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Thirty-fifth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA  
OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES

Letter dated 24 September 1980 from the Vice-Chancellor and Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany to the  
Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as an important and urgent matter, of an additional item entitled "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached.

(Signed) Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER  
Vice-Chancellor and Minister  
for Foreign Affairs  
of the Federal Republic of Germany

## ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. For several years now the world has witnessed large numbers of people in numerous regions being forced to flee their homelands and seek refuge in other regions. Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children risk life and limb on an uncertain flight to a usually unknown destination.
2. The Secretary-General has, in his annual report to the General Assembly, a/ called the world's attention to this tragedy.
3. These cases of mass flight have now attained proportions unequalled in the past decades. According to probably conservative estimates there are at present between 10 and 12 million refugees in the world. An end to these flows of refugees is not in sight; rather, it must be feared that this trend will continue for an indefinite period of time or even worsen.
4. An increasing number of States Members of the United Nations, especially developing countries, are affected by these large-scale refugee movements. In our world, marked by close and manifold interdependence, the plight of refugees has repercussions extending beyond the bounds of nations and continents.
5. In recent years many countries have unselfishly and generously given refugees a home and assistance. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees deserves special thanks for his untiring and ever-increasing service. The United Nations and its specialized agencies have given priority to the task of alleviating the refugees' plight. This is also true of other humanitarian relief organizations.
6. This work is imperative; it will have to be continued and, wherever possible, increased. Nevertheless, it cannot eliminate the real causes of refugee movements, but only combat the symptoms. We are confronted by the question as to how much longer the international community will be able to accept the fact that millions of people are subjected to suffering through no fault of their own and that the countries providing asylum for large numbers of refugees have to bear social, economic and political burdens which they are scarcely able to cope with on their own. This can endanger the domestic order of these nations and jeopardize the stability of entire regions.
7. The Charter of the United Nations requires us to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, to co-operate and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security. The United Nations is therefore called upon to seek ways and means of avoiding the development of new streams of refugees. We must give this matter high priority in view of the dangers and misery it involves.

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a/ See A/35/1, sect. VI.

8. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany therefore proposes that, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the topic "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees" be included as an additional item of an important and urgent character in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. This item should be referred to the Special Political Committee.

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