

RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Agreement signed at Tirana April 11, 1945
Entered into force April 11, 1945
*Terminated August 1, 1945*¹

Department of State files

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF ALBANIAN NATIONAL ARMY OF LIBERATION

This is an agreement between the Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean Theatre of Operations and Colonel General Enver Hoxha, Commander in Chief Albanian National Army of Liberation, and principal Albanian military authority, made solely in order to expedite the bringing in of relief supplies to the people of Albania.

Whereas the US and UK Governments have offered to bring relief to Albania by means of ML (Albania), a military organisation composed of British and American officers and British technical troops.

And whereas UNRRA has agreed to assist and act as an agency of ML (Albania) until such time as UNRRA is able to assume responsibility for the task, as indicated in para 6(c) (and accordingly for the purpose of this agreement is included in the term "ML (Albania)".)

And whereas the Albanian Military authorities have invited ML (Albania) into Albanian territory for the accomplishment of its task, and have undertaken to assist ML (Albania) therein.

It is therefore agreed as follows:

1. *Basic Principle*

That all relief and supplies, whether brought into the country or part of the local resources, shall be distributed and made available according to the needs of the people without regard to religious, racial or political affiliations, is recognised and agreed as the basis upon which the present agreements are made.

¹Date of entry into force of agreement between Albania and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

2. *Import Procedure*

(a) Estimates of the needs in different parts of the country will be prepared by the Albanian military authorities in consultation with technical advisers of ML (Albania), and will be submitted to ML (Albania).

(b) The amount of supplies to be brought in will be subject to the approval of the Albanian military authorities and will of necessity be limited, in the first case by military considerations affecting the availability of shipping and supplies, and secondly by the facilities provided at the port and the ability of the Albanian military authorities to make the necessary arrangements for distribution throughout Albania.

(c) Supplies approved by ML (Albania) for issue will be issued by them from warehouses under their control at Durazzo and Valona to the Albanian military authorities which will thereafter be responsible for distribution within the country with the assistance outlined in paragraph 4(b) below.

3. *Financial Provisions*

(a) Settlement for the supplies imported by ML (Albania) is subject to subsequent agreement between the US and UK Governments and such Government of Albania as may hereafter be recognised by them. It is the general policy of the US and UK Governments that all relief supplies will be billed to the recipient countries, and ML (Albania) and the Albanian military authorities will therefore account, by description and quantity, for all imported supplies.

(b) Supplies will ordinarily be sold by the Albanian military authorities at prices to be agreed with ML (Albania), but supplies may be provided free to those mutually agreed to be destitute.

(c) The sale price of such imported supplies as are sold will be due to and collected by the Albanian military authorities.

4. *Action by the Albanian Military Authorities*

In order to implement this agreement the Albanian military authorities will:—

(a) Distribute all available supplies equitably in accordance with the basic principle defined in paragraph 1.

(b) Appoint a commission with full powers to make detail arrangements with ML (Albania) and to ensure equitable distribution.

(c) Ensure by appropriate control of collected production and distribution of food and other supplies that the maximum use is made of all relief and supplies, whether brought into the country or part of the local resources.

(d) Give ML (Albania) all assistance within their power and particularly afford facilities and freedom of movement for their technical advisers and experts to observe the process of distribution throughout Albania.

(e) Provide free of charge to ML (Albania) facilities and labour

for the berthing and unloading of ships, for the storing and handling of supplies, for the accommodation of ML (Albania) personnel with HQ in Tirana, and for other relief and rehabilitation work as may be mutually agreed to be necessary by ML (Albania) and the Albanian military authorities.

(f) Provide ML (Albania) as necessary with local currency sufficient to meet all local requirements. Such currency as is expended for the pay of military and accompanying imported civilian personnel will be repaid in sterling or other agreed foreign currency at a rate of exchange to be decided by the Supreme Allied Commander in consultation with the Albanian military authorities.

(g) Ensure freedom of movement to, from and within Durazzo and Valona harbours for all ships employed in preparation for bringing or in bringing relief supplies or services to Albania on prior notification.

(h) Provide such guards as may be requested by ML (Albania).

5. *Additional Services*

(a) In addition to the import of relief supplies ML (Albania) will endeavour to hold available for one month from the date of this agreement, technical advisers and personnel qualified to assist the Albanian military authorities on medical, hygiene, engineer, agricultural and veterinary problems if requested by such authorities.

(b) ML (Albania) will provide motor trucks which will be under the disposition of the Albanian military authorities through whom ML (Albania) will have control to ensure that they are used only for the transport of relief supplies and other materials related to relief and rehabilitation.

6. *General*

(a) All military personnel and civilian personnel not of Albanian nationality accompanying ML (Albania) shall be under the exclusive legal jurisdiction of ML (Albania).

ML (Albania) will be responsible for the conduct of its personnel and will bring to justice any of its members who violate the laws of the country and in addition will remove such persons from Albania.

In addition the Albanian military authorities guarantee immunity to all personnel of ML (Albania) in performance of their official duty as specified in this agreement.

(b) All military personnel and civilian personnel not of Albanian nationality accompanying ML (Albania), together with all property brought into Albania by them or by ML (Albania) shall be exempt from taxes.

(c) The US and UK Governments contemplate that UNRRA will take over the task of ML (Albania) as soon as possible and ML (Albania) will withdraw as soon as UNRRA is able to assume the task. The period of ML (Albania) will not exceed approximately two months.

(d) Any agreements relative to future periods will be a matter for UNRRA and the competent Albanian authority to conclude.

The text of this Agreement is in English and Albanian and have the same interpretation.

Dated this eleventh day of April 1945.

Signed for and on behalf of
The Supreme Allied Commander
Mediterranean Theatre of Operations
by—

Major General I. T. P. Hughes

Brigadier General P. L. Sadler, US

Colonel General Enver Hoxha

I. T. P. HUGHES, Maj.-Gen.

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ENVER HOXHA