

Agreement on Reparation from Germany

AGREEMENT ON REPARATION FROM GERMANY, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-ALLIED REPARATION AGENCY AND ON THE RESTITUTION OF MONETARY GOLD

(Paris, 14 January 1946)

The Governments of Albania, the United States of America, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, India, Luxembourg, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, the Union of South Africa and Yugoslavia, in order to obtain an equitable distribution among themselves of the total assets which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and the provisions agreed upon at Potsdam on 1 August 1945 between the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,[1] are or may be declared to be available as reparation from Germany (hereinafter referred to as German reparation), in order to establish an Inter-Allied Reparation Agency, and to settle an equitable procedure for the restitution of monetary gold,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

PART I GERMAN REPARATION

Article 1 Shares in reparation

A. German reparation (exclusive of the funds to be allocated under Article 8 of Part I of this Agreement), shall be divided into the following categories:

Category A, which shall include all forms of German reparation except those included in Category B;

Category B, which shall include industrial and other capital equipment removed from Germany, and merchant ships and inland water transport.

B. Each Signatory Government shall be entitled to the percentage share of the total value of Category A and the percentage share of the total value of Category B set out for that Government in the Table of Shares set forth below:

Table of Shares

Country	Category A	Category B	
Albania	.05	.35	
United States of America		28.00	11.80
Australia	.70	.95	
Belgium	2.70	4.50	
Canada	3.50	1.50	
Denmark	.25	.35	
Egypt	.05	.20	
France	16.00	22.80	

United Kingdom	28.00	27.80
Greece	2.70	4.35
India	2.00	2.90
Luxembourg	.15	.40
Norway	1.30	1.90
New Zealand	.40	.60
Netherlands	3.90	5.60
Czechoslovakia	3.00	4.30
Union of South Africa*	.70	.10
Yugoslavia	6.60	9.60
TOTAL	100.00	100.00

* The Government of the Union of South Africa has undertaken to waive its claims to the extent necessary to reduce its percentage share of Category B to the figure of 0.1 per cent but is entitled, in disposing of German enemy assets within its jurisdiction, to charge the net value of such assets against its percentage share of Category A and a percentage share under Category B of 1.0 per cent. [Footnote appeared in original text.]

C. Subject to the provisions of paragraph D below, each Signatory Government shall be entitled to receive its share of merchant ships determined in accordance with Article 5 of Part I of this Agreement, provided that its receipts of merchant ships do not exceed in value its share in Category B as a whole.

Subject to the provisions of paragraph D below, each Signatory Government shall also be entitled to its Category A percentage share in German assets in countries which remained neutral in the war against Germany.

The distribution among the Signatory Governments of forms of German reparation other than merchant ships, inland water transport and German assets in countries which remained neutral in the war against Germany shall be guided by the principles set forth in Article 4 of Part I of this Agreement.

D. If a Signatory Government receives more than its percentage share of certain types of assets in either Category A or Category B, its receipts of other types of assets in that Category shall be reduced so as to ensure that it shall not receive more than its share in that Category as a whole.

E. No Signatory Government shall receive more than its percentage share of either Category A or Category B as a whole by surrendering any part of its percentage share of the other Category, except that with respect to German enemy assets within its own jurisdiction, any Signatory Government shall be permitted to charge any excess of such assets over its Category A percentage share of total German enemy assets within the jurisdiction of the Signatory Governments either to its receipts in Category A or to its receipts in Category B or in part to each Category.

F. The Inter-Allied Reparation Agency, to be established in accordance with Part II of this Agreement, shall charge the reparation account of each Signatory Government for the German assets within that Government's jurisdiction over a period of five years. The charges at the date of the entry into force of this Agreement shall be not less than 20 per cent of the net value of such assets (as defined in Article 6 of Part I of this Agreement) as then estimated, at the beginning of the second year thereafter not less than 25 per cent of the balance as then estimated, at the beginning of the third year not less than 33 1/3 per cent of the balance as then estimated, at the beginning of the fourth year not less than 50 per cent of the balance as then estimated, at the beginning of the fifth year not less than 90 per cent of the balance as then estimated, and at the end of the fifth year the entire remainder of the total amount actually realized.

