

## UNRRA food resolution (London, 3-6 April 1946)

**Caption:** Between 3 and 6 April 1946, at the conference on European Cereals Supplies in London, UNRRA adopts a resolution which calls upon all the United Nations countries to act together in order to combat the severe food supply crisis.

**Source:** Emergency Conference on European Cereals Supplies held in London from 3rd to 6th April 1946. London: 1946.

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## UNRRA food resolution (London, 3–6 April 1946)

### WHEREAS

The Council has considered the grave crisis arising from food shortages throughout the world and the threat of mass starvation in those countries which have fought the common enemy; and

### WHEREAS

The Council deems it imperative in order to avert world-wide tragedy that all of the United Nations, including those not members of UNRRA, take immediate and vigorous governmental and voluntary action in the spirit of common sacrifice demonstrated by these nations during the war; and

### WHEREAS

The Council considers that this grave food crisis must be met with justice and equity to those who fought against, and suffered at the hand of the common foe and in accordance with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of The United Nations on 14 February, 1946, with the widest dissemination of information to all the United Nations called upon to make common sacrifices; be it therefore

### RESOLVED:

1. That the Council recommends to all United Nations Governments, including those not members of UNRRA, the following:

(a) The taking of all possible measures at the earliest possible date to ensure the maximum production of food required to meet the present emergency and the uninterrupted maintenance of facilities and services for its mobilization, shipment and distribution.

(b) The conservation of food in every form by:

- (1) Elimination of all waste;
- (2) Diversion of the maximum possible amounts of wheat, corn, barley and oats from animal to direct human consumption;
- (3) Drastic curtailment of the use of grains for beverages and all other non-essential products;
- (4) Adoption by all countries of the maximum possible extraction ratio in the processing of all cereals;
- (5) Diversion of the maximum possible amount of linseed, palm products, copra, tallow, and other fats from the production of paints, toilet soaps, and other non-food products to the production of edible products;
- (6) Vigorous de-infestation measures.

(c) the reduction, so far as possible of the numbers of grain consuming livestock, especially of pigs and poultry, to levels consistent with the critical need to increase the production and use of the optimum quantity of grain for direct human consumption; in those countries where livestock numbers, especially draught animals, were drastically reduced as a result of the war special attention should be directed to the rehabilitation of such live-stock through the utilization of hay and pasture lands not usable for the production of food for direct human consumption;

(d) the strengthening and continuation of present and the adoption where necessary of new and more rigorous methods of control and procurement designed to increase exportable supplies and decrease import

requirements, such as:

- (1) food rationing,
- (2) government procurement, including the most effective and widespread use of requisitioning and set-aside orders; and
- (3) the tightening up and extension in all countries of governmental measures to collect and transport to export ports or urban areas for relief consumption the maximum possible amounts of both the 1945 and 1946 yields of all grains, fats and other basic foods;

(e) the immediate adoption of positive measures for increasing in all countries the production of food, particularly the production of cereals for direct human consumption, by the earliest possible provision of:

- (1) seeds to expand acreage;
- (2) fertilizers through greatly increased production including discouragement of dismantling of plants which may be used in the production of fertilizers;
- (3) draught animals, tractors, farm implements and tractor fuel; and
- (4) trucks, wagons, and other road and railroad transport equipment;
- (5) increased supplies of insecticides and pesticides.

2. That the Council recommends that during the emergency period—

(a) the Governments represented on the Combined Food Board and its commodity committees shall arrange that those intergovernmental agencies and the related governmental agencies concerned with the allocation, procurement, or export of foods of types essential for UNRRA's relief and rehabilitation programme, adopt immediately the procedure of disseminating publicly full information regarding allocations and exports made to any country, including enemy or ex-enemy areas under military authority;

(b) all Governments not covered by 2 (a) above shall adopt similar publicity procedures regarding their exports of foods of types essential for UNRRA's relief and rehabilitation programme.

3. (a) The Council has noted with appreciation statements by representatives of the supplying countries of bread-grains, rice, and fats and oils that in recognition of the grave emergency they are now reviewing all steps that can be taken to increase their exports of these and other scarce foodstuffs in order to make more adequate allocations to deficit areas.

(b) In order to achieve the objectives of Resolution 17 and of the recommendations contained in the present resolution, the Director-General is requested to consult immediately and continuously as long as the emergency lasts with representatives of the supplying governments and with the CFB to consider the effectiveness of the steps being taken and to report thereon to the Central Committee and the Council.

(c) In view of the gravity of the present situation, the Fourth Session of the Council will remain in session and, upon completion of its meeting in Atlantic City, will be convened at Washington, D.C., by its Chairman or Acting Chairman, as soon as the Director-General can report on the outcome of his consultations referred to in paragraph 3 (b) above, but in time to allow the Council to assess the position regarding scarce supplies to be made available to UNRRA to meet the grave emergency of this Spring and early Summer. During the

period between the completion of the meeting of the Fourth Session of the Council in Atlantic City and its convening in Washington, D.C., the Central Committee and the Director-General may exercise all of their powers to the same extent and in the same manner as if the Council were not in session.

4. With a view to achieving the most efficient methods of dealing with the world-wide food crisis through 1946 and 1947, the Council calls upon all United Nations Governments, including those not members of UNRRA, and upon the inter-governmental organizations concerned to give continuous consideration to the problem of improving and adapting national and inter-governmental machinery for allocating and distributing food supplies.