
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SOBHY (Egypt)

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AGENDA ITEM 83: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES:
REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/34/SR.46
29 November 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 83: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES: REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (continued) (A/34/12 and Add.1, A/34/58, A/34/385, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/627; A/C.3/34/7, A/C.3/34/8; A/C.3/34/L.35, L.36, L.37)

1. Mr. MULLOY (Ireland) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the endeavours of the various United Nations agencies and organizations to alleviate the plight of refugees, and supported the High Commissioner's efforts to uphold the principles of asylum and non-refoulement and to promote accessions to the Convention and Protocol on the Status of Refugees.

2. In terms of numbers of refugees and displaced persons, the region with the most serious problems remained the continent of Africa. Although work on the repatriation of refugees to Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Uganda and Zaire had begun, the humanitarian problems of the Horn of Africa and of southern Africa remained. Both at the Arusha Conference and at the OAU summit conference in Monrovia, the African States had demonstrated that they were determined to find solutions within Africa to African refugee problems, without in any way infringing the right of refugees to asylum and non-refoulement.

3. His Government, conscious of the increasing demands on the Office of the High Commissioner, had more than doubled its contribution to UNHCR and had greatly increased its contributions to other United Nations bodies, such as UNICEF and WFP. In 1979, it had contributed \$700,000 for relief in South-East Asia and had welcomed more than 200 Vietnamese refugees.

4. With regard to the problem of refugees in South-East Asia, the High Commissioner had been extremely active in respect of resettlement, refugee centres and orderly return; the success of those efforts required further resettlement facilities and refugee centres. In October, the Government of Thailand had announced that all Kampuchean refugees entering Thailand would be granted temporary asylum and would be treated with full respect for the principle of non-refoulement. That had facilitated the work of UNHCR and had caused the European Community to allocate to the assistance of Kampuchean refugees in Thailand part of the Community's financial aid of \$35 million foreseen for the Kampuchean relief effort.

5. Although the Secretary-General had spoken of the fragility of the situation in South-East Asia so long as the root causes had not been resolved, the Committee was concerned first and foremost with the humanitarian aspect. Some progress had already been achieved so far as the refugee situation was concerned, but further efforts were required to deal with the difficulties faced by places of first asylum in the region, including Hong Kong.

6. The human tragedy of Kampuchea was continuing despite the efforts of the international community to bring it to an end. A number of international agencies,

(Mr. Mulloy, Ireland)

such as UNICEF, WFP and the International Committee of the Red Cross, had taken practical action. The European Community and its member States had contributed or pledged more than \$66 million for relief operations in Kampuchea and hoped that the supplies which had arrived in Kampuchea or were en route there would be distributed quickly and impartially to those who most required them.

7. Mrs. KRISHTALEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said the fact that there were hundreds of thousands of refugees in southern Africa was due to the racist policies of the régimes in power there. Millions of people had been confined to bantustans, and the policy of apartheid resulted in ruthless repression of the African indigenous population. The only solution was the elimination of colonialism and the granting of genuine independence to the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

8. The Byelorussian SSR was also greatly concerned at the tragedy of the Palestinian people. The Israeli occupation forces were depriving 3 million Palestinians of their right to self-determination and to the creation of their own independent State.

9. South-East Asia was also facing serious refugee problems following 30 years of imperialist wars of aggression and, after victory had been achieved, the difficulties involved in starting a new life. The Soviet Union and the socialist countries were giving the peoples of Indo-China considerable assistance in their struggle to **construct a new society**.

10. There was a campaign of slander against Viet Nam, initiated by persons of Chinese origin who had left the country. That campaign charged Viet Nam with responsibility for the tragedy of the Kampuchean people. The only guilty party in that terrible situation was the Pol Pot régime. The Government of Viet Nam was doing all it could to deal with the situation and had shown a pragmatic attitude at the Geneva Meeting in July. The representative of Viet Nam had given a detailed account of the refugee problem in South-East Asia and had indicated what action he believed could solve it. Assistance to the people of Kampuchea must not be used as a pretext for supporting the remnants of the Pol Pot régime, since that would hinder the process of establishing a new and peaceful life in Kampuchea.

11. In the view of her delegation, the refugee problem was caused mainly by reactionary forces, and the task of the international community was related to the truly humanitarian aspects of the assistance required. All must act together in seeking a solution which respected the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and excluded any political overtones.