G. The following exceptions to paragraphs D and E above shall apply in the case of a Signatory Government whose share in Category B is less than its share in Category A:

(i) Receipts of merchant ships by any such Government shall not reduce its percentage share in other types of assets in Category B, except to the extent that such receipts exceed the value obtained when that Government's Category A percentage is applied to the total value of merchant ships.

(ii) Any excess of German assets within the jurisdiction of such Government over its Category A percentage share of the total of German assets within the jurisdiction of Signatory Government as a whole shall be charged first to the additional share in Category B to which that Government would be entitled if its share in Category B were determined by applying its Category A percentage to the forms of German reparation in Category B.

H. If any Signatory Government renounces its shares or part of its shares in German reparation as set out in the above Table of Shares, or if it withdraws from the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency at a time when all or part of its shares in German reparation remain unsatisfied, the shares or part thereof thus renounced or remaining shall be distributed rateably among the other Signatory Governments.

Article 2 Settlement of claims against Germany

A. The Signatory Governments agree among themselves that their respective shares of reparation, as determined by the present Agreement, shall be regarded by each of them as covering all its claims and those of its nationals against the former German Government and its Agencies, of a governmental or private nature, arising out of the war (which are not otherwise provided for), including costs of German occupation, credits acquired during occupation on clearing accounts and claims against the Reichskreditkassen.

B. The provisions of paragraph A above are without prejudice to:

(i) the determination at the proper time of the forms, duration or total amount of reparation to be made by Germany;

(ii) the right which each Signatory Government may have with respect to the final settlement of German reparation; and

(iii) any political, territorial or other demands which any Signatory Government may put forward with respect to the peace settlement with Germany.

C. Notwithstanding anything in the provisions of paragraph A above, the present Agreement shall not be considered as affecting:

(i) the obligation of the appropriate authorities in Germany to secure at a future date the discharge of claims against Germany and German nationals arising out of contracts and other obligations entered into, and rights acquired, before the existence of a state of war between Germany and the Signatory Government concerned or before the occupation of its territory by Germany, whichever was earlier;

(ii) the claims of Social Insurance Agencies of the Signatory Governments or the claims of their

nationals against the Social Insurance Agencies of the former German Government; and

(iii) banknotes of the Reichsbank and the Rentenbank, it being understood that their realization shall not have the result of reducing improperly the amount of reparation and shall not be effected without the approval of the Control Council for Germany.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph A of this Article, the Signatory Governments agree that, so far as they are concerned, the Czechoslovak Government will be entitled to draw upon the Giro account of the National Bank of Czechoslovakia at the Reichsbank, should such action be decided upon by the Czechoslovak Government and approved by the Control Council for Germany, in connection with the movement from Czechoslovakia to Germany of former Czechoslovak nationals.

Article 3

Waiver of claims regarding property allocated as reparation

Each of the Signatory Governments agrees that it will not assert, initiate actions in international tribunals in respect of, or give diplomatic support to claims on behalf of itself or those persons entitled to its protection against any other Signatory Government or its nationals in respect of property received by that Government as reparation with the approval of the Control Council for Germany.

Article 4

General principles for the allocation of industrial and other capital equipment

A. No Signatory Government shall request the allocation to it as reparation of any industrial or other capital equipment removed from Germany except for use in its own territory or for use by its own nationals outside its own territory.

B. In submitting requests to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency, the Signatory Governments should endeavour to submit comprehensive programs of requests for related groups of items, rather than requests for isolated items or small groups of items. It is recognized that the work of the Secretariat of the Agency will be more effective, the more comprehensive the programs which Signatory Governments submit to it.

