

Agreement on relations between UNRRA and SHAEF (November 1944)

Caption: In November 1944, US General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), and Herbert H. Lehman, former Governor of the State of New York and Director-General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), sign an agreement detailing the relations between and activities of their respective services regarding the organisation of relief supplies and mutual aid in the liberated European countries.

Source: Archives Nationales du Luxembourg, Luxembourg. Ministère des Affaires étrangères. Instituts internationaux - Institutions spécialisées - Organisations internationales. Unité Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. UNRRA - Correspondance classée chronologiquement 1945, AE 8088.

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Agreement to regularize the relations between the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, during the military period

1. This agreement has for its object to facilitate the assumption by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in the post-military period of those responsibilities with which it may be charged and to insure a continuous uniformity of policy in the military and post-military periods.

The Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, is satisfied that:

- a. Subject to the conclusion of appropriate agreements with the Allied National authorities concerned, assistance is desired from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in the matters of health, welfare and displaced persons, by the governments of Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Norway, and by the French Committee of National Liberation, in their respective territories.
- b. Assistance from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is necessary in the maintenance of health, welfare, registration, administration and movement of the nationals of such states and of other Allied countries displaced in enemy or ex-enemy territories; and
- c. It is desirable that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, in agreement with the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and the Allied National authorities concerned, undertake specific tasks relating to the foregoing matters.

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for its part desires and intends to render such assistance, subject to the Supreme Commander's, Allied Expeditionary Force, military requirements and to available means and resources.

2. So far as military conditions permit, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will cooperate in planning and operation for the matters referred to in paragraph 1 hereof. It is agreed that the following specific measures shall be taken.
- a. A United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Liaison Officer, with any staff the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, may agree to be necessary shall be attached to the G-5 Division of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, to assist in coordination of planning and subsequent operations. He shall be authorized, so far as is consistent with military security, to report to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Regional Office on matters covered by this agreement. Such reports will be transmitted through military channels.
 - b. In order to facilitate the transfer to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in the post-military period of such functions as the Allied National authorities concerned may desire, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will provide such personnel as may be agreed with the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, for the purpose of planning and assisting the military authorities in carrying out such operations with respect to the matters referred to in Article 1 hereof as may be undertaken by them. Such personnel will be furnished either as individuals or in the form of detachments and will be under the orders of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force.

3. When called upon by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, to do so, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will coordinate and supervise the activities of non-governmental civil agencies (other than indigenous) engaged upon work connected with the matters referred to in Article 1 hereof.

4. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration personnel engaged upon field service will wear a prescribed uniform and will be provided with identification as persons accompanying the armed forces. Separate agreements shall regulate the conditions of service of such personnel and the provision of military facilities to them and to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration generally.

5. During the period of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, responsibility, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration personnel will, within the area of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, responsibility, act in all matters under the orders of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and through military channels.

6. This agreement may be extended by mutual consent, subject to approval of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, to provide for similar cooperation between the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, in any other matters coming within the competence of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration upon which assistance is desired by the Allied National authorities concerned.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
General, U.S. Army,
Supreme Commander,
Allied Expeditionary Force.

HERBERT H. LEHMAN
Director General,
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

November 1944