

information

**ON THE MARSHALL PLAN FOR
AMERICANS GOING ABROAD**



THE MARSHALL PLAN



INFORMATION FOR AMERICANS GOING ABROAD



SO you're taking that European trip you've planned for so long? Good!

Sooner or later in your personal foreign relations with Europeans the conversation may turn to "Le Plan Marshall," or "Het Marshall Plan," or "Der Marshall Plan," or "Il Piano Marshall," or "Den Marshall Plan," or just plain "the Marshall Plan," which is very much of a subject for daily thought and conversation in Western Europe. And if you were a European you too would be thinking and talking about the Marshall Plan—the European Recovery Program.

The reason is that for a European the Marshall Plan means the restoration of war-bombed harbors. It means ships and goods coming into these harbors. It means seeds and tractors and crops on farms which otherwise might be growing only weeds. It means steel and timber to build factories and raw materials to manufacture into goods. It means jobs and pay envelopes. It means food and clothing in store windows. Not least of all, it means to the European man and woman you will meet a growing confidence that political freedom and economic security is the foundation on which it is possible to build a decent, happy life. And that means, of course, a dwindling

of the destructive forces that add up to totalitarianism and, like other infectious diseases, thrive on poverty, misery and despair.

All of this adds up to the fact that the chances for enduring peace in Europe are brighter. People with jobs, the guarantees of security and the hopes of a better economic future, shy away from suggestions that they kick over their democratic governments.

A firm peace in Europe is a pretty fair guarantee of peace for the United States.

What Ailed Europe?

When World War II ended, the people of Western Europe were exhausted, disillusioned and hungry. Much of the industrial plant of the continent had been destroyed. The delicate machinery of trade, credit and exchange had been stalled. Europe could not find all of the strength within itself to rebuild and it did not have the hard cash with which to buy help from the only possible outside sources—the United States and the Western Hemisphere.

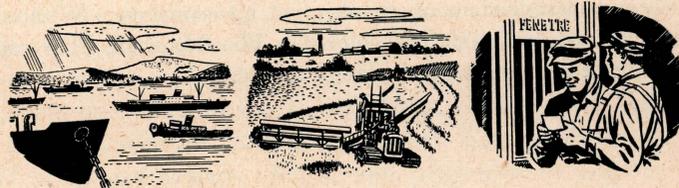
Before the war, Western Europe earned the hard cash she needed from investments in the Americas, from the sale of products to the Western Hemisphere and other world markets, from operations of cargo ships and from tourist visitors. During the war most of her overseas investments were sold to buy things needed to keep on fighting; she could produce very little to sell to the U. S. market; a great number of Europe's freighters were sunk. There weren't any tourists. Immediately after the war all of the dollars that were left went for

such essentials as food and clothing and medicine to keep Europe's peoples alive.

Europe not only lacked hard cash, but temporarily at least had lost the means of earning it.

Before Europe could start again on the road to economic recovery it required food, coal, seeds, raw materials of almost every sort. It also needed machinery for factories, mines transportation and other industries. Most of these things could be gotten only in the United States and other areas outside of Europe, areas which required dollars in payment. Europe could not produce goods to earn dollars until she had dollars to buy the goods needed to start production. It was a vicious circle.

Then there was the terrible cold winter of 1946-47 and then even more disastrous drought the next summer. The situation became even worse than it had been. The survival of Western Europe's free political institutions and the personal liberties of its citizens was threatened. When there are jobless, hungry and hopeless men whose wives and children are cold, underfed and miserable, there are desperate men. Desperate men take desperate actions. That is a climate for war, not peace.



How the Marshall Plan Started

Following the suggestion of Secretary of State Marshall, the American Congress in 1948, after long study, created the Economic Cooperation Administration as the agency to help promote European Economic Recovery. More than five billion dollars were appropriated for the first year. America literally rolled up its sleeves and went to work to assist the nations of Western Europe to get back on their economic feet. All countries of Europe were invited to join in this tremendous undertaking, but Russia and her satellite nations refused.

Did the United States make available the tremendous material assistance of the Marshall Plan without expecting anything in return?

The answer, bluntly, is *NO*. The United States *does* expect something; and it is a big "something." First—and less important—there are the economic benefits which the United States, and all other countries as well, will share from increased European production and expansion of world trade. If economic conditions in Europe had continued to deteriorate, all American business would have suffered. Much more important, the United States expects that the people of the European nations working with our assistance to establish healthy economic conditions will strengthen their political freedom and establish closer cooperation among peoples and governments. Without this real peace cannot be achieved. The Marshall Plan can rightly be called America's design for peace.

