

BRITISH SHARE IN BIZONAL ACTIVITIES

Economic Council and Relations with Governmental Agencies Explained To Recently Reorganized Zonal Advisory Council of UK-Controlled Area

The establishment of the new bizonal Economic Council and its relations with the German governmental agencies in the British Zone were explained by the British Deputy Military Governor in a speech at Hamburg 11 June to the Zonal Advisory Council, which corresponds in the British Zone to the Laenderrat in the US Zone. Excerpts from his speech follow.

THE original Zonal Advisory Council was a nominated body. During the time that it was in existence it did excellent work. It helped us greatly by its advice on many important subjects. By the influence which it exerted it undoubtedly succeeded in getting us to take action on a number of matters regarding which it would not have occurred to us to take action otherwise.

After the Land elections it was clear that the Zonal Advisory Council should be reorganized so as to reflect the division of political opinion as disclosed by the elections . . .

At the time of that last meeting of the Council, negotiations were already proceeding with our American allies for the better economic integration of the American and British Zones. These negotiations were then in an early stage. You will not, I think, expect me to offer any explanation or excuse for the fact that it was impossible for me to talk about these negotiations to the Council. The negotiations, as you now know, have been successful. A decision has been taken to concentrate the Bizonal Agencies at Frankfurt and to subordinate them to an Economic Council which will be representative in character.

The Zonal Advisory Council itself has repeatedly emphasized to me the necessity for subordinating the administrative agencies to popular control. This has now been achieved. I believe that you will regard the new arrangement as a very big step forward. The Economic Council itself

has been given legislative powers subject to the approval of American and British Military Government. This means the transfer to Germans in the two zones of a far greater measure of responsibility for the management of their own affairs.

The creation of this Economic Council must obviously make a big difference to the role of the Zonal Advisory Council. I am very anxious that the Economic Council should be truly bizonal in character. Whatever divisions of opinion may arise in it — and, of course, there will be many — I hope that they will not represent a division on a zonal basis. From an economic point of view there are no longer two zones, but one area. For this reason I do not want to see the men who are sent from the British Zone to act as representatives on the Economic Council, adopting a parochial and zonal attitude.

I THINK that it must follow from this that matters, which are now within the competence of the Economic Council, are no longer suitable for discussion on a zonal basis and, therefore, are inappropriate for discussion in the Zonal Advisory Council. I do not want to lay down rigid rules as to what you may or may not discuss, but I am bound to tell you that you will embarrass me if you discuss questions which ought now to be resolved in the Economic Council. I will go further and say that under the new circumstances I shall necessarily be guided on economic matters by the opinion of the Economic Council and not by the opinion of a zonal body.

Admittedly this means a considerable reduction in your responsibilities. There remains, however, an important field of activity for you. We still need guidance on all the matters which fall outside the economic field. These are the political questions and legal questions, many of which are of great importance.

It is possible that with a reduction in its work the Council may feel that it does not wish to meet quite as frequently as in the past. I hope that the interval between its meetings will not be too long. I hope, too, that you will keep in being your committees dealing with political and social subjects . . .

MANY important political subjects will come up for decision during the coming month. The Council of Foreign Ministers is to meet again in London in November. The future political structure of Germany will be a main item on its agenda. Deputies to the Ministers are to study this problem meanwhile. We shall undoubtedly need your advice before deciding upon the attitude which we ourselves adopt. I hope, therefore, that you will feel that, in spite of the reduction of your responsibilities due to the creation of the Economic Council, very important work lies ahead of you. Close co-operation between you and ourselves is the best method of ensuring that this work shall be well done.

Report Corrected

Recent reports appearing in the German press to the effect that approximately 1,000 German and Austrian refugees would be sent to Brazil with the assistance of the International Relief Organization or the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees are erroneous, Headquarters Field Operations, Germany and Austria, Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, announced.

The Committee explained that it had received a number of letters from German refugees expelled from eastern Germany and other eastern European countries, most of them requesting assistance in emigration. The committee emphasized the fact that it is not concerned with German or other ex-enemy nationals except those of Jewish origin or persons persecuted by the Nazi regime.