of the Intergovernmental Committee.

The Director explained the present position as regards the rescue of Jews in Hungary. The Committee had been taking an active part, in collaboration with the War Refugee Board of America, the British Foreign Office and the International Red Cross. Unfortunately, owing partly to the disruption of communications, but mainly to difficulties deliberately created by the Nazi authorities, it had so far been possible to get only a few hundred persons out of Hungary. The efforts, however, still continued.

Meanwhile, the Committee had been able to give financial help for the alleviation of the position of Jews inside the country.

The Director hoped that Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, the representative of the Committee in Italy, would shortly visit London for discussions regarding the work there. Reports had been received showing that active and valuable work was being carried on.

The Director reported that the Swiss Government had now agreed that the Intergovernmental Committee should have a representative in Switzerland, although, for the present, he would not be officially accredited to the Swiss Government. He also reported that, after consultation with His Excellency Monsieur Maurice Dejean, an approach had been made to the Provisional Government of France for the appointment of a representative in that country. A preliminary approach had also been made to the Government of the Netherlands, with a view to ascertaining whether it would be desirable to appoint a representative to that country, if the Government were agreeable.

He hoped that a suitable representative had been found for Cairo.

The Director said that he and the Assistant Director (Dr. Kullmann), hoped to pay a visit in the near future to France, Belgium and probably Switzerland.

7. No other business arising,
8. the date of the next meeting was left to the Chairman, after hearing the views of the Director, it being agreed that, owing to the enlargement of the Committee, it would not be possible, as hitherto, previously to consult the convenience of every Member.

Enclosure 2 to despatch No. 18700 of 10-18-44  
from the Embassy at London, England.

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

5th October, 1944.

AGENDA.

1. Election of Chairman.  
(Article X (4) of the Rules for the Constitution and  
Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees).
2. Letter from His Excellency the Brazilian Ambassador  
to the Director, dated the 6th September, 1944.  
For information.  
(Copy attached).
3. Estimates of the Administrative Expenses of the Committee  
for the year 1945.  
(Memorandum IC/EX/32. - 12th September, 1944 - attached.)
4. Estimates of the Operational Expenses of the Committee  
for the year 1945.  
(Memorandum IC/EX/33. - 12th September, 1944 - attached.)
5. Proposal to establish a Provident Fund.  
(Memorandum IC/EX/34. - 13th September, 1944 - attached.)
6. Statement of Director on current activities.
7. Any other business.
8. Date of next meeting.

-----  
(Copies of the documents in French will be circulated  
later.)

000924

COPY

BRAZILIAN EMBASSY,

London.

6th September, 1944.

My dear Sir Herbert,

At the last Meeting of the Executive Council the matter was brought up as to the possibility of asylum being offered by Member countries to Jewish children at present in Hungary, for whom permission to leave that country had been obtained.

You may remember I undertook to sound my Government on this question, and I have pleasure in giving you below the reply I have just received by cable:-

"In reply to your telegram, the Brazilian Government is prepared to permit the entry of five hundred children, as an act of humanity in accordance with our traditions of hospitality. We do not, however, wish to assume any financial responsibilities in regard to transport or upkeep. With this point in view, the President of the Republic has instructed the President of the Brazilian Red Cross to take the necessary steps, once transport has been assured, for the placing of these children with families in Brazil who are prepared to support them."

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Moniz de Aragao

Brazilian Ambassador.

Sir Herbert Emerson, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., C.B.E.,  
Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,  
11D, Regent Street, S.W.1.

000925

12th September, 1944.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

## EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## MEMORANDUM

ESTIMATE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR 1945.

1. In accordance with paragraph V of the Financial Regulations, the budget estimates of the Intergovernmental Committee are to be submitted to the Executive Committee not later than the 30th September in each year, with separate memoranda, the first relating to the Administrative part of the estimate, and the second the Operational part. The estimates of Administrative Expenses are attached. This memorandum is in explanation of them.

2. The estimates approved by the Executive Committee in January, 1944, provided for the following Administrative Expenses:-

	1 Sept. 1943 to 31 Dec. 1943	1 Jan. 1944 to 31 Dec. 1944	Total
Headquarters Office of the Director ...	£ 5,000.	£ 20,000.	£ 25,000.
Meetings of the Plenary & Executive Committees ...	-	1,000	1,000
	£ 5,000.	£ 21,000.	£ 26,000.

3. When the above estimates were approved, it was not known which Governments who had been invited to join the Committee would accept the invitation, and the assumption was therefore made, for the purpose of assessing the contribution of each Member Government, that the total number of units in accordance with the Intergovernmental Scale would be 700. A single unit was thus  $\frac{£ 26,000}{700}$ , or £37 approximately. Contributions received up to the 31st August, 1944, amount to £21,400, and it is estimated that a further sum of £3,000 will be received before the end of the year, making a total of £24,400.

