

(3) Extension of Resolution 46 to include persons of other than United Nations nationality who have been displaced by the enemy because of their race, religion or activities in favour of the United Nations.

By Resolution 46 the Administration was authorized, under certain conditions, to assist displaced persons located in United Nations territories which had never been occupied by the enemy. This authority has been applicable only to stateless persons or nationals of the United Nations; it has not covered the class of ex-enemy nationals who are included in Resolutions 57 and 60—namely, those persons who have been displaced by action of the enemy because of race, religion, or activities in favour of the United Nations. The question before the Council was, therefore, whether this group of persecuted persons or “friendly ex-enemy nationals” should be eligible for assistance on the same basis as the other displaced persons for whom the Administration has responsibility.

The Council readily gave an affirmative answer to this last question, a resolution authorizing the Administration to assist such persecuted persons being adopted unanimously.

Consideration of the first two items, however, provoked considerable controversy, although the debate was conducted with a good deal more calmness and objectivity than has characterized previous Council discussions of these same problems. The arguments advanced both for and against continuation of UNRRA's authority were essentially the same as those produced during the Third Session of the Council and subsequently during consideration of the refugee problem by the United Nations General Assembly last January. Those opposing extension of the Administration's authority, while admitting the right of asylum, contended that persons who, for political reasons, do not wish to be repatriated should not continue to receive aid from UNRRA or from any other international organization, but should be obliged to rely on their own efforts. Criticism was also voiced of the administration of displaced-persons camps—the main points of criticism being that such camps were harbouring large numbers of war criminals and quislings, that no effective measures were being taken to prevent the circulation of propaganda hostile to the Governments of countries of which displaced persons are nationals, and that, in general, insufficient progress was being made to remove impediments to repatriation. On the basis of a compromise proposal offered by the United States member, agreement was, however, somewhat unexpectedly reached in terms of the following resolution:—

“ WHEREAS

“ It is necessary that the authority of the Administration with respect to displaced persons under Resolution No. 71 be reviewed by the Council at this time and clarified with respect to future operations; it is therefore

“ RESOLVED

“ 1. That paragraph 3 of Resolution No. 71 shall be revised to read as follows:—

“ ‘ That the authority of the Administration provided in the foregoing paragraphs with respect to operations in any area shall be continued and again reviewed by the Council at its next regular session.’