C. In the allocation by the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency of items declared available for reparation (other than merchant ships, inland water transport and German assets in countries which remained neutral in the war against Germany), the following general principles shall serve as guides:

(i) Any item or related group of items in which a claimant country has a substantial prewar financial interest shall be allocated to that country if it so desires. Where two or more claimants have such substantial interests in a particular item or group of items, the criteria stated below shall guide the allocation.

(ii) If the allocation between competing claimants is not determined by paragraph (i), attention shall be given, among other relevant factors, to the following considerations:

(a) The urgency of each claimant country's needs for the item or items to rehabilitate, reconstruct or restore to full activity the claimant country's economy;

(b) The extent to which the item or items would replace property which was destroyed, damaged or looted in the war, or requires replacement because of excessive wear in war production, and which is important to the claimant country's economy;

(c) The relation of the item or items to the general pattern of the claimant country's prewar economic life and to programs for its postwar economic adjustment or development;

(d) The requirements of countries whose reparation shares are small but which are in need of certain specific items or categories of items.

(iii) In making allocations a reasonable balance shall be maintained among the rates at which the reparation shares of the several claimant Governments are satisfied, subject to such temporary exceptions as are justified by the considerations under paragraph (ii)(a) above.

Article 5

General principles for the allocation of merchant ships and inland water transport

A. (i) German merchant ships available for distribution as reparation among the Signatory Governments shall be distributed among them in proportion to the respective over-all losses of merchant shipping, on a gross tonnage basis, of the Signatory Governments and their nationals through acts of war. It is recognized that transfers of merchant ships by the United Kingdom and United States Governments to other Governments are subject to such final approvals by the legislatures of the United Kingdom and United States of America as may be required.

(ii) A special committee, composed of representatives of the Signatory Governments, shall be appointed by the Assembly of the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency to make recommendations concerning the determination of such losses and the allocation of German merchant ships available for distribution.

(iii) The value of German merchant ships for reparation accounting purposes shall be the value determined by the Tripartite Merchant Marine Commission in terms of 1938 prices in Germany plus 15 per cent, with an allowance for depreciation.

B. Recognizing that some countries have special need for inland water transport, the distribution of inland water transport shall be dealt with by a special committee appointed by the Assembly of the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency in the event that inland water transport becomes available at a future time as reparation for the Signatory Governments. The valuation of inland water transport will be made on the basis adopted for the valuation of merchant ships or on an equitable basis in relation to that adopted for merchant ships.

Article 6

German external assets

A. Each Signatory Government shall, under such procedures as it may choose, hold or dispose of German enemy assets within its jurisdiction in manners designed to preclude their return to German ownership or control and shall charge against its reparation share such assets (net of accrued taxes, liens, expenses of administration, other in rem charges against specific items and legitimate contract claims against the German former owners of such assets).

B. The Signatory Governments shall give to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency all information for which it asks as to the value of such assets and the amounts realized from time to time by their

liquidation.

C. German assets in those countries which remained neutral in the war against Germany shall be removed from German ownership or control and liquidated or disposed of in accordance with the authority of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, pursuant to arrangements to be negotiated with the neutrals by these countries. The net proceeds of liquidation or disposition shall be made available to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency for distribution on reparation account.

D. In applying the provisions of paragraph A above, assets which were the property of a country which is a member of the United Nations or its nationals who were not nationals of Germany at the time of the occupation or annexation of this country by Germany, or of its entry into war, shall not be charged to its reparation account. It is understood that this provision in no way prejudices any questions which may arise as regards assets which were not the property of a national of the country concerned at the time of the latter's occupation or annexation by Germany or of its entry into war.

E. The German enemy assets to be charged against reparation shares shall include assets which are in reality German enemy assets, despite the fact that the nominal owner of such assets is not a German enemy.

Each Signatory Government shall enact legislation or take other appropriate steps, if it has not already done so, to render null and void all transfers made, after the occupation of its territory or its entry into war, for the fraudulent purpose of cloaking German enemy interests, and thus saving them harmless from the effect of control measures regarding German enemy interests.