Which Are the Marshall Plan Countries?

The 19 national units of the ERP which have grouped themselves into the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) are: Austria, Belgium, Bizone Germany (the Anglo-American zone), Denmark, French zone of Germany, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Territory of Trieste, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

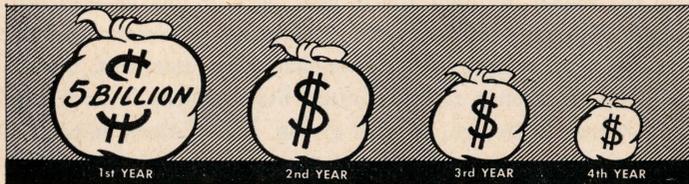
All of these, like us, have a strong sense of national pride and resent being thought of as charity cases which, of course, they aren't. They're all cooperating and doing the large share of the work in getting Western Europe back on its economic feet. Our assistance, important as it is, is only about 5% of the over-all job. The products of the industries, farms, mines and working efforts of 270,000,000 people make up the other 95%.

Furthermore, these 270,000,000 people put up their own money to match every dollar given to their government by the United States. *Mr. European Citizen himself receives no outright gifts of goods or services.* When he gets a good American dump truck, he pays for it out of his own pocket and at the regular retail price. He knows the truck wouldn't have been there to buy if it weren't for the Marshall Plan, and he knows that the money he paid for it goes back to his government, ringing the cash registers of the retailer, the wholesaler and the importer on the way. He knows that his government, instead of giving his money to the United States, turns it back into his country's economy, thereby giving Mr. Citizen himself a hand in his own welfare. But he also knows that he paid his

own money for the dump truck. So it's not quite correct to tell Mr. Citizen that the United States gave him a truck.

Even on a national level it is difficult and only partially correct to tell several of the European Recovery Program nations that they are receiving Marshall Plan "gifts" from the United States. Ireland, for instance, has received a large loan but has received no grant. Sweden and Turkey also have received loans, but no grants. Some nations have received both loans and grants.

In terms of money, the United States, during the first year of the Marshall Plan, put more than five billion dollars into aiding Western Europe. This year we'll contribute a somewhat smaller amount, for it is planned to reduce assistance progressively over a four-year period. Our annual contribution amounts to more than \$100 in taxes for every American family. For the average American Marshall Plan aid to Europe is equal to about two weeks of his year's work. For the American taxpayer Marshall Plan assistance means the contribution of European aid of about 13% of all the tax money he pays to the Federal Government. It's expensive and burdensome but fire insurance in a high risk area never is cheap.



You Will Hear Propaganda

There are some people who, wittingly or unwittingly, have been listening to Communist gobbledygook and have swallowed it. If you get to talking with them probably they'll tell you things you never knew about the Marshall Plan. You never knew these things because they're just plain lies. The United States will be described as vile, war-mongering and imperialistic.

Of course, you will recognize the main theme of the propaganda offensive which the Cominform has launched to misrepresent the Marshall Plan. Somehow, the Cominform and the Communists still seem to have faith in Hitler's theory that the bigger the *lie* the easier it is to spread, and if you repeat it often enough everyone will believe it. So they've been prattling endlessly, and they've even got some gullible non-Communists to repeat that the chief purpose of the Marshall Plan is to enslave Europe or, to make it subject to American dominance and control. Just look at the facts and you will find that the truthful story is the exact reverse: the chief purpose of the Marshall Plan is to enable Europe to stand on

its own economic feet, free from the need of special outside assistance.

As simple proof of that the United States has solemnly warned the participating nations that Marshall Plan aid will come to an end in four years—in June 1952.

This Is the Communist Line

Here are a few Marshall Plan whoppers which the Communists and their stooges are circulating:

1. *They say The Marshall Plan is a scheme to start a war.* The answer, of course, is exactly the opposite. Some wars are bred when people are so needy, desperate and hopeless that they are willing to reach out and grab the lands and goods of their neighbors. Other wars come about when aggressors feel that people in lands they want to conquer are so weak in spirit and in economic standing that they are easy prey. The Marshall Plan, in boosting production in industry and agriculture in Western Europe, builds toward a better standard of living, strengthens hope and faith in democratic governments, and fortifies ability and will to resist aggressors from within and without.

