

★ Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON. — For three long weeks, a group of UNRRA workers have been trying to tell a story to their chiefs in Washington. The story is not a pretty one.

It shows how one of our Allies in Europe has been using UNRRA personnel and resources to work against another ally. It tells how Poles have been stirred up by British-controlled UNRRA workers to oppose the Russians, how Russian and Polish nationals have been persuaded by UNRRA workers not to return to their homes, and how UNRRA-army supplies have been blackmarketed in Europe.

The story is important because it shows there are two sides to the Russian picture. It illustrates how the United States sometimes is used by our British allies.

UNRRA EMPLOYEES GET PUSHING AROUND — Five Americans were first dismissed from UNRRA and then sent home from Europe for opposing this situation. Contrary to UNRRA policy, they were dismissed and rushed out of Germany in 16 hours without having any investigation made in order to turn up the facts. Other UNRRA personnel wait weeks for passage home.

Upon their returning to the United States the injustice of this action was recognized and they were put back on the payroll. Since then they have been trying to get action, but have been given the runaround by UNRRA deputies Roy Hendrickson, Corrington Gill and Richard Brown. The five UNRRA workers are Clifford A. Hood of Trenton, N. J., an engineer formerly with United States Steel Corp. and Bell Telephone Co.; Leo Schwartz, formerly with federal public housing who came to UNRRA after two years with the Red Cross in New Guinea and Australia; Mrs. Frances Cummins, formerly foreign trade analyst with FEA and for 10 years prior to that with the RFC; Miss Lydia Robertson, formerly with the navy department, and John Beecher, the writer.

They were supported in their position by Lt. Col. Charles Jackson, Maj. Frank Wilkins and Maj. James Boone of the United States army, who interceded with UNRRA and tried to retain them on the job.

This group, believing UNRRA's duty is to be impartial, if it is to function at all, finally has agreed to publication of the story. Here it is:

BRITISH TORMENT POLES —The American group was assigned to work in the Stuttgart area of Germany, which is under the UNRRA's European regional office, which in turn is dominated by the British.

UNRRA policy in that area, the Americans soon discovered, was to build up and support the efforts of the diehard Polish

aristocrats to create a Polish army for eventual use against the present Polish government.

At the Omund camp 750 Polish army leaders were rewarded by UNRRA workers. They got a double ration of food and cigars. The Polish liaison officer (with credentials from the London government) was even conducting a school for non-commissioned officers in Stuttgart to train this Polish army.

In addition, the British hired hundreds of London Poles from the former Polish government-in-exile and placed them in responsible UNRRA jobs in preference to other nationals. These London Poles then worked night and day to persuade the slave laborers, drafted by the Nazis from Russia, the Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic, not to go back to their homes.

U. S. ARMY TAKES IMPARTIAL ATTITUDE—While waging this campaign—under British UNRRA blessing—a Russian repatriation officer was actually refused admission to the Ludwigsburg camp to interview these displaced persons. Finally, the United States army, which has been maintaining a strictly impartial position, had to intervene. It ordered the transfer of the Ukrainians to Stuttgart, away from British London-Pole influence.

One Polish liaison officer, Captain Krivicki, has been selling Polish citizenship certificates to bewildered displaced persons for about 30 marks. His idea was to register as many displaced persons as possible as Polish citizens, even though they were born in Moscow, Kiev or Odessa.

One of the brightest chapters in the story, according to the five United States UNRRA workers, is the excellent job of the United States army in that area in speeding return of homeless Europeans, and in strictly observing all international agreements.

UNRRA SUPPLIES BLACK MARKETED IN EUROPE—But on the black side are scandals involving the sale of UNRRA and army supplies, especially in France. The situation was so bad that United States army sleuths finally were called in. They discovered the theft of 197 UNRRA trucks, several tons of army food and more than 2000 gallons of army gasoline in the Granville, Normandy, area.

The five Americans who were rushed out of Germany insist that the British officials who control this area did little to stop this thievery.

Two other members of the American team, Lt. Melvin H. Warhaftig of Hillside, N. J., a doctor, and Lt. Dorothy Johnson of Oklahoma City, a nurse, shared these views but could not be sent home by UNRRA because they were loaned by the United States public health service. They demanded to return, however, in protest over their treatment. The army had reported them doing an excellent

job, but they were reassigned for no apparent reason.

This is not the first time British have used UNRRA for political purposes. Last year a British colonel working for UNRRA was killed in Athens. In his hotel room was found a list of Greek rightist leaders who had been paid by the British to work against the Greek left.

WACS AND SOLDIER MAIL —The congressional-army double play, whereby WACS are detailed to answer GI mail sent to congressmen, is still going strong.

Some congressmen have stopped sending their soldier mail to the war department, but the total volume hasn't decreased much. The adjutant general's office is still transferring WACS to Washington to handle congressional political mail, despite the fact that the WACS enlisted to relieve soldiers for active duty, not to release civilians from the army's employ.

The girls are now working overtime two nights a week, have had all their three day passes and furloughs canceled, just to take care of the backlog of 80,000 letters which have poured in on the war department and congress protesting against unfair demobilization practices.

The war department now gives virtually no individual attention to congressional queries. Instead, it has set up electrical typewriter machines which feed a special tape, much like that used on teletypes. This tape contains a prefabricated form reply for every possible query. The WACS only type in the name and address of the legislator and his constituent. As a result, writing to the war department is now about as helpful as tossing stationery and stamps down the drain.

CAPITOL CHAFF—President Truman refused to clear Henry Morgenthau's book, "Germany Is Our Problem," while Morgenthau was still in the cabinet. It contained too much dynamite. Now Morgenthau is out of the government and has published the book anyway—with the dynamite.

Congratulations to Gen. Arthur Esterbrook of Santa Ana, Calif., for permitting his enlisted men to give him their gripes face to face and for speeding up discharges. If there were more generals like Esterbrook, there would be more men wanting to stay in the army.

President Truman is beginning to lose political support for the first time from democrats. They want more action on both labor and foreign affairs.

Administration leaders believe the best solution to the strike situation is the bill proposed by Senator McMahon of Connecticut making labor unions follow the same formula as the railway labor act—in other words submit their dispute to mediation board before paralyzing an industry with a strike