F. The Assembly of the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency shall set up a Committee of Experts in matters of enemy property custodianship in order to overcome practical difficulties of law and interpretation which may arise. The Committee should in particular guard against schemes which might result in effecting fictitious or other transactions designed to favour enemy interests, or to reduce improperly the amount of assets which might be allocated to reparation.

Article 7 Captured supplies

The value of supplies and other materials susceptible of civilian use captured from the German Armed Forces in areas outside Germany and delivered to Signatory Governments shall be charged against their reparation shares in so far as such supplies and materials have not been or are not, in the future either paid for or delivered under arrangements precluding any charge.

It is recognized that transfers of such supplies and materials by the United Kingdom and United States Governments to other Governments are agreed to be subject to such final approval by the legislature of the United Kingdom or the United States of America as may be required.

Article 8 Allocation of a reparation share to non-repatriable victims of German action

In recognition of the fact that large numbers of persons have suffered heavily at the hands of the Nazis and now stand in dire need of aid to promote their rehabilitation but will be unable to claim the assistance of any Government receiving reparation from Germany, the Governments of the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, in consultation with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, shall as soon as possible work

out in common agreement a plan on the following general lines:

A. A share of reparation consisting of all the non-monetary gold found by the Allied Armed Forces in Germany and in addition a sum not exceeding 25 million dollars shall be allocated for the rehabilitation and resettlement of non-repatriable victims of German action.

B. The sum of 25 million dollars shall be met from a portion of the proceeds of German assets in neutral countries which are available for reparation.

C. Governments of neutral countries shall be requested to make available for this purpose (in addition to the sum of 25 million dollars) assets in such countries of victims of Nazi action who have since died and left no heirs.

D. The persons eligible for aid under the plan in question shall be restricted to true victims of Nazi persecution and to their immediate families and dependents, in the following classes:

(i) Refugees from Nazi Germany or Austria who require aid and cannot be returned to their countries within a reasonable time because of prevailing conditions;

(ii) German and Austrian nationals now resident in Germany or Austria in exceptional cases in which it is reasonable on grounds of humanity to assist such persons to emigrate and providing they emigrate to other countries within a reasonable period;

(iii) Nationals of countries formerly occupied by the Germans who cannot be repatriated or are not in a position to be repatriated within a reasonable time. In order to concentrate aid on the most needy and deserving refugees and to exclude persons whose loyalty to the United Nations is or was doubtful, aid shall be restricted to nationals or former nationals of previously occupied countries who were victims of German concentration camps or of concentration camps established by regimes under Nazi influence but not including persons who have been confined only in prisoners of war camps.

E. The sums made available under paragraphs A and B above shall be administered by the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees or by a United Nations Agency to which appropriate functions of the Inter-Governmental Committee may in the future be transferred. The sums made available under paragraph C above shall be administered for the general purposes referred to in this Article under a program of administration to be formulated by the five Governments named above.

F. The non-monetary gold found in Germany shall be placed at the disposal of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees as soon as a plan has been worked out as provided above.

G. The Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees shall have power to carry out the purposes of the fund through appropriate public and private field organisations.

H. The fund shall be used, not for the compensation of individual victims, but to further the rehabilitation or resettlement of persons in the eligible classes.

I. Nothing in this Article shall be considered to prejudice the claims which individual refugees may have against a future German Government, except to the amount of the benefits that such refugees may have received from the sources referred to in paragraphs A and C above.

PART II
INTER-ALLIED REPARATION AGENCY

Article 1
Establishment of the Agency

The Governments Signatory to the present Agreement hereby establish an Inter-Allied Reparation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency"). Each Government shall appoint a Delegate to the Agency and shall also be entitled to appoint an Alternate who, in the absence of the Delegate, shall be entitled to exercise all the functions and rights of the Delegate.