12. Mr. NISIBORI (Japan) expressed the readiness of his Government to make further efforts to contribute to the valuable work of UNHCR.

13. The growth in the work of UNHCR was a reflection of the tragic events which had forced increasing numbers of people to leave their homes in search of a new

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(Mr. Nisibori, Japan)

life elsewhere. In Africa, the areas of greatest concern were the Horn of Africa and southern Africa; the number of refugees in Somalia, the Sudan, Zaire, Mozambique and Zambia was high, and the Governments of those countries must therefore be given assistance in bearing the burden. The refugee population in Latin America had also increased, owing mainly to developments in Nicaragua.

14. The situation had become particularly grave in South-East Asia. According to the Secretary-General's report, in the month of April alone 25,000 "boat people" had arrived in various countries of the region and tens of thousands of refugees had crossed the border into Thailand. In response to those circumstances, the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner had convened the Geneva Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, at which it had been acknowledged that, although the refugee problem had political roots, finding adequate solutions to the humanitarian aspects of the question would contribute to the creation of an atmosphere in which other aspects of the problem were more likely to be resolved.

15. The results of the Meeting had been significant; however, if the problem was to be resolved, it was necessary, firstly, that Viet Nam should continue its efforts to stop the illegal departures of its nationals, and, secondly, that international co-operation should be strengthened with respect to the permanent resettlement of refugees and financial contributions to UNHCR. The latter would lighten the burden of the countries of first asylum.

16. In view of the critical situation in Kampuchea, the Government of Japan welcomed the international relief efforts and the initiative of the Secretary-General in convening the Pledging Conference. Thus far, Japan's total contributions to Kampuchean relief programmes amounted to approximately \$10 million. The Japanese Red Cross, representing the private sector, had also decided to send a medical team to the area.

17. In addition to the assistance he had mentioned, the Government of Japan had contributed \$31.5 million to the 1979 refugee relief programme, a portion of which went to Kampuchea. The possibility of an additional contribution of \$30 million to UNHCR for its 1979 Indo-China relief programme was under consideration. Japan was always prepared to co-operate to the fullest extent of its abilities in international relief measures for refugees.

18. Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) said that the refugee situation in Africa had deteriorated and would continue to do so as long as peace-loving peoples failed to take a strong stand against the racism and expansionism of imperialist and reactionary forces. Those who were concerned at the plight of refugees should also be concerned with the practices which were responsible for that plight.

19. His delegation believed that the refugee problem in Africa must be solved in an African context, with the co-operation of international organizations and agencies. As evidence of what Africa was doing, he referred to the 1969 Convention on African Refugees, to which Ethiopia was a party, and the recent Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa, held at Arusha. A positive understanding by the international community of Africa's difficulties would also be necessary if an enduring solution was to be found.

(Mr. Bekele, Ethiopia)

20. Ethiopia supported the principle of voluntary repatriation as one of the means of tackling the problem of refugees. The Ethiopian Government had declared a general amnesty for all Ethiopians whom it considered bona fide refugees in the Sudan, in the hope of obtaining the co-operation of the Government of the Sudan and UNHCR assistance in the necessary settlement programmes.

21. Ethiopia had a settlement programme for some 500,000 displaced persons in south-east Ethiopia, whose lives had been disrupted as a result of foreign aggression. It was grateful for the assistance so far received through UNHCR, but the needs far exceeded the assistance UNHCR had allocated for 1980. Ethiopia had also received a large number of refugees from neighbouring countries, for whom more assistance was indispensable. A visit by the High Commissioner would be very opportune, so that he could personally assess the magnitude of the resettlement programme for displaced persons and the work that was being done to integrate into Ethiopian society the refugees who were in the country.

22. He expressed his delegation's appreciation to the High Commissioner and his staff for the efficient performance of their duties, which called for sensitivity to the plight of the individual refugee and a tactful working relationship with Governments and organizations. The extent to which they fulfilled those requirements determined the response of the international community to their appeals.

23. Ethiopia had previously drawn attention to certain false claims concerning refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa. Those claims related to groups of people who in most cases were either instruments of aggression and disruption or nomads being manipulated to serve as excuses for receiving money or material. The so-called Ethiopian refugees mentioned in document A/34/12 must be included in that category; those unverified and undocumented cases exposed UNHCR's reporting methods to needless criticism and could even make international co-operation more difficult.

