THE MARSHALL PLAN
AT THE MID-MARK

Harry S. Truman
"The truth of the matter is that Europe’s requirements for the next three or four years of foreign food and other essential products—principally from America—are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have very substantial help or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character.

"The remedy lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries and of Europe as a whole."

Secretary of State George Marshall at Harvard, June 5, 1947

"It is further declared to be the policy of the United States to sustain and strengthen principles of individual liberty, free institutions, and genuine independence in Europe through assistance to those countries of Europe which participate in a joint recovery program based upon self-help and mutual cooperation..."

Preamble to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948

These are some pictures of Europe as it looks at the mid-mark of the Marshall Plan. The pictures tell their own story.

Behind the pictures are solid statistics. It took Western Europe seven years to regain just the prewar level of industrial production after World War I. Today, after two years of the Marshall Plan, and less than five years after the devastation of World War II, in which the destruction was far greater than in the first war, industrial production has not merely been lifted to the prewar level, but stands 20 percent above it.

Hard coal production rose 17 percent.

Steel production, 23 percent.

Electric power, 21 percent.

Cement production, 50 percent.

Cotton yarn production, 31 percent.

Farm production as a whole has been brought nearly to prewar level and if the weather is favorable, during the present crop year will reach the prewar level or exceed it.

In the past two years, after the great crop failures of 1947,

Total grain production was 30 percent.

Barley, 30 percent.

Maize, 30 percent.

Milk, 19 percent.

Pigs and sheep, 15 percent.

With enormous efforts, involving self-restraint by the Europeans and especially organized labor, the governments have put their financial houses in much better order and financial stability in most of the countries is being well maintained. An end has been put to the rampant inflation of 1947-48. Prices are generally being held. The prospect for sustaining this financial stability is definitely encouraging.

With increasing production and sounder financial conditions, Western Europe’s performance in trade has also strikingly improved. Total exports have risen 50 percent since 1947, and except for the all-important dollar area, Western Europe’s payments are now about in balance. Intra-European trade has been restored almost to prewar levels. Dollar earnings are also rising, but there is a long way to go before the European dollar gap is closed.

Administrator Holman summarized three Marshall Plan accomplishments at the mid-mark to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee and pointed out that grave problems remain—the slashing of the dollar gap, the urgent necessity for greater effort toward economic unification of Western Europe, and the winning of the cold war.

These pictures are the story of what has been done. Better than mathematics they tell of the restoration of hope, of faith, of courage and determination, the gratitude of ordinary European men, women and children. The Marshall Plan is for people.
THE MARSHALL PLAN

- In the Grand Dining Room of the French Foreign Office, the Conference for European Economic Cooperation meets, July, 1947

- The President signs the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948

TAKES FORM

- The trade union men of Europe get together to talk over participation in the Marshall Plan

- The lights burn past midnight at OEEC offices in Paris
AMERICAN GOODS

BEGIN TO FLOW

- Sulphur to Manchester
- Trucks to Rotterdam
- Boiler Tubes to Oslo
- Grain to Tunis
REBUILDING FROM EUROPE IN 1947

- Kirkenes, Norway, had scarcely begun to rise from the ground

- A new citizen of Essen, Germany, looks at a world of rubble

THE WRECKAGE OF WAR THE MARSHALL PLAN TAKES OVER

- This Belgian metal works could not contribute to recovery until put in shape by help from the Marshall Plan

- Waalhem, Holland, as it looked after the Allies bombed the dyke, and as it looks reclaimed with Marshall Plan aid
The roadways are opened up

- A road in Palermo
- The Corinth Canal
- Dunkirk Harbor
- Paris rail yards
THE WHEELS OF INDUSTRY

Textiles in France

Coal mining in England

Shipbuilding in Italy

BEGIN TO TURN

Electric power for Paris

Metalworks in Belgium

Mining iron in Norway
THE FARMS INCREASE

- In Hertfordshire, England, this American hay-baler does the work of six

- Koula, a Missouri mule, pulls in harness with a Greek grey mare

THEIR YIELD

- Pruning vines in Burgundy which have been sprayed with copper sulfate—copper from ECA

- Dry soil in Tunisia is plowed deep, with an American caterpillar tractor
EUROPE GETS HOUSES TO LIVE IN

- Norway: Wooden houses to replace those the Germans destroyed

- Trieste: Modern apartments for workers

- A "counterpart" housing project in Italy

- Miners' homes in Holland of concrete blocks made with an American block molding machine
STONGER BODIES

Greece: The personal problem of spaghetti

Germany: Miners must eat to work

Holland: The Red Cross collects plasma with a Marshall Plan truck

AND CALM MINDS

CLOSE TO HALF THE MARSHALL PLAN PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN FOR FOOD, THE FIRST REQUIREMENT. SHIPMENTS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, RELATIVELY SMALL IN DOLLARS, HAVE PAID HUGE DIVIDENDS IN HEALTH AND STRENGTH

England: Something for everybody

France: Streptomycin for tuberculosis
CHANGING THE FACE

OF A CONTINENT

MORE LAND FOR FARMERS AND MORE POWER FOR FACTORIES ARE PART OF A 'TECHNICAL UNIFICATION' OF WESTERN EUROPE WHICH SERVES AS AN OUTRIDER FOR ITS ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

BEFORE

○ This was the island of Urk in the Zuider Zee in 1938. A few fishermen made a living here

AFTER

○ The island is gone in 1949. Farmlands support a bustling community

○ Reclaiming land in the Svena area of Italy

○ The Genissiat Dam on the Upper Rhone is part of the largest construction project under way in the world today
LOOKING AHEAD: TOWARDS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

• Austrian electrical engineers (above) study a new generator at Schenectady, N. Y., while (below) one of 33 Dutch farm boys visiting America learns to operate a self-propelled combine on a Pennsylvania farm.

CLOSING THE DOLLAR GAP

TOURISM

• American tourists—here shown studying an Alpine ski slope—are visiting a renovated Europe in ever-increasing numbers.

EXPORT

• A 1950 display in Macy's. American merchants have asked for, and are receiving, a rising flow of goods from the revitalized industries of free Europe.
THE MARSHALL PLAN

- Manchester dockworkers take time out from unloading a U. S. ship

- Flour from Higginsville, Missouri, goes down the hatch in Greece

- A Belgian workman by a Bessemer converter

IS FOR PEOPLE

- Aase Nielsen moves into her family's new house in Copenhagen

- Mme. Marie Martin, 71, weaves Marshall Plan cotton in France

- A Turkish draftsman works on plans for new mines