Article 2
Functions of the Agency

A. The Agency shall allocate German reparation among the Signatory Governments in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and of any other agreements from time to time in force among the Signatory Governments. For this purpose, the Agency shall be the medium through which the Signatory Governments receive information concerning, and express their wishes in regard to, items available as reparation.

B. The Agency shall deal with all questions relating to the restitution to a Signatory Government of property situated in one of the Western Zones of Germany which may be referred to it by the Commander of that Zone (acting on behalf of his Government), in agreement with the claimant Signatory Government or Governments, without prejudice, however, to the settlement of such questions by the Signatory Governments concerned either by agreement or arbitration.

Article 3
Internal organisation of the Agency

A. The organs of the Agency shall be the Assembly and the Secretariat.

B. The Assembly shall consist of the Delegates and shall be presided over by the President of the Agency. The President of the Agency shall be the Delegate of the Government of France.

C. The Secretariat shall be under the direction of a Secretary General, assisted by two Deputy Secretaries General. The Secretary General and the two Deputy Secretaries General shall be appointed by the Governments of France, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. The Secretariat shall be international in character. It shall act for the Agency and not for the individual Signatory Governments.

Article 4
Functions of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall have the following functions:

A. To prepare and submit to the Assembly programs for the allocation of German reparation;

B. To maintain detailed accounts of assets available for, and of assets distributed as, German reparation;

C. To prepare and submit to the Assembly the budget of the Agency;

D. To perform such other administrative functions as may be required.

Article 5 Functions of the Assembly

Subject to the provisions of Articles 4 and 7 of Part II of this Agreement, the Assembly shall allocate German reparation among the Signatory Governments in conformity with the provisions of this Agreement and of any other agreements from time to time in force among the Signatory Governments. It shall also approve the budget of the Agency and shall perform such other functions as are consistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 6 Voting in the Assembly

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, each Delegate shall have one vote. Decisions in the Assembly shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast.

Article 7 Appeal from decisions of the Assembly

A. When the Assembly has not agreed to a claim presented by a Delegate that an item should be allocated to his Government, the Assembly shall, at the request of that Delegate and within the time limit prescribed by the Assembly, refer the question to arbitration. Such reference shall suspend the effect of the decision of the Assembly on that item.

B. The Delegates of the Government claiming an item referred to arbitration under paragraph A above shall elect an Arbitrator from among the other Delegates. If agreement cannot be reached upon the selection of an Arbitrator, the United States Delegate shall either act as Arbitrator or appoint as Arbitrator another Delegate from among the Delegates whose Governments are not claiming the item. If the United States Government is one of the claimant Governments, the President of the Agency shall appoint as Arbitrator a Delegate whose Government is not a claimant Government.

Article 8 Powers of the arbitrator

When the question of the allocation of any item is referred to arbitration under Article 7 of Part II of this Agreement, the Arbitrator shall have authority to make final allocation of the item among the claimant Governments. The Arbitrator may, at his discretion, refer the item to the Secretariat for further study. He may also, at his discretion, require the Secretariat to resubmit the item to the Assembly.

Article 9 Expenses

A. The salaries and expenses of the Delegates and of their staffs shall be paid by their own Governments.

B. The common expenses of the Agency shall be met from the funds of the Agency. For the first two years from the date of the establishment of the Agency, these funds shall be contributed in proportion to the percentage shares of the Signatory Governments in Category B and thereafter in proportion to their percentage in Category A.

C. Each Signatory Government shall contribute its share in the budget of the Agency for each budgetary period (as determined by the Assembly) at the beginning of that period; provided that each Government shall, when this Agreement is signed on its behalf, contribute a sum equivalent to not less than its Category B percentage share of [sterling]50,000 and shall, within three months thereafter, contribute the balance of its share in the budget of the Agency for the budgetary period in which this Agreement is signed on its behalf.

D. All contributions by the Signatory Governments shall be made in Belgian francs or such other currency or currencies as the Agency may require.