000926

4. The expenditure from the Administrative Account has been less than was estimated, but owing to necessary increases of staff, it will be rising during the remainder of the year. From the 1st January to the 31st August, 1944, the expenditure was £6,100, and it is anticipated that further expenditure of £3,900 will be incurred, making a total of £10,000 for the year 1944, as compared with an estimated expenditure of £21,000. The opening balance on the 1st January, 1944, was in round figures £2,900.

5. The financial position may, therefore, be summarised as follows:-

Balance at the 1st January, 1944	£	2,900
Estimated contributions, 1944		24,400
		<hr/>
Total	£	27,300
Estimated Expenditure		10,000
		<hr/>
Estimated balance at 31st Dec., 1944	£	<u>17,300</u>

6. As already noted, the expenditure of the Committee has been rising during the past few months, and will increase considerably as large territories in Europe are liberated. Further appointments to the staff will be necessary. The present office accommodation is inadequate and additional accommodation is needed, including the provision of a committee room. The attached estimates take these facts into account and provide for expenditure during 1945 of £21,700.

7. In considering what sum should be fixed as the basis of contributions from Member Governments, it is necessary to remember that the Committee must carry a working balance sufficient to enable the Committee to function during the early part of each year, as the collection of contributions is spread over the whole year, and no considerable part of them can be expected until the early summer. It is necessary that the working balance should also include a small margin for unforeseen contingencies. It is recommended that for these purposes a working balance of £10,000 should be provided. On this assumption the calculation of the amount to be recovered

in contributions is as follows:-

Estimated expenditure	£	
Working balance	21,700	
	10,000	
	<hr/>	
Total		£
		31,700
Opening balance, 1945,		17,300
		<hr/>
Amount required in contributions		£14,400
		<hr/>

The total number of units allotted to present Member Governments in accordance with the Intergovernmental Scale is 791.5. There are still several Governments who have not replied to the invitation to join the Committee, and should any of these accept, the total number of units will be increased accordingly. For the present purpose, however, the actual number of units of existing Members may be taken as the basis for the allocation of contributions. A single unit will thus be  $\frac{£14,400}{791.5}$  or £18 approximately. The contribution of each Member Government on this basis is shown in the statement attached to the estimates.

8. In accordance with paragraph V (c) of the Financial Regulations the Executive Committee is empowered to give final approval to the estimates if no meeting of the Plenary Committee is held before the commencement of the financial year to which the estimates relate. Since it is not proposed to hold a Plenary Session before the 1st January, 1945, the Executive Committee is requested finally to approve the estimates, with such modification as it may consider necessary.

It is further requested to approve, subject to such modification as it may wish to make, the sum of £14,400 (in accordance with the calculations contained in paragraph 7 above) as the total amount to be recovered from Member Governments, in accordance with the Intergovernmental Scale.

H.W. EMERSON

Director.

S.H.G. HUGHES

Finance Officer.

ESTIMATES

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

	Estimate 1945	Revised Estimate 1944
A. Salaries and wages	£ 14,000	£ 7,000
B. Travelling expenses	3,000	1,200
C. Telegrams, telephones and cables	200	50
D. Rent, etc., of offices, rates, heating and lighting	2,000	1,000
E. Miscellaneous office expenses, including postage	2,500	750
	21,700	10,000

Net Increase £ 11,700

RECEIPTS.

Contributions by  
Member Governments

	1945	1944
	£	£
	14,400	24,400

Net Decrease £ 10,000.

	£
Balance at 1st January, 1944	2,900
Excess of receipts over expenditure, 1944	14,400
	<hr/> £ 17,300
Working balance required	£ 10,000
Estimated expenditure 1945	21,700
	<hr/> 31,700
Amount required in contributions for 1945	<hr/> £ 14,400

000929

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCALE.

MEMBER GOVERNMENT	Units	£
Argentine	21	378
Australia	23	414
Belgium	19	342
Bolivia	2	36
Brazil	23	414
Canada	35	630
Chile	8	144
Colombia	5	90
Czechoslovakia	25	450
Denmark	12	216
Dominican Republic	1	18
Ecuador	1	18
Egypt	12	216
Eire	10	180
France	80	1440
Greece	7	126
Haiti	1	18
Honduras	0.5	9
Iceland	1	18
India	48	864
Luxemburg	1	18
Mexico	11	198
Netherlands	24	432
New Zealand	8	144
Nicaragua	0.5	9
Norway	9	162
Paraguay	0.5	9
Peru	5	90
Poland	32	576
Sweden	19	342
Switzerland	17	306
Union of South Africa	16	288
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	94	1692
United Kingdom	108	1944
United States of America	108	1944
Venezuela	4	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>791.5</b>	<b>£14,247.</b>

000930

12th September, 1944.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.MEMORANDUM.ESTIMATES OF OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.