24. His delegation was seriously concerned at the situation of the many refugees in South-East Asia. The peoples of Viet Nam and Kampuchea needed international assistance in rebuilding their countries, and it must be given without any attempt to make political capital of the assistance or of the problem as a whole.

25. Mr. SUWONDO (Indonesia) said that changes of government, armed conflicts and civil wars, and the struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid were some of the factors which forced people to leave their countries and seek refuge in other countries. The presence of such refugees in various countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America placed a heavy burden on their economies, since most of them were developing countries with limited resources.

26. Document A/34/12 stated that the inflow of refugees into Indonesia in 1978 had been 2,932. In the one month of April 1979, 4,610 refugees had landed in several islands of Indonesia; in May the figure had increased to 10,035, and in June to 22,745. The arrival of the "boat people" had also affected Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

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(Mr. Suwondo, Indonesia)

27. In an effort to overcome the situation, the Government of Indonesia had convened a meeting in Jakarta in May, which had been attended by 24 countries, including Viet Nam and the States members of ASEAN, and by the Office of the High Commissioner. At that meeting, Indonesia had offered the island of Galang, south of Singapore, as a processing centre for refugees to be resettled in third countries. As the situation had continued to deteriorate, the ASEAN Ministers for Foreign Affairs, meeting in Bali at the end of June, had called on the international community to find a solution to the problem of refugees emanating from Indo-China. In response to that call, the Secretary-General had convened the Geneva Meeting in July.

28. Three points of consensus had emerged from the Geneva Meeting: (a) efforts must be made to reduce the backlog of refugees staying in first countries of arrival by resettlement on a larger and faster scale; (b) there must be an orderly departure of persons wishing to leave Viet Nam for other countries; (c) processing centres for refugees must be established.

29. There were 40,715 refugees in Indonesia. The influx in September and October had been 432 and 329 persons respectively. The outflow of refugees or displaced persons for resettlement elsewhere had been encouraging - 1,294 in September and 3,592 in October - although still below expectations.

30. His delegation appealed for an acceleration of the process of resettlement and a cessation of the outflow of persons from the countries of origin. In that connexion, it hoped that the Government of Viet Nam would intensify its efforts to prevent illegal departures, thereby relieving the burden of the ASEAN countries, which were the first destination of those refugees.

31. Although the Geneva Meeting had dealt with the problem of the so-called "boat people", the problem of the "land cases" in Thailand had not been dealt with sufficiently. The situation had worsened with the arrival of some 200,000 persons from Kampuchea during the past few weeks. His delegation believed that the Committee should address itself to that issue. At the same time, it was gratified to note the magnanimous response of the international community at the recent Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea.

32. Mr. NYIRONGO (Zambia) said it was evident from the report of the High Commissioner that the international community was responding with greater determination to the problems caused by waves of refugees; however, much more remained to be done. Zambia was greatly concerned about the sufferings of the refugees in all parts of the world. There were over 90,000 refugees in Zambia from Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa, who had fled from repression and torture by the racist minority régimes. The principal cause of the problem was the fact that the racist régimes, in order to contain the forces of liberation, had intensified their repressive machinery, killing thousands of Africans and forcing many others to flee from their countries. The refugees were mostly children and old women who had left the work of liberating their countries to the younger generation. In spite of the fact that the refugees were non-combatants, the racist régimes made them the targets of their attacks, killing thousands of innocent people. Providing security for them

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(Mr. Nyirongo, Zambia)

was therefore a basic task, and they also had to be provided with food and services. As Zambia had to devote part of its very limited resources to that purpose, more assistance was needed from the international community.

33. The problem of refugees was growing, despite the efforts that were being made, and its causes must therefore be dealt with. The decolonization of countries like Namibia and Rhodesia, and indeed South Africa, would go a long way towards finding an answer to the problem.

34. His delegation appealed to those who had the resources to continue to render increased assistance, so that the Office of the High Commissioner could discharge its protective and preventive functions with regard to refugees.

35. Mr. KHALIFA (Sudan) said that his country had known refugee problems both as a country of origin and as a recipient of refugees. The Sudan continued to be host to 412,000 registered refugees, despite the fact that it was among the least developed countries.