2. *They say The Marshall Plan is aimed at "colonizing" or enslaving Europe.* What the Communists mean by this is that the United States is trying to reduce Europe to a state where it will be subject to our dictation, where we can exploit its labor and loot its resources and where it will have no choice but to absorb our finished products at the prices we demand. Again, the exact opposite is true. We are helping Europe build up its own production—in many instances building up

ultimate competitors to American business—and thus end its dependence on special help from us. The sole goal of the program is to make Europe self-supporting.

3. *They say The Marshall Plan was launched to prevent an American economic collapse.* The Marshall Plan was launched to promote economic recovery and establish a firm peace in Western Europe, which is vital to world peace. Of course, economic chaos in Western Europe would damage our own economic prosperity, just as the restoration of healthy economic conditions in Western Europe will strengthen our own economy and increase our welfare. But the primary purpose of the program is to build the foundations of peace.

4. *They say The Marshall Plan is a means of imposing the American economic system on Europe.* It is the policy of our government that planning and action for an economically stable Europe is the responsibility and concern of the Europeans themselves. Any change in the economic institutions within the participating nations is a matter to be decided by the free peoples of those nations.

5. *They say The Marshall Plan is a device for dumping our surpluses on Europe.* Much of the material we have sent to Europe has been in scarce supply at home and was exported at



some sacrifice to us. The rest is goods which the European nations *themselves* requested, to further their goals of economic recovery. The United States does not dictate to Europe what it should import. It sends, if it has it, what the Europeans themselves ask for.

6. *They say The Marshall Plan is a device of the United States for looting and stockpiling Western Europe's strategic materials.* In aiding Western Europe we are drawing heavily on America's own resources of strategic materials—such as lead, aluminum, copper, steel and coal—in spite of the fact that such materials are in great demand in the United States. In order to build up our diminished stocks, we are negotiating agreements to obtain a fair share, on reasonable terms and in reasonable quantities, of scarce raw materials which may exist within the boundaries of the nations of Western Europe and in their dependent overseas territories.

Finally, Communist-inspired malice and misinformation may attempt to make you feel guilty about the food and drink you consume or the quarters you rent or the articles you buy while abroad. Don't fall for that, either.

The Western European nations, in this particular, have enough to meet their needs and your needs. They've got the quarters and resort areas for you, and they're hoping you'll like and buy the goods which they produce. As a matter of fact, they're banking on your eating well, staying as long as you like, and buying to your heart's content. The money spent by you will enable them to replace anything you use up and, most important, payment will be in dollars which they so much

need—dollars that will permit them to buy in the “dollar area” many of the things they must have to restore their economies.

If you are invited to dinner in a European home, the meal and hospitality will be in best European tradition, but remember that the family is probably sacrificing a good portion of its meat ration to make the meal possible. You will also dine on occasion in Europe's fine restaurants, but remember that many of these restaurants are permitted to serve such meals only because they attract tourists and thus are important dollar earners. The average European never can afford to enter their doors. In no country will you be able to judge the diet and the circumstances of life of the average person—worker, shop clerk or school child—in the kind of restaurant you are likely to visit. Do not judge the average diet of Europeans by the handsome meal which your European friends will be eager to serve you but at a sacrifice to their diet for days or weeks to come.

You can help the Marshall Plan succeed, you can help the United States and Europe, by helping your European friends understand the program, the way it works and the purposes it seeks to accomplish.



Additional Information

Americans in Europe may obtain additional information on the Marshall Plan at the office of the U. S. Special Representative in Europe, Hotel Tallyrand, 2 Rue St. Florentin, Paris, France and at the offices of the following ECA Country Missions:

ECA Mission to Austria
American Legation
Vienna, Austria

ECA Mission to Italy
62 Via Veneto
Rome, Italy

ECA Mission to Belgium-Luxembourg
American Embassy
Brussels, Belgium

ECA Mission to the Netherlands
American Embassy
The Hague, The Netherlands

ECA Mission to Denmark
American Embassy
Copenhagen, Denmark

ECA Mission to Norway
American Embassy
Oslo, Norway

ECA Mission to France
American Embassy
Paris, France

ECA Mission to Portugal
American Embassy
Lisbon, Portugal

ECA Mission to the Bizone
c/o U.S. Political Advisor
Frankfurt, Germany

ECA Mission to Sweden
American Embassy
Stockholm, Sweden

ECA Mission to Greece
American Embassy
Athens, Greece

ECA Mission to Trieste
c/o U.S. Political Advisor
Free Territory of Trieste

ECA Mission to Iceland
American Legation
Reykjavik, Iceland

ECA Mission to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara, Turkey

ECA Mission to Ireland
7 Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin, Ireland

ECA Mission to the United Kingdom
American Embassy
London, England