

Report on UNRRA shipments to liberated areas (7 October 1945)

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Report on UNRRA Shipments to Liberated Areas

[Released to the press by UNRRA October 7]

In a report submitted to the Committee on Supplies of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, Herbert H. Lehman, Director General, stated that UNRRA shipments to the liberated areas had passed the 2,000,000-ton mark.

"The figures as of the end of September are 2,079,000 long tons of relief supplies shipped", said Mr. Lehman. "Their value was \$530,000,000."

While expressing gratification that shipments are proceeding at an accelerated rate, the Director General stated that lack of funds was now the chief threat to the success of UNRRA's program.

"The end of hostilities", he reported, "has resulted in a great improvement in the supply situation. Shipping, which in the past was one of the most serious bottlenecks in bringing relief to the liberated areas, has eased up to such an extent that we do not anticipate any serious problems in obtaining adequate cargo space. Our main problem is adequate financial resources to take advantage of the improved supply and shipping conditions.

"The greatly increased activities during the last few months have brought us to a point where immediate appropriation of the funds already authorized by the Congress of the United States has become a matter of great urgency. The United States has to date appropriated \$800,000,000 for the work of UNRRA. Of this amount \$80,000,000 has been used and \$13,000,000 is in the process of being used for the procurement of scarce supplies not available in the United States. An additional \$47,000,000 has been used for transport services, for other relief and rehabilitation services, and for administrative expenses. The remaining \$660,000,000 has been or is being used for the procurement of relief and rehabilitation supplies from the United States. Of this last amount, \$270,000,000 worth of supplies had been shipped by the end of September. Shipments programmed for October and November from the United States represent another \$270,000,000. All of this last amount is already under procure-

ment. The remaining \$120,000,000 is largely under procurement to maintain a sufficient pipeline of supplies, many of which have production cycles ranging from 4 to 10 months.

"Every day of delay in making additional funds available to us increases the danger of creating a break in our flow of supplies to the liberated areas during the most critical period of the winter months. We are already handicapped in our forward procurements. However, this committee will be glad to know that the United States congressional hearings on the appropriation of the remainder of the funds already authorized will, I am advised, commence shortly."

Discussing UNRRA's policy of making full use of Army surpluses which can be fitted into its relief program, the Director General said:

"With the end of hostilities UNRRA took immediate steps to obtain as much as possible of the needed supplies from the armies, whose stocks suddenly became surplus to a considerable extent. The total volume of supplies procured from surpluses owned by the United States Government amounted to more than \$59,000,000 by the end of August. This figure includes \$21,600,000 worth of clothing which had been procured from United States Army cutbacks after the end of hostilities in Europe and immediately programmed for shipment so as to permit distribution in the liberated countries before winter. Most of this surplus property came from the continental United States.

"A joint U.S. Government - UNRRA mission went to Europe at the beginning of September to procure \$150,000,000 worth of supplies from United States Army surpluses overseas. UNRRA had prepared a list of requirements with an estimated value of nearly \$200,000,000. These lists were distributed by the military authorities to Army depots in Europe. They were screened against actual availabilities, and 75 percent of these requirements have been indicated as available and \$150,000,000 have been set aside and ten-

tatively allocated by major commodity groups as follows:

Industrial Rehabilitation (including trucks) . . .	\$ 83,000,000
Agricultural Rehabilitation	27,000,000
Clothing, Textiles and Footwear	10,000,000
Medical Supplies and Equipment	8,000,000
Food	22,000,000
	\$150,000,000

"The Administration hopes to obtain from the United States Army upward of 40,000 trucks. It has received reports that the delivery of the Army surplus trucks has already started from Italy to Greece and Yugoslavia and is to begin from northwestern Europe to Poland and Czechoslovakia in the first part of October. Individual commodities included on the list of UNRRA requirements from Army surpluses includes also canned meats, evaporated milk, lard, oleomargarine, Army rations, and soaps, as well as blankets, comforters, and footwear, and large stores of medical supplies.

"Under arrangements with the Canadian Government the Canadian military authorities are delivering, out of Canadian Army surpluses, trucks to Poland and Czechoslovakia at the rate of 200 trucks per day; the total number of Canadian surplus trucks which will be made available to UNRRA is expected to exceed 5,000. Other Canadian surplus property, including clothing, is also under procurement. Supplies from British military surpluses have also begun to flow to UNRRA, consisting thus far mainly of trucks, mules, and medical supplies. Much of our procurement of clothing, food, and medical supplies in Australia and New Zealand also has war surpluses as its source.

"In order to accelerate the delivery of programmed supplies to China when additional funds become available, UNRRA is also undertaking surveys of available U.S. military surpluses in the Far East and is conducting negotiations with military authorities looking forward to their purchase."

Mr. Lehman reported that some of the countries which until recently had been occupied by the enemy and which are being helped by UNRRA

are now contributing supplies to other liberated areas.

"At the Third Session of the Council in London a representative of the Czechoslovak Government informed the Council that his Government was preparing a list of supplies which Czechoslovakia will have in surplus and will be able to hand over to UNRRA. One of the items will be sugar. The Italian Government has agreed to make immediately available 10,000 tons of salt as a contribution to UNRRA and destined for Yugoslavia. UNRRA is carrying on negotiations with the Government of Norway which may result in a contribution of some surpluses which Norway may be able to spare for the work of UNRRA. We hope that these contributions represent only the beginning of what the liberated countries may be able to do to assist UNRRA."

Commenting on the distribution of the shipment of the 2,079,000 tons of supplies through September (see tables I, II, III, and IV),¹ Mr. Lehman said:

"You will note that, although we have succeeded in improving the situation very considerably in some receiving countries, other countries continue to constitute a problem. Thus, while shipments from Yugoslavia in September reached 134,000 tons compared with 64,000 tons in July, shipments to Czechoslovakia and Poland amounted to little over 40,000 tons each, due primarily to lack of sufficient port reception capacity."

The following table shows UNRRA shipments to the liberated areas through September.

ESTIMATED SHIPMENT OF UNRRA SUPPLIES TO LIBERATED AREAS BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1945

(Basis of Vessels Cleared)

Country of Destination	Gross Long Tons	Dollar Value
Albania	25,400	\$9,000,000
Czechoslovakia	158,400	73,900,000
Greece	1,168,900	189,800,000
Italy	102,200	21,000,000
Poland	163,300	89,900,000
Yugoslavia	455,400	143,600,000
Other UNRRA Operations	5,200	2,700,000
China	200	600,000
TOTAL	2,079,000	\$530,500,000

¹ Not printed.