1. In accordance with paragraph V of the Financial Regulations, the budget estimates of the Intergovernmental Committee should be submitted to the Executive Committee not later than 30th September in each year, with separate memoranda, the first relating to the Administrative part of the estimate and the second to the Operational part. This Memorandum is in explanation of the latter.
2. In January, 1944, the Executive Committee approved the round estimate of £1,000,000 for Operational Expenses during 1944. This course was adopted as the Operational Expenditure during the year depended on a number of factors which were then intangible. Among these was the progress of the war and the liberation of the different countries; the process of repatriation of displaced persons; the respective functions of the Intergovernmental Committee and U.N.R.R.A.; the areas in which U.N.R.R.A. will operate, and the extent to which effect could be given to the principle of appointing representatives of the Intergovernmental Committee in various countries.
3. Representatives of the Committee have so far been appointed in Italy, North Africa, and the United States of America.

In the initial stages of their work, these representatives have had office accommodation and facilities placed at their disposal, without charge, by the Army authorities or the governments of the countries in which they are serving. The representatives in Italy and North Africa have, to a large extent, been conveyed on their travels by the military authorities, without charge. This cannot, of course, continue indefinitely, but it is not anticipated that in any one of the three countries the cost of the representative and his staff, with office accommodation and travelling, is likely to exceed a sum varying from £3,000 to £10,000 a year, according to the country.
4. The total sums advanced to the representatives in Italy, North Africa and United States of America to 31st August, 1944, amount to

000931

£8,250. Statements of expenditure of these sums will be included in their accounts for the quarter ending 30th September, 1944.

5. Plans were completed recently for assisting in the preservation of refugees in certain occupied countries, and for their rescue therefrom where practicable. Sums amounting to £116,250 and \$465,000 respectively or £232,500 in all, have been set aside in special accounts to meet the estimated commitments for the quarter ending the 30th September, 1944, and it was anticipated that at least an equal amount would be required for the last quarter of the year. The recent course of the war has already made this form of assistance unnecessary in some countries, and the expenditure on this account is not likely to reach expectations. On the other hand, the Intergovernmental Committee may have to meet expenditure not previously foreseen in connection with assistance to Jews in Hungary. It might, for instance, be required to meet the maintenance of those given temporary asylum in neutral countries. On the whole, however, it is probable that the Operational Expenditure for 1944 will not exceed £500,000, and may be less.

6. The factors which made it impracticable to estimate the Operational Expenditure for the current year still persist, but there is this difference, that the war has now reached a stage at which it may be assumed with confidence that the operations of the Intergovernmental Committee will be on a much larger scale in 1945 than in 1944. It will, for instance, be necessary to have representatives in more European countries, and preliminary measures have already been taken as regards France and Switzerland. Some of these representatives may well have to undertake specific projects. Again, some of the neutral Governments which have been unwilling to ask for outside assistance during the war towards the maintenance of refugees to whom they have given temporary asylum, may review their attitude. It may be further assumed that the task of the Intergovernmental Committee in finding homes for those deserving persons who cannot return to their own countries will assume greater proportions. While, therefore, it is still not possible to assess the exact nature and scope of the various tasks which the Committee will be called upon to carry out, and still less to frame detailed estimates, it is safe to forecast that the work and, therefore, the expenditure, will be on a considerable scale.

000932

In these circumstances it is suggested that an estimate of £2,000,000 be approved for Operational Expenses in 1945, it being understood on the one hand that, should this prove insufficient, supplementary estimates will be placed before the Executive Committee for its consideration, and on the other hand, that, in accordance with the procedure approved by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, within the estimate of £2,000,000 funds will be provided only as required and after consultation with those Governments with regard to particular projects.

7. The estimate will be subject to the specific approval of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, since Operational Expenses, in the first place, are underwritten jointly by them. The Executive Committee is, therefore, asked to consider the estimate and to approve it, with such modification as it considers desirable, on the above understanding.

8. In accordance with paragraph V (c) of the Financial Regulations the Executive Committee is empowered to give final approval to the estimates if no meeting of the Plenary Committee is held before the commencement of the financial year to which the estimates relate. Since it is not proposed to hold a Plenary Session before the 1st January, 1945, the Executive Committee is requested finally to approve the estimates, with such modification as it may consider necessary.

H.W. EMERSON,  
Director.

S.H.G. HUGHES,  
Finance Officer.

