

**UNRRA SELECTED RECORDS AG-018-035:  
PHILIPPINE MISSION, 1944-1949**

**2016.142.1.**

**RG-67.056M**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
E-mail: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

**Descriptive summary**

Title: UNRRA selected records AG-018-035: Philippine Mission

Dates: 1944-1949

Accession number: 2016.142.1.

Record group number: RG-67.056M

Creator: United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)

Extent: 477 digital images (JPEG)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,  
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Languages: English

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for access.

Reproduction and use: The United Nations Archives is a holder of the copyrights of this collection.  
Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), (identification of file), Reel number, RG-67.056, UNRRA Selected Records AG-018-035: Philippine Mission, 1944-1949. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The collection was digitized through a cooperative agreement between the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Mémorial de la Shoah, France and the United Nations Archives and Records Management Section in 2016.

Existence and location of originals:

United Nations Archives and Records Management Section

ARMS FF-109

United Nations,

New York, NY 10017

Tel. (212) 963-4414

E-mail: [arms@un.org](mailto:arms@un.org)

<https://archives.un.org/>

The finding aid for the materials housed at the United Nations can be found at:

[https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015\\_Finding\\_Aids/AG-018-035.pdf](https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015_Finding_Aids/AG-018-035.pdf)

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Finding aid adapted from inventory provided by the United Nations Archives and Records Management Service by Aleksandra Borecka July 2016

### **Administrative history**

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was an international relief agency, largely dominated by the United States but representing 44 nations. Founded in 1943, it became part of the United Nations in 1945, and it largely shut down operations in 1947. Its purpose was to "plan, coordinate, administer or arrange for the administration of measures for the relief of victims of war in any area under the control of any of the United Nations through the provision of food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities, medical and other essential services". Its staff of civil servants included 12,000 people, with headquarters in New York. Funding came from many nations, and totaled \$3.7 billion, of which the United States contributed \$2.7 billion; Britain \$625 million and Canada \$139 million. The Administration of UNRRA at the peak of operations in mid-1946 included five types of offices and missions with a staff totaling nearly 25,000: The Headquarters Office in Washington, The European Regional Office (London), the Twenty-nine servicing offices and missions (2 area offices in Cairo and Sydney; 10 liaison offices and missions in Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Trieste; 12 procurement offices in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Cuba, India, Mexico, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela; 6 offices for procurement of surplus military supplies in Caserta, Rome, Honolulu, Manila, New Delhi, Paris, Shanghai), the sixteen missions to receiving countries (Albania, Austria, Byelorussia, China, Czechoslovakia, the Dodecanese Islands, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Korea, the Philippines, Poland, Ukraine, Yugoslavia), and the Displaced Persons Operations in Germany.

UNRRA cooperated closely with dozens of volunteer charitable organizations, who sent hundreds of their own agencies to work alongside UNRRA. In operation only three years, the agency distributed about \$4 billion worth of goods, food, medicine, tools, and farm implements at a time of severe global shortages and worldwide transportation difficulties. The recipient nations had been especially hard hit by starvation, dislocation, and political chaos. It played a major role in helping Displaced Persons return to their home countries in Europe in 1945-46. Its UN functions were transferred to several UN agencies, including the International Refugee Organization and the World Health Organization. As an American relief agency, it was largely replaced by the Marshall Plan, which began operations in 1948.

The basic objective of the **Philippine Mission** was to effect the completion of the emergency operations which had commenced early in 1945 in response to a request for assistance from the Philippine Government. In June 1945 the Philippine Government was asked to accept a small UNRRA Mission, consisting of a Head, a health expert and a distribution specialist to examine the possibility of further UNRRA aid in health, welfare, displaced persons, agricultural and industrial rehabilitation and to assist the Government in distribution of supplies. Consent was given and the mission was established in Manila on 2 August 1945. Shortly thereafter the Philippine Government established its own Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to coordinate the distribution of UNRRA supplies throughout the Islands. The UNRRA Mission in Manila had, from its inception, proceeded without a specific directive from Washington Headquarters, other than authorizing Gaines to establish the Mission. The directive issued to Gaines as head of SWPAO had placed the Manila Mission under the supervision of that office, presumably because Gaines was serving as head of both offices. However, by mid-January 1946, the Manila Office, for accounting purposes at least, had been determined independent of SWPAO since Washington wished to keep direct control over the purchases of Army surpluses made in the Islands. A new directive issued on 11 June 1946 outlined the functions of this office as follows:

- a) To maintain liaison with the Philippine Government and other appropriate authorities in planning the emergency program of relief supplies authorized by the Administration.
- b) To insure the implementation and to provide for the full and current documentation of any agreements or understandings reached between the Administration and the Philippine Government and, pending the conclusion of any such agreements or understandings, to insure as far as possible compliance with UNRRA policy by the Philippine Government in the distribution of UNRRA relief supplies, particularly in regard to Resolutions 2 and 7 of the Council.
- c) To establish and provide for scheduled operation of a system of commodity accounting for all UNRRA relief supplies placed at the disposal of the Philippine Government, in accordance with directions from the Headquarters Office.
- d) To maintain contact with the military and naval authorities in the Philippines, and with other governmental authorities or voluntary organizations on questions of common interest other than surplus property procurement, and to inform the Administration of any activities of these organizations which may affect the operations or scope of the emergency program.
- e) To arrange for the evacuation from the Philippine Islands of any remaining externally displaced persons in accordance with the policies defined in Council Resolutions and the plans of the Administration.
- f) To maintain contact with other UNRRA missions in the Far East on questions of mutual interest.

g) In addition to the foregoing, the Philippine Mission will cooperate with the Area Surplus Procurement Officer on questions that are referred to it by this officer.

The Mission was officially closed as of 30 November 1947. All shipments against the emergency programs having been completed except for \$30,000 worth of agricultural equipment which was turned over to the Philippine Relief and Trading Administration (PRATRA), successor to the Philippine Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, for distribution.

[Source: Original finding aid of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) ]

### **Scope and content of collection**

Selected files of the Philippine Mission: Correspondence, telegrams, UNRA registration cards and questionnaires for refugees, interviews, affidavits, UNRRA agreements and polices related to displaced persons desiring repatriation: Displaced Persons-Chinese in Rabaul 1944-1949, as well as Displaced Persons, European, 1944-1949. Some files relate to Jewish refugees after the war and the repatriation of Austrian and German Displaced Persons in the Philippines. Including are addresses of tracing bureaus in Europe and description of the tracing programs of the major organizations: National Tracing Bureau, United Nations countries; Central Tracing Bureau at Arlosen; Zonal Tracing Bureaus in the four occupation zones of Germany; Central Tracing Policy of Allied Authority, Berlin.

### **System of arrangement**

Selected files arranged in one series:

1. Philippine Mission-General Files (S-1419), 1945-1947

### **Indexing terms**

#### ***Person Name:***

Gaines, Frank.  
Suttor, Helen.

#### ***Corporate Name:***

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration--History.  
International Refugee Organization. General Council.

#### ***Genre/Form:***

Affidavits.  
Cables.  
Correspondence.  
Memorandums.  
Telegrams.

#### ***Geographic name:***

East Asia--Emigration and immigration.  
Manila (Philippines)  
Rabaul (Papua New Guinea)  
Sarmi (Indonesia)  
Shanghai (China)  
United States--Politics and government.

**Topical Term:**

War relief--United States--History--20th century.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.  
Diplomatic and consular service, American--China.  
Refugees--Legal status, laws, etc.--East Asia.  
Humanitarian assistance, American--Political aspects.  
Humanitarian assistance--East Asia--History--20th century.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Sources.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Note:** Due to the EAD project of the United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN-ARMS), some of the boxes have been assigned to new series.

This description is based on the finding aid compiled by the United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (Holder of originals). The original finding aid are located at:

UN finding aid:

[https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015\\_Finding\\_Aids/AG-018-035.pdf](https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015_Finding_Aids/AG-018-035.pdf)

**Selected files of the Philippine Mission-General Files (S-1419), 1945-1947**

S-0528-0572	S-1419-0000-0012	Displaced Persons-Chinese in Rabaul, 1944-1949	1946	30
	S-1419-0000-0013	Displaced Persons-European, 1944-1949	1945-1946	200
	S-1419-0000-0014	Displaced Persons-European, 1944-1949	1947	150
	S-1419-0000-0015	Displaced Persons-General, 1944-1949	1945-1947	30
	S-1419-0000-0018	Displaced Persons-Tracing, 1944-1949	1947	20