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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY
FUND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL ALLOCATION FOR MALTA

In its Session early in October 1947 the Executive Board made a provisional allocation of \$46,000 for an estimated 10,000 child food units pending a survey to be made at an early date by a representative of the Fund. (E/590 paragraphs 19, 21 (b)). A survey was immediately undertaken for the Fund by Mr. S. M. Keeny, Chief of Operations for PCIRO in Italy and formerly Chief of the UNRRA Mission in Italy. His report showed no deficiencies warranting immediate action by the Fund. With the agreement of the United Kingdom representative on the Executive Board the administration has decided to request the Programme Committee to recommend, in accordance with the findings of the report, that the provisional allocation for Malta be rescinded.

The following are the high points of Mr. Keeny's report:

- "(1) The general ration of the Island is relatively good and is delivered regularly. It apparently is comparable to the ration in England in food values although of a different composition. The average bread ration is about 17 1/2 ozs. or nearly 500 grs. per person per day. This is of course about at least twice the ration of Continental countries. You will keep in mind of course that in Malta bread is the backbone of the ration; nevertheless, this is a comparatively liberal ration anywhere now.
- "(2) The wheat supply seems reasonably dependable: about 5500 tons are regularly shipped from Canada. There is no evidence, at present, that the Dollar famine will interfere with this supply.
- "(3) Annex "B" (on file at Headquarters but not attached to this report), 'The Enquiry into Income and Expenditure' shows that about 55 per cent of the working-class families' expenditures is spent on food. This is a great deal higher than the revised English index which, I believe, is only 35 per cent, but a great deal lower than the Italian index, which ranges from 70 to 75 per cent. In other words the family budget still has some flexibility.

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- "(4) The general death rate is about 13, which I believe is one of the lowest rates in the Island's history. The infant mortality rate under one year is 130, which is high even in comparison with Italy, which shows about 85 for 65 larger cities. The Malta rate however is little more than half the average for the 1930's and, of the 130, some 22 were caused by an epidemic of measles. This improvement, in spite of extremely bad housing and so soon after a two year siege is little short of astonishing and reflects the greatest credit on the child welfare work being done on the island.
- "(5) Although there has apparently been no mass radiography and there seems to be late notifications of tuberculosis, there is no evidence that the disease is increasing after the war as is the fact in Italy and elsewhere.
- "(6) There is little unemployment, about 1.6 per cent, which I believe is the same as in England at the present time. The total number of indigent families receiving relief is about 3500 - mostly elderly persons - with not more than an estimated 1200 children in these families.
- "(7) Milk is not rationed; the price however is high. Pasteurized goat's milk sells for tenpence a pint. Tinned milk sells for tenpence a 14 oz. tin, which I believe works out at about 5-1/2d in whole milk equivalent. Whole milk in powdered form sells at a rate which makes it cost 3-3/4d per pint of reconstituted milk. The Government still has 60 tons of this milk in stock, which is moving at the rate of only 3 tons a month. (It was pointed out however that if tinned milk does not arrive regularly the 60 tons would soon be exhausted).