000933

IC/EK/34

13th September, 1944

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES  
EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEMORANDUM

PROPOSED STAFF PROVIDENT SCHEME.

In order to make provision for a payment to the members of the staff of the Intergovernmental Committee on the termination of their employment with the Committee, a scheme for a Staff Provident Fund has been prepared. U.N.R.R.A. has introduced a Provident Scheme for its employees and the general plan of this has been followed in drafting the proposed regulations for the Staff Provident Scheme, a copy of which is attached.

It is proposed that all regular employees, both at headquarters and abroad, shall be members of the Fund and that each member shall pay a contribution of 5% of his salary or wages, the Committee, as employer, adding 7½%. These rates are the same as in the U.N.R.R.A. scheme. On retirement from the service of the Committee, an employee will receive, subject to Regulation 5 (b) and (c), the total of his own and the employer's contributions, the latter being the equivalent to nearly four weeks' pay for each year of service.

Provision is made in the scheme for other matters incidental to management and for the scheme to be operative from the date of the Committee's revised mandate, viz: 4th August, 1943.

The estimated annual cost of the scheme to the Committee's funds in a full year on the basis of present staff is £740. The cost to the end of 1944 will be about £700 and can be met out of the present budget provision.

The approval of the Executive Committee is requested.

H.W. EMERSON.

Director.

000934

14th August, 1944

REGULATIONS FOR THE STAFF PROVIDENT FUND

1. PURPOSE: These regulations govern the administration of the Staff Provident Fund of the Committee.

2. ADMINISTRATION: The Director shall be responsible for the administration of the Fund and shall decide all questions arising in connection with it.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE FUND: All regular employees of the Committee shall be members of the Fund.

4. PAYMENTS TO THE FUND:

- (i) There shall be deducted from the salary or wages of each member of the Fund 5% of his salary or wages at each payment, whether monthly or weekly as the case may be.
- (ii) The Committee shall contribute an amount equal to 7½% of the salary or wages of each member.
- (iii) The total of a member's deductions referred to in (i) and of the contributions referred to in (ii) shall be credited to the Staff Provident Fund.
- (iv) Salary or wages shall include regularly paid compensation but not payments for overtime, travelling expenses, subsistence or other allowances, including allowances for quarters, if any.

5. PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND:

- (a) On leaving the service of the Committee, except as provided in the succeeding paragraphs of this section, each employee will be paid, in a lump sum, the total deductions made from his salary and the amounts contributed by the Committee, without interest. No charge will be made on account of administration.
- (b) The total of deductions and contributions will be first applied to settling claims which the Committee may have against the employee.
- (c) If an employee is dismissed for dishonesty or other serious misconduct, the Director may order that he shall be refunded only the total of the deductions made from his salary up to the date of dismissal. The member shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee against such an order.

6. BENEFICIARIES: Each member on joining the Fund shall designate a beneficiary (or beneficiaries) of his interest in the Fund on a prescribed form. On the death of an employee while in the service of the Committee, the amount then due to him will be paid to his designated beneficiary (or beneficiaries) in a lump sum. New beneficiaries may be designated by a member at any time.

7. TRANSFERS OF INTERESTS IN FUND: A member shall have no right to assign, transfer, encumber, pledge, hypothecate or

anticipate his interest in the Fund and his interest shall not be subject to legal process, levy or attachment for payment of any claims against him or his beneficiary. Loans from the Committee against members' interests in the Fund will not be permitted.

8. RIGHTS IN THE FUND: The Committee reserves the right to modify these regulations or to terminate the Fund, but such action shall not diminish the rights of members to the accumulated amounts in the Provident Fund at the time of such action. The members shall have no legal or equitable rights in the Fund other than as expressly granted herein.

9. DATE FROM WHICH MEMBERSHIP OPERATIVE: These regulations shall operate with effect from 4th August, 1943. Each employee will become a member as from the date of his joining the staff of the Committee or, in the case of an employee serving on 4th August, 1943, from that date. Where the date of joining for an employee at present serving involves payment of deductions in respect of past service they shall be paid by the member as speedily as practicable but payment must be completed within a maximum period of twelve months.

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
NOV 16 PM 3 25

000934

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

NEB-483

PLAIN  
London

Dated October 5, 1944

Rec'd 12:40 pm

Secretary of State

Washington

8362, fifth.

Executive Committee of

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
OCT. 6 1944  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

Eight meeting of Executive Committee of  
Intergovernmental Committee on refugees held to-  
day. Agenda and minutes will be airmailed when  
minutes received.

Main items of business were election of  
chairman and approval of estimates for administrative  
and operational expenses. Lord Winterton, the  
British delegate, unanimously elected chairman.  
Director's estimate of administrative expenses for  
1945 was approved. Total to be collected from  
member governments is 14,400 pounds, of which  
United States share is 1,944 pounds in accordance  
with intergovernmental scale. Specific approval  
by Department is requested.