36. The assistance of UNHCR had made it possible to organize the refugees and to provide them with relatively adequate services, thus enabling them to become self-supporting. The problem was increasing, because 78 per cent of the refugees lived in urban areas and shared with the local population services which were often insufficient. For that reason, the Sudan required more financial resources, and he requested the High Commissioner to review his programme with a view to meeting his country's growing needs.

37. His Government planned to make 1980 a refugee year, so that the international community could focus on the problems facing the refugees in the Sudan.

38. The Sudan supported the proposal of UNHCR regarding a fund for durable solutions to the problems of refugees throughout the world. It also supported the statement made by the representative of the United States in the Second Committee on agenda item 59, in which he had said that United Nations bodies should help not only by direct assistance to refugees but also by directing a portion of development assistance activity to enabling those developing countries willing to do so to bear the burden of accepting refugees. Lastly, his delegation was pleased to see that the Executive Committee had approved that concept at its thirtieth session, and he hoped that the study on the establishment of the fund would be finalized expeditiously, so that the General Assembly might approve it as early as possible.

39. He commended the Secretary-General's efforts on behalf of refugees in South-East Asia and the two successful meetings that had been held on the subject. The international community had to lend the fullest possible support to countries of first asylum. His country was also pleased with the results of the Arusha Conference on refugees in Africa, where half the world's refugees were concentrated. The Arusha Conference and the resolutions of the sixteenth Summit Conference of the

(Mr. Khalifa, Sudan)

Heads of State or Government of the OAU had shown the genuine interest of African countries in finding lasting solutions to refugees problem in Africa. He hoped that the international community would respond with immediate and generous assistance for those efforts and that the States Members of the United Nations that had not done so would ratify or accede to the international instruments relating to the protection of refugees. His delegation was one of the sponsors of resolution A/C.3/34/L.36.

40. Mrs. de ARANA (Peru) commended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for carrying out his work on the basis of humanitarian principles and without regard to political considerations. The refugee problem had worsened, particularly in South-East Asia. The international community should recognize the generosity and self-sacrifice with which Thailand was accommodating the massive influx of Kampuchean and should provide all possible assistance to alleviate the problem and find a definitive solution to it. The other countries of the region, too, had constructively tackled the serious difficulties created by the problem, and the United Nations should play an important part in the concerted efforts demanded by large-scale humanitarian assistance.

41. Little more than half of the States Members of the United Nations were parties to the basic instruments of protection for refugees, and her delegation therefore shared the views expressed by the High Commissioner on the need for ratification of and compliance with those international instruments. Peru was a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and had recently acceded to the Inter-American Human Rights Convention which contained major provisions regarding asylum and the principle of non-refoulement.

42. Although their limited resources prevented many countries from providing significant material assistance, her country wanted to collaborate decisively in seeking solutions to the problems of refugees, because it considered that their sufferings were of concern to all humanity. Together with the other countries of the Andean Group, Peru supported draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.37 and considered that the specialized agencies of the United Nations should attach high priority to assistance for alleviating the situation.

43. The same countries were also sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.35, and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

44. Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria) said that the task of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been greatly increased in two areas. In South-East Asia, as a result of the situation in Kampuchea, the problems of refugees had aroused much public attention and had been the subject of two major international conferences. At the same time, although the problem of refugees in Africa had become worse and was unparalleled in its numbers and effects, it was seemingly happening almost unnoticed. The military activities of the puppet régime in Zimbabwe and the apartheid régime in South Africa had caused a rise in the number of

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(Mr. Adeniji, Nigeria)

refugees and endangered their lives, even in the refugee camps outside the territories under the jurisdiction of the racist régimes. It should be recalled that for many States in Africa, being developing countries themselves, it was extremely difficult to shoulder the difficulties resulting from the reception and care of large groups of refugees.

45. The Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa had made two major recommendations which had not received the publicity they deserved: that the principle of non-refoulement should be scrupulously observed and that agreements for burden-sharing of difficulties stemming from the exodus of refugees should be strengthened in the framework of African solidarity and international co-operation.

46. The international community must adopt the principle of burden-sharing throughout the world. That implied the provision of assistance for tackling the problem of refugees. The countries of Africa must receive more assistance, particularly because they had adhered to the principle of non-refoulement and because of their readiness to grant asylum and permanent settlement to refugees. The African open arms policy on refugee problems in their own continent should not be met by indifference among the international community. The fact was that there were 4 million refugees in a continent which was in dire need of development.