Article 10 Voting of the Budget

In considering the budget of the Agency for any budgetary period, the vote of each Delegate in the Assembly shall be proportional to the share of the budget for that period payable by his Government.

Article 11 Official languages

The official languages of the Agency shall be English and French.

Article 12 Offices of the Agency

The seat of the Agency shall be in Brussels. The Agency shall maintain liaison offices in such other places as the Assembly, after obtaining the necessary consents, may decide.

Article 13 Withdrawal

Any Signatory Government, other than a Government which is responsible for the control of a part of German territory, may withdraw from the Agency after written notice to the Secretariat.

Article 14

Amendments and termination

This Part II of the Agreement can be amended or the Agency terminated by a decision in the Assembly of the majority of the Delegates voting, provided that the Delegates forming the majority represent Governments whose shares constitute collectively not less than 80 per cent of the aggregate of the percentage shares in Category A.

Article 15 Legal capacity. Immunities and privileges

The Agency shall enjoy in the territory of each Signatory Government such legal capacity and such privileges, immunities and facilities, as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purpose. The representatives of the Signatory Governments and the officials of the Agency shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Agency.

PART III RESTITUTION OF MONETARY GOLD

Single Article

A. All the monetary gold found in Germany by the Allied Forces and that referred to in paragraph G below (including gold coins, except those of numismatic or historical value, which shall be restored directly if identifiable) shall be pooled for distribution as restitution among the countries participating in the pool in proportion to their respective losses of gold through looting or by wrongful removal to Germany.

B. Without prejudice to claims by way of reparation for unrestored gold, the portion of monetary gold thus accruing to each country participating in the pool shall be accepted by that country in full satisfaction of all claims against Germany for restitution of monetary gold.

C. A proportional share of the gold shall be allocated to each country concerned which adheres to this arrangement for the restitution of monetary gold and which can establish that a definite amount of monetary gold belonging to it was looted by Germany or, at any time after 12 March 1938, was wrongfully removed into German territory.

D. The question of the eventual participation of countries not represented at the Conference (other than Germany but including Austria and Italy) in the above mentioned distribution shall be reserved, and the equivalent of the total shares which these countries would receive, if they were eventually admitted to participate, shall be set aside to be disposed of at a later date in such manner as may be decided by the Allied Governments concerned.

E. The various countries participating in the pool shall supply to the Governments of the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom, as the occupying Powers concerned, detailed and verifiable data regarding the gold losses suffered through looting by, or removal to, Germany.

F. The Governments of the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom shall take appropriate steps within the Zones of Germany occupied by them respectively to implement distribution in accordance with the foregoing provisions.

G. Any monetary gold which may be recovered from a third country to which it was transferred from Germany shall be distributed in accordance with this arrangement for the restitution of monetary gold.

PART IV
ENTRY INTO FORCE AND SIGNATURE

Article 1
Entry into force

This Agreement shall be open for signature on behalf of any Government represented at the Paris Conference on Reparation.[2]

As soon as it has been signed on behalf of Governments collectively entitled to not less than 80% of the aggregate of shares in Category A of German reparation, it shall come into force among such Signatory Governments.[3]

The Agreement shall thereafter be in force among such Governments and those Governments on whose behalf it is subsequently signed.[4]

Article 2
Signature

The signature of each contracting Government shall be deemed to mean that the effect of the present Agreement extends to the colonies and overseas territories of such Government, and to territories under its protection or suzerainty or over which it at present exercises a mandate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed in Paris the present Agreement in the English and French languages, the two texts being equally authentic, in a single original, which shall be deposited in the Archives of the Government of the French Republic, a certified copy thereof being furnished by that Government to each signatory Government.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

[1] SP 145 p. 852.

[2] Signed definitively for Australia 25 February 1946.

[3] The Agreement entered into force generally 24 January 1946.

[4] The Agreement entered into force for Australia 25 February 1946.