Committee unanimously approved estimate of  
operational expenses for 1945 in the sum of

2,000,000

000937

-2- 8362, fifth, from London

2,000,000 pounds. It was agreed that the estimate be accepted subject to approval of British and American Governments which underwrite operational expenses on a fifty-fifty basis. Increase as against 1944 operational budget seems justified in view of expected expansion of IGC activities as more territory becomes liberated. Also about 500,000 pounds have been saved from 1944 budget and will not be drawn. I recommend approval by our government and request authorization to notify director IGC that United States will underwrite operational expenditures 1945 up to 1,000,000 pounds.

WLM:WT

RR

000938

SEP 25 1944

My dear Sir Herbert:

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of September 7, 1944, together with the enclosed copy of a Resolution adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, held in London from the 15th to 17th of August 1944, which affirms the principle of co-operation with the War Refugee Board.

In view of the sympathetic and productive relationships that have in the past existed between our two organizations, I am pleased to note both the formal and informal expressions of intention to continue these relations.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Penle

J. W. Penle  
Executive Director

Sir Herbert W. Emerson, Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,  
11d Regent Street,  
London, E. W. I.

JWP JWP:dg 9/25/44

000939

Telephone: ABBEY 6593-4-6467-8.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

Our Ref.: IC/245/56  
H.E./EAS.  
Your Ref.:

11b, REGENT STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

7th September, 1944

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a Resolution adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, held in London from the 15th to 17th August, 1944, which affirms the principle of co-operation with the war Refugee Board, of the United States of America. I am to say, on behalf of the Executive Committee, that it looks forward to the continuation of the close co-operation that already exists between the war Refugee Board and the Intergovernmental Committee.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*H. W. G. G. G. G.*  
Director

Mr. J. W. Pehle,  
Executive Director,  
war Refugee Board,  
Washington, 25,  
D.C.

000940

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE  
COMMITTEE

A Resolution relating to co-operation of the Intergovernmental Committee with other governmental organizations concerned with the various aspects of the refugee problem.

RESOLVED,

- (1) That the Committee re-affirms the principle adopted at the Evian Conference of co-operation with the refugee services of the League of Nations and with the International Labour Office.
- (2) That the Committee approves and confirms the action of the Executive Committee in conveying to the Director General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration an appreciation of the offer of co-operation made by that Administration, and an assurance that the Intergovernmental Committee desires to maintain close and cordial relations between the two organizations.
- (3) That the Committee approves and confirms the arrangements made, under the authority and with the sanction of the Executive Committee, for close co-operation between the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board of the United States of America.
- (4) That the Committee invite representatives of the above mentioned organizations to attend as observers and to participate in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee, its committees and sub-committees in accordance with the Rules of Constitution and of Procedure.
- (5) That the Committee instructs the Director to collaborate with the above mentioned organizations and with all intergovernmental agencies whose assistance and co-operation may be of value, in the furtherance of the policies and purposes of the Intergovernmental Committee

EXAMINER 3401

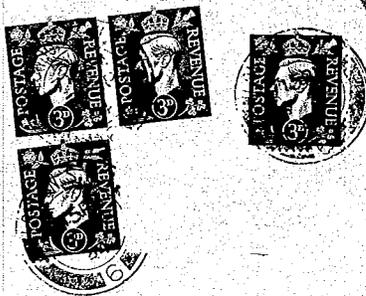
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE,  
110 REGENT STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

PER AIR MAIL

*Miss Lodec-2410*

Mr. J. W. Pehle,

Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington, 25, D.C.,  
U.S.A.



000942

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

MS-68

**CONTROL COPY**

*24c-7*  
INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*7*  
PLAIN

London

Date: September 11, 1944

Rec'd: 10:46 p.m.

*War Ref Bd  
(Mr. Peck)*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

7455, Eleventh.

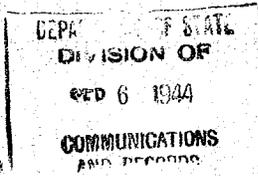
Next meeting Executive Committee IGC October 5.

Please reply Embassy's 7053, August 29.

WINANT

MRM

000943



From: London  
Date: August 31, 1944.  
Recd. 3 September 5, 5pm.

UNRESTRICTED

Secretary of State  
Washington

CONTROL COPY

A-1065, August 31, 1944.

Reference is made to Embassy's telegram No. 6664 of August 17 reporting proceedings of second sitting of Plenary Meeting of Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. In ninth paragraph of this telegram it was stated that meeting had adopted a resolution to refer study of drawing up form of travel documents for stateless persons to a commission of experts to be appointed at invitation of Director by Governments of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, United Kingdom and United States.