47. Mr. SIMELANE (Swaziland) said that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had done enormous work to alleviate the plight of millions of refugees. At the same time, the praiseworthy work done by Governments such as his in sheltering and protecting refugees or in making contributions in kind to assist them should be stressed.

48. When conditions became stable in any given area, assistance to refugees returning to their homes became vital for solving the problem. It was gratifying to note from the High Commissioner's statement that, besides the activities under way to repatriate refugees to some countries in Africa, preparatory work had been initiated for refugees from other countries of origin as part of that effort.

49. His Government received refugees of all kinds. Because of its geographical position, the immediate problem facing Swaziland was that of South African student refugees. The Office of the High Commissioner had done everything in its power to solve the problem so that those young people could be integrated in his country's already overcrowded schools. His delegation expressed its appreciation to the Office of the High Commissioner and the donor countries for their unwavering financial support. It was his hope that the States Members of the United Nations would continue their financial support for the UNHCR, to provide continuing assistance to refugees and displaced persons throughout the world. The world community had an obligation to provide assistance to the refugees, and any support to such people elevated the noble ideals of the United Nations as laid down in the Charter.

50. His delegation was co-sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.36 and would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.37.

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51. Mrs. COOPERSMITH (United States of America) said that, just as in the wake of the Second World War there had been a flood of European refugees, the world was once more confronting a refugee problem of monumental proportions, particularly in Indo-China. First there had been the boat people from Viet Nam, and at the moment it was the famine-stricken people of Kampuchea who were fleeing to Thailand, whose Government and people had made a generous response to the needs of those refugees. Finding the means to assist them posed a difficult task for the High Commissioner and the international community.

52. Reflecting the personal concern of the President and people of the United States, Mrs. Rosalyn Carter had visited the areas in Thailand where thousands of Kampuchean refugees were living in deplorable conditions. She had met the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General and would continue to give support and encouragement to the voluntary groups in the United States that had already demonstrated that profound concern over the problem. The Government of the United States had already authorized the High Commissioner to make immediate use for Kampuchean refugees of \$4 million from the United States' contribution to the UNHCR. It was also to send mobile equipment to provide drinking water for the refugee camps and communications equipment to improve co-ordination between the refugee camps and support agencies in Bangkok.

53. While acknowledging the tragic circumstances of the people of Kampuchea and the plight of those fleeing from Viet Nam and Laos, it should not be forgotten that it was in Africa that the greatest concentration of refugees in the world was to be found. The High Commissioner had made it clear that his Office gave the highest priority to the African refugee problems. The international community should support the High Commissioner in that commitment, as the United States would certainly do; it had set for itself the goal of providing one third of the costs of the High Commissioner's general programme in Africa.

54. The role of the High Commissioner was essential for the well-being of the millions of refugees throughout the world. Additional resources should be made available in order to meet the immense problem facing him; it was not enough to provide refugees with camps where they could eke out an existence, and they must be assisted to return to productive and self-sufficient lives. The refugee problem had placed a heavy burden on certain developing countries, and they required additional resources if the refugee programmes of the High Commissioner was to succeed. Her delegation called upon the specialized agencies of the United Nations to give high priority to assisting those developing countries that had taken in large numbers of refugees. Her Government also considered that the work of the High Commissioner was the responsibility of all nations and noted that only 87 countries had so far contributed to the general programme for 1978. She hoped that all countries would contribute to the work of the High Commissioner and would play an active part in it.

55. Mr. ROHEEN (Afghanistan) said that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan had always been a staunch supporter of the humanitarian activities of the United Nations and gave unreserved backing to the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Revolutionary Government of Afghanistan had taken positive measures to solve the settlement problems in its country, and had provided thousands of nomads with free land, seeds, equipment and

(Mr. Roheen, Afghanistan)

credit. The April 1977 revolution had brought to an end an anachronistic system of feudalism, oppression and nepotism, and had laid the foundations for a democratic order devoted to the cause of social and economic justice.

