MEMORANDUM

13 March 1946

TO: UNRRA REGIONAL DIRECTORS

FROM: Benjamin H. Kizer, Director, UNRRA, China Office.


The following General Counsel Rulings have now been received from Washington regarding the eligibility of displaced Korean persons for UNRRA assistance:

"1. Displaced Koreans are not considered United Nations nationals.

2. Resolution 76 does not authorize assistance to Externally Displaced Koreans.

3. Some Koreans may be considered "Intruded Persons" under Resolution 47. Accordingly, if the Chinese Government requests the Administration's assistance in returning them to Korea, the Administration has authority to do so, provided agreement is reached between the Administration and the appropriate Military Command in Korea. Expenses incurred in such operations shall be charged to Korea and, if possible, ultimately recovered from that country. We believe Korean forced labourers and Korean officials who served the Japanese may be considered intruded persons under Resolution 47.

4. In some cases Koreans in China may come within the persecuted group class of Resolution 60. This would cover Koreans who have been active against the Japanese and who have been placed in concentration camps or otherwise obliged to leave their residences by action of the Japanese and who are found in liberated territory."

The Director General has decided not to request Council authorization to assist all externally displaced Koreans. It is possible, however, that further representation will be made to Washington in this connection.

Dr. T. F. Tsiang, Director General of UNRRA has been notified of the above four Rulings, and informed that UNRRA will be prepared to assist displaced Koreans to the best of its ability in emergency situations within the authorized limits.

Regional Offices should be guided by the above Counsel Rulings and should report to the Mission any emergency situations which may arise involving displaced Koreans eligible for assistance under the terms of these rulings.

In the meantime, the Repatriation Office, U.S. Army Theatre Command, has been urged to repatriate as many displaced Koreans of all types as possible.