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Food

The following is a precis of a memorandum entitled: "The Food Position in Western Germany as of 1 June 1945", prepared by Economic Control Agency, G-5, SHAEP. On June 24 this had not yet been approved for issue by ECA, but the undersigned was authorized to extract the following information.

1. The Regional Food Officers in Western Germany were requested via the Army Groups on 9 May 1945 to submit certain food information by 31 May 1945. The resultant data are summarized in this memorandum. For a number of reasons figures quoted may be highly inaccurate and should be regarded as only tentative:

- a) lack of communications between local Food Officers and Army Groups;
- b) lack of control over food stocks and consumption during and after the battle period;
- c) lack of processing and storing facilities;
- d) looting and illegal procurement, and
- e) the unstable population.

I. Population

2. The great movements of population do not have to be drawn to the attention of anyone who has travelled in Europe during the last month. Returning prisoners-of-war, migrant Displaced Persons, bombed-out civilians seeking better homes, and others are still on the move and make the following population figures subject to day-to-day change. The reports received from the Regional Officers show 36,864,000 civilians in the SHAEP zone, which is 8% less than the 40,353,000 in the same areas in 1939. In addition there are 2,446,000 prisoners-of-war and disarmed enemy forces and 3,261,000 Displaced Persons and United Nations Prisoners-of-war. The 8% drop will almost be made up by the returning prisoners-of-war and disarmed enemy forces. In other words, the population is almost the same as it was in 1939. Therefore, to replace war casualties in this area, there must have been a great influx from the Russian zone.

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3. It will be seen that the population in the Rhein-provinz is down 38%, in Schleswig-Holstein up 6%, in Bavaria up 27%, and in Wurttemberg up 4%. Population in the US-French zone has increased by 2% while in the British zone it has decreased about 10%. 38% of the population in the SHAEP zone is now in the US-French zone as compared with only 49.6% in 1939. The foreign population has increased 14% in the SHAEP zone and 37% in the British zone alone. This is a reflection of the evacuation of cities to escape bombing.

II. Stocks

The figures on stocks include captured military supplies, civilian, and farm stocks. Not all of these will be available for non-farm use prior to the next harvest because of the lack of transport, processing and storage facilities, the breakdown in controls, and difficulties with the pipe-line. The reduction in working stocks has made distribution much more difficult; because of the loss of cold storage facilities there is now considerable difficulty in storing butter and cheese for next winter.

TABLE II

STOCKS

1 June, SHARP Zone
(metric tons)

	Wheat, Rye, Barley, Flour and Mehrmittel	Potatoes	Sugar	Pulses	Fats and Oils	Cheese
Schleswig- Holstein	50,000	-	6,000	-	1,000	-
Wesermars	43,000	10,000	-	-	1,000	-
Nieder- sachsen	100,000	50,000	60,000	-	-	-
Westphalia	61,000	30,000	250	-	507	103
Rheinprovinz	70,000	51,000	4,513	632	3,275	21
Kurhessen	25,000	-	-	-	-	-
Hessen- Nassau	32,733	11,000	2,405	13	405	72
Westphalia	39,040	3,400	3,801	400	550	-
Raden	32,403	13,350	70	362	1,452	3
Wurtemberg	40,401	17,400	500	510	1,255	1,150
Bavaria	157,405	232,005	2,353	610	1,925	3,044
TOTAL:	763,819	398,000	32,000	2,135	11,550	4,473

III. Ration Scales

The following are typical scales for cities of 50,000 population and up. There are some variations from city to city, and changes from week to week. Figures given are for the last week before the report. For example, Hessen-Nassau had no flour ration during the week of the report, because of the exhaustion of stocks. Potato rations had already been issued for the period up to the harvest before the period of these reports, so the assumed potato ration already issued is included with each figure. Available commercial potato supplies are being distributed to those who did not receive theirs or lost them in bombing. The rations indicated are supplemented to some extent by fresh fruit and vegetables, milk for children, and whatever household stores remain to individual families.

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However, it is obvious that even with some supplementary food these rations are too low for extended activity or even the maintenance of health.

TABLE III
RATION SCALE.
Weekly Scale (grams)

	Bread	Potatoes	Sugar	Nahr- mittel	Fats	Meat	Cheese	Jam	Calories per day
Schleswig-									
Holstein	1700	2600	175	75	125	250	25	-	1170
Poser-Lms	1750	2500	175	75	125	250	35	-	1175
Fieder-									
sachsen	1700	2500	220	125	125	175	40	-	1190
estphalia	1500	1500	125	-	62	125	-	-	825
heinprovinz	1962	1145	-	-	76	185	-	-	900
urhessen	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
essen-									
Nassau	1000	2500	-	62	62	125	-	-	695
estmark	1262	2500	-	-	75	175	-	-	730
aden-H	1000	2500	100	62	125	150	-	-	825
" S	1750	3000	125	125	-	100	-	250	1110
urtemberg-H	1067	2500	-	60	100	250	15	-	975
" S	1750	2500	-	60	100	100	-	-	975
avaria-H	1625	2500	125	-	50	175	-	-	975
" S	1050	2500	-	50	150	200	50	-	840

IV. Length of time stocks will last.

Present stocks are considered inadequate to maintain present rations until the next harvest (September 15). Grain, for example, if evenly divided would provide 1600 grams per week per person for the total non-farm population. But not all of this will be available for consumption because of distributional and pipe-line problems. The old crop potatoes in present stocks must be used quickly, otherwise they will spoil. Some early crops will begin to be available in July. Sugar stocks are running out in most regions. Stocks of pulses are negligible.

Current production is the main source of meats, fats, and dairy products. No good estimate of them will be available until after July 1.

Therefore, in spite of the inaccuracies of the above figures, there is no doubt that substantial quantities of food imports are needed over the next three months. These should begin at once in order to ensure proper distribution.

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	Population (000's)						Others			
	Self Suppliers	Non Self Suppliers	Total	% of 1939*	Allied PWs	German PWs	United Nations DPs	Other DPs	Total	Grand Total
Schleswig- Holstein	400	3,100	3,500	106	NA	650	NA	NA	900	4,400
Weser-Ems	550	775	1,325	72	"	150	"	"	425	1,900
Niedersachsen	580	2,300	2,880	33	"	400	"	"	1,080	3,960
Westphalia	700	4,042	4,743	88	132	4	240	48	426	5,169
Rheinprovinz	689	4,231	4,920	62	3	-	221	30	255	5,175
Kurhessen	400	600	1,000	83	16	25	170	21	234	3,639
Hessen-Nassau	443	1,961	2,404	94						
Westmark	300	1,417	1,717	91	-	-	56	-	56	1,774
Baden	563	1,824	2,387	94	-	-	66	-	66	2,453
Wurttemberg	725	2,300	3,025	104	2	250	265	-	537	3,562
Bavaria	2,130	6,830	8,960	127	51	929	742	-	1,723	10,683
TOTAL	7,481	28,742	36,223	92	205	2,446	1,785	100	5,707	2,571

* 1939 base includes members of military services.