56. With the overwhelming success of the popular Government in Afghanistan, a number of reactionaries, feudal lords, usurers and anti-revolutionaries had fled to Pakistan. In the view of his Government, to render assistance to those fugitive insurgents, who launched constant armed attacks on Afghan territory, was in fact to encourage their activities against the revolution and against the interests of the people of Afghanistan. That fact had already been brought to the attention of the competent authorities of the United Nations. The representative of Pakistan in the Committee had stated that an astronomical number of Afghans had fled to his country. That was not a fact, as could be seen even from newspapers published in Pakistan. His Government sincerely desired to resolve problems with Pakistan through realistic negotiations.

57. In recent years many positive changes had occurred in international relations which helped to safeguard sovereignty, the territorial integrity of States, equality, the non-use of force in international relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Those changes had been the immediate consequence of the victory of progressive and peace-loving forces over imperialism, hegemonism and reaction. It was disturbing, however, that in recent years imperialism and reaction appeared to have adopted a new and dangerous practice of providing fugitives, or so-called refugees, with considerable assistance in order to strengthen their armed attacks, aggression and destructive action against progressive nations such as Afghanistan.

58. What was more disturbing, however, was that the United Nations was likely to get involved in that latest manoeuvre by imperialism, expansionism and reaction. Both the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees contained clauses, specifying the circumstances in which a person could not be considered a refugee. Under those provisions, the rendering of assistance by the Office of the High Commissioner to the fugitive elements which were committing acts of armed aggression against Afghanistan, massacring innocent civilians and jeopardizing the peace and security of the region was in contravention of the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner and the 1951 Convention, and of the Charter of the United Nations.

59. His delegation urged the Office of the High Commissioner to end immediately its programme of assistance to those criminal fugitives, and to study and examine the situation in that region thoroughly and objectively. It hoped that the Office would strive to recognize the facts and realities of the situation, and would base its decisions on such facts and realities. Any sector which provided territory, means and camouflage for the subversive activities of fugitive elements against Afghanistan would be held responsible for endangering peace in the region.

60. Mr. DYRLUND (Denmark), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.35 on behalf of the sponsors, announced that the following sentence should be added after the word "Office" in the second line of the first preambular paragraph: "", as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on its thirtieth session,".

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(Mr. Dyrlund, Denmark)

61. The draft resolution followed to a great extent the corresponding sections of earlier General Assembly resolutions on the same subject. References to the Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa held in Arusha, and to the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South East Asia, convened by the Secretary-General in Geneva, had, however, been added to the draft.

62. The first two operative paragraphs commended the High Commissioner and his staff for the efficient manner in which they were discharging their responsibilities and requested the High Commissioner to continue to promote durable and speedy solutions to refugee problems. Paragraph 3 urged Governments to intensify their support to the humanitarian activities of the High Commissioner, and paragraph 4 should be seen in the light of the continued gravity of the problems of refugees and displaced persons throughout the world. Paragraph 5 called on Governments to continue to contribute generously towards the financing of the High Commissioner's activities. In that connexion, he drew attention to the statement made by the High Commissioner on the previous Monday, in which he had emphasized the importance of adequate government funding in order to start to provide assistance in 1980 without delay and at a sufficient level. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

63. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) introduced the provisional text of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.36 on behalf of all the countries members of the African Group.

64. There were 4 million refugees in Africa, the highest figure in the world. That situation had prompted the African Group to introduce the draft resolution which incorporated, inter alia, the conclusions of the Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa, held in Arusha, and took note of resolution CM/Res.727 of the Council of Ministers of OAU, endorsed by the sixteenth Summit Conference, on the situation of refugees in Africa and on perspective solutions to their problems in the 1980s. Paragraphs 3 and 4 drew attention to the urgent need for increased resources to care for African refugees and appealed to Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to intensify their relevant activities and programmes. The draft resolution described the situation of refugees in Africa and requested the international community to respond to that situation with humanitarian assistance.

65. Paragraph 6 had been slightly revised to read: "Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to assist the High Commissioner in giving the widest possible dissemination of information on the plight of the African refugees;".

66. Mr. KASEMSRI (Thailand) introduced the provisional text of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.37 on behalf of the sponsors. On the basis of the Secretary-General's report on the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South East Asia (A/34/627) held in Geneva, many delegations had decided that the General Assembly should adopt a separate resolution on that subject. Draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.36 covered only the humanitarian and non-political aspects of the question, and was based