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INTERNATIONAL

Into Naples harbour comes America's Christmas present to Europe - the Friendship. A little late for the season's festivities, Italians nevertheless welcomed the near 12,000 tons of food it brought. Throughout the United States, millions of Americans had dug a little deeper into their larder to make up the Friendship's cargo.

By special train, the food parcels were sent all over Italy. A generous gesture from the United States, the Friendship consignment heralds more American economic aid.

Naples' Mayor was there to supervise distribution. In a country where black market speculators hold an iron grip on food distribution, America's gift is doubly welcome. The Friendship docked, in a week that brought the signing of the interim-aid bill for Italy, France and Austria. Under it, America will give them an immediate 100 million pound loan.

In return for food, Italy hopes to export clothes. A Rome fashion parade - held at midnight to suit all night birds - had something for everyone. For men, it brought the New Look - still very much like the old. For women, it brought something new in designs.

It seems unlikely that these fashions will be considered essential imports for Britain. Whether British women would wear ~~skirted~~ designs the music halls attribute only to the French, is still another matter.

This is Italy's latest in nightdresses.

Called "Good Old Times," this Victorian style is reborn at 1948's first fashion parade.

A Pathe dispatch from France tells the story of the worst French floods for 50 years. Melting snow and five days of rain caused rivers to burst their banks. Between Metz and Nancy, the water is still rising. Throughout Alsace - Lorraine, thousands of people who lost their homes during the war, are once again homeless.

In the streets of Nancy, the river has risen by more than 30 inches. Army transports have come to the rescue of those trapped by the swelling tide. Epinal bridge has been completely destroyed by the swiftly running Moselle.

In some areas, the waters are now receding. To a troubled France, nature has now added its own disaster.