In accordance with this resolution Sir Herbert Emerson, Director, in a letter to this Embassy dated August 30, has invited the United States Government to appoint a member to the commission of experts. He suggests that the person selected be one who has studied the question or has had experience of the practical side of the problem. He also points out that the examination of the subject must have regard to security considerations and in this connection

suggests/

000944

A-1665 London

suggests that our Government may wish to associate with its member a representative acquainted with the security aspect.

The Director adds that it is hoped to convene the commission early in October and that he would therefore appreciate being informed as soon as convenient of the name of the American member and that of his associate should we desire to nominate one.

Instructions are respectfully requested.

WIXBY

AUG 29 1944

My dear Congressman Bloom:

Pursuant to our recent telephone conversation, I am enclosing two cables reporting on the proceedings of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Sol Bloom  
House of Representatives

Enclosures

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*Copy to: Mr. Abrahamson*

*aa jpf*  
Abrahamson:mm 8/28/44

000946

*Copy 77  
1944*

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BE-638

PLAIN

London

Dated August 17, 1944

Rec'd 2:10 a.m., 18th

1944 AUG 17 11 3 55

COMMUNICATIONS  
DIVISION  
(L.S.)

Secretary of State  
Washington

**CONTROL COPY**

6664, Seventeenth

Reference Embassy's telegram number 6612,  
August 16, regarding Fourth Plenary Meeting of  
inter-Governmental Committee on refugees.

Plenary Committee met for second sitting 11  
a.m. August 17. Remaining items on agenda were  
disposed of as follows:

Polish Ambassador as Chairman of Sub-Committee  
on Rules reported the few minor alterations  
recommended by Sub-Committee and these were unanimously  
adopted.

Committee on Nominations proposed the following  
for membership in Executive Committee: Representatives  
of United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Netherlands,  
France, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico.

The representatives

000947

-2- #6664, Seventeenth from London

The representatives nominated were elected without dissenting opinion.

Session adopted unanimously resolution affirming principle of cooperation between IGC and other Governmental organizations concerned with refugee problem.

Similar resolution was then proposed affirming principle of cooperation between IGC and non-Governmental organizations. Polish Ambassador urged that greatest possible use be made of such connections as IGC had with voluntary relief agencies especially Intercross. Pointed out that refugee camp at the Resienstadt originally proclaimed by Germans as a "model Ghetto" was nothing more than a decoy since many inmates had been deported for execution in Poland. Suggested that Intercross might well publicize its knowledge of real purpose of camp and conditions therein. He remarked further that as the Germans saw imminent defeat they were redoubling efforts to stamp out classes of persons which would be influential in forming future policy toward Germany these classes including intellectuals and the "elite" as well as Jews. He felt that this situation was exceedingly dangerous

000948

-3- #6664, Seventeenth from London  
dangerous and that it was time for all Governments  
to reiterate emphatically their determination to see  
that Germans guilty of persecution should not escape  
punishment.

Replying to this speech Chairman stated that  
suggestion regarding all possible cooperation with  
voluntary agencies would be referred to Executive  
Committee, and that IGC was in full sympathy with  
Polish Ambassador's remarks, resolution was then  
unanimously adopted.

Sir Herbert Emerson's nomination as Director  
of IGC had already been made by Executive Committee.  
I proposed this nomination be accepted. Lord Winterton  
seconded and took occasion to pay tribute to work  
of Myron Taylor. French representative supported  
nomination and thanked Committee on behalf of Provisional  
Government of French Republic for work it had done  
for France and gave assurance in short while  
France would no longer need to call on IGC for assistance  
but would itself be able to assist IGC. Emerson's  
election as Director then unanimously voted.  
Chairman notified him in complimentary speech  
and Emerson returned thanks assuring Committee of  
his continued efforts and praising work of colleagues  
on Executive

000949

-4- #6664, Seventeenth from London  
on Executive Committee and office staff.

Committee unanimously adopted resolution to refer study of drawing up form of travel documents for stateless persons to a committee on experts to be appointed at the invitation of Director by Governments of Argentina Belgium Brazil Chile Czechoslovakia France Poland United Kingdom and United States.

Chairman read note passed to him by Russian delegate stating in substance that since Russian Government had no relations whatsoever with League of Nations it must reserve its decision to cooperate with League as provided in rules of Committee and resolution just adopted. Chairman assured Russian delegate this reservation would be duly recorded.

Brazilian delegate proposed vote of thanks to Chairman in complimentary terms to which Chairman made appropriate reply. Plenary Session then adjourned it being exactly noon.

WINANT

HTM

000950

*Confidential*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
KEM-191

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

1944 AUG 17 PM 2 47

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

PLAIN  
London  
Dated August 16, 1944  
Rec'd 9:08 p.m.

*S. W. R. Ref*  
*B. L. D.*  
*(Dable)*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

6612, Sixteenth.

X  
Fourth Plenary Session Inter-Governmental

Committee on Refugees met 11 a.m. yesterday. Delegates of 36 countries were present as well as representatives of War Refugee Board, Intercross, UNRRA, SHAEF and ILO. Also large attendance as observers of representatives of private and voluntary organizations, Jewish agencies, et cetera. Press and public were present on invitation and today's papers give extensive coverage of first day's proceedings. All important press reports will be air-mailed later. Session was opened by Lord Winterton, Chairman of Executive Committee, and proceeded immediately to election of Sub-Committee on Nominations consisting of representatives of Great Britain, Russia, South Africa, Belgium, Greece, Chile, Egypt, Colombia and India. This Sub-Committee appointed British representative as its chairman and quickly reported following nominations:

for Chairman

000951

-2- #6612, August 16, from London.

for Chairman of Plenary Session Australian delegate;  
for Vice-Chairman French delegate; for Deputy Vice-  
Chairman delegate of Luxembourg. These nominations  
unanimously approved by Committee. Chairman is Bruce,  
Australian High Commissioner in London; Vice-Chairman  
de Jean, French delegate to Allied Governments in London.

Chairman then suggested and Committee unanimously  
approved election of Sub-Committee to examine draft  
rules and regulations and to report its recommendations  
to Plenary Committee: representatives of United State,  
France, Argentina, New Zealand, Eire, Sweden, Venezuela,  
Norway and Poland.

Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of Committee, then  
rendered his report which was largely an explanatory  
comment on his written report previously circulated to  
member governments (enclosed with despatch No. 17213  
August 1). He touched on relations with UNRRA and  
pointed out that IGC's functions will include relocation  
of displaced persons long after UNRRA may have ceased to  
Said IGC hoped to place in necessary countries its own  
representatives who will be nationals of the country in  
which stationed and whose functions will include general  
liaison work between IGC and government of country to  
which assigned. With regard to problem of Hungarian Jews,  
he regretted

000952

-3- #6612, August 16, from London.

he regretted being unable to report on present situation in detail but said Horthy offer was being actively pursued and that he had high hope that IGC would be able to render valuable help in this connection.

Chairmen then invited delegates to express opinions. Delegate of India, acting under instructions of Indian Government, proposed that mandate of IGC be extended to cover persons in Japanese occupied areas and refugees from Japanese oppression. Mexican delegate pointed out that 14 of 36 member countries spoke Spanish and proposed that for the sake of uniformity, particularly with respect to publicity, Committee should issue official Spanish version of reports and other important material. Also remarked that he wished to see more help extended to Spanish Republican refugees and likewise urged acceptance of Horthy offer. Finally recommended close contact between IGC and free movements in occupied countries since latter had means and channels to assist escape of oppressed persons.

Egyptian delegate recommended urging individual governments to commit themselves to receive back refugees of their nationality and to guarantee them full civil rights. Polish delegate urged that IGC extend assistance to persecuted

000953

-4- #6612, August 16, from London.

to persecuted people in countries of persecution before their escape to countries of safety. Also deplored failure to attempt to rescue inmates of Vittel camp holding Latin America passports. Delegate of Czechoslovakia supported remarks of Polish delegate on Vittel question.

Replying to these remarks Director stated in substance (1) IGC is responsible for assisting refugees from Europe now in India and will assist them. But problem of statelessness has not arisen in Orient and function of assisting persons within Japanese occupied territory is one of relief rather than relocation and thus belongs more properly to UNRRA than to IGC particularly since UNRRA has Far Eastern division. (2) Executive Committee will consider proposal for official Spanish translations. IGC is, in fact, assisting Spanish Republican refugees to extent of its ability. (3) IGC strongly agrees that it should do all it can to urge responsible governments to bring about conditions within their territories which would enable refugees of their nationalities to return to them and enjoy full civil rights therein. (4) His reply to remarks of Polish and Czechoslovak delegates will be covered in separate telegram.

Delegate of Dominican Republic requested Director to inform meeting of refugee work done by Dominican Government.

000954

-5- #6612, August 16, from London.

Government. Director briefly pointed out that Dominican Republic was one of first and most liberal in response to appeals to assist refugees but added that lack of time did not permit him to go into detail.

Plenary Session then adjourned until morning of August 17.

Sub-Committee on Rules met afternoon August 16 and unanimously adopted draft and finance regulations with only a few minor textual changes in interests of clarity. Also unanimously agreed that furnishing of Spanish version of reports should be handled as executive matter between Executive Committee and any interested member government; Director undertook to see that official Spanish version would be made of any material specially requested by any member.

Sub-Committee on Rules then adjourned after appointing its Chairman, Polish Ambassador, to draw up report of its recommendations for submission to Plenary Session. Delegates and their associates were entertained by IGC at reception yesterday evening and will attend luncheon today given by British Foreign Minister.

PLEASE INFORM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

WINNANT

BERM DU

000955

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*J. Ward By SA  
Ind. Keller*

FROM: American Embassy, London  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 16, 1944  
X  
NUMBER: 6606

**CONTROL COPY**

Answering certain remarks of Czechoslovak and Polish delegates at a plenary session of IGC August 15, the director requested the press not to report him. It had been suggested by the Polish delegate that the IGC extend assistance to persecuted people in countries of persecution prior to their escape to countries of safety and the failure of attempt to rescue inmates of the Vittel camp holding Latin American passports was deplored by both delegates.

It was emphatically asserted by the director that aid was being given to persons in countries of persecution but that he could not discuss the point more fully because of the clandestine means. Concerning the Vittel question he said that Latin American Governments were requested to condone irregular issuance of passports to refugees and to make representations to the German Government on their behalf, that practically all had done so but without success. He pointed out however, that some persons holding such passports had been exchanged for detained Germans and that efforts to enlarge this means of rescue were being made.

WINANT

DCR:VAC 8/19/44

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000956

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DAS  
Department

PLAIN

August 3, 1944

EMBASSY,

LONDON  
6134, Ward

*5-4-44 Ref Bel*  
**CONTROL COPY**

With reference to paragraph two your 16187 June 8

kindly advise Intergovernmental Committee that this Govern-  
ment will be represented by Ambassador Winant <sup>who is hereby appointed</sup> as delegate  
at Plenary Meeting August 15. If necessary, the Ambassador  
may designate a substitute delegate and so advise the  
Committee.

With reference paragraph two your 16242 June 12 the  
delegate or substitute delegate is authorized to accept on  
behalf of this Government the draft rules and regulations  
to be presented at Plenary Committee meeting, with such  
amendments as Plenary Committee may approve.

STETTINIUS  
ACTING  
(HLW)

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 5 AM 10 27

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

WRB:OLW:OMH S/GR EC  
8/3/44

000957

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BE-552

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

PLAIN

London

Dated August 1, 1944

Rec'd 12:00 p.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 2 AM 9 27

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

Secretary of State

Washington

6111, First

Following press communique is being released to British papers today by Intergovernmental Committee.

"For the first time since its reorganization in August 1943 and the fourth time since its formation in July 1938, the Intergovernmental Committee on refugees will hold a plenary session in London beginning on 15th August. Thirty seven Governments both United Nations and neutrals, are now members of this international body. In addition to their official delegates, it is expected that the meetings will be attended by observers from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force, the War Refugee Board of the United States, the International Red Cross Committee, the International Labour Organizations, and the Office of the League of Nations

000958

-2- #6111, First from London

of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as voluntary organizations interested in refugees and relief. The plenary session will be public, but, as accomodation is limited, admission will be by ticket, for which application should be made to the Secretary, Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, 11D Re gent Street, S.W.1.

Prominent among matters to be considered by this first plenary session of the reorganized committee are the adoption of a new constitution procedure and financial regulations, and the election of an enlarged committee. The plenary session will also have presented to it for general discussion a full report by Sir Herbert Emerson, the director, on the work of the committee during the last year.

This work falls into three classes:

(1). Measures relating to the rescue and preservation of threatened persons still within the territory of Germany and her European Allies or territory occupied or controlled by them.

(2) Pre-armistice measures relating to persons who may have come out of such areas to netural or liberated areas: and

(3) Post-

000959

-3- #6111, First from London

(3) Post-armistice measures for relief, repatriation, and resettlement of those who cannot be repatriated.

In one or more of these types, the committee, in order to insure the maximum benefit to the refugees with the minimum of duplication, has developed cordial working relations with the other national and international bodies mentioned above.

The Intergovernmental committee was formed as a result of the conference which was convened, on the initiative of the American Government, at Evian in 1938. During the four years following the outbreak of war in 1939, the activities of the committee were restricted; but in August 1943 the executive committee adopted a series of recommendations which involved a great expansion of the committee's membership, scope, functions and finance. Under its expanded mandate, the committee has during the last year been engaged in humanitarian activities aimed at alleviating the present position of refugees and in preparations designed to assist materially in solving the post-war refugee problem."

Intergovernmental Committee suggests Department or WRB might wish to release same communique to American papers.

WINANT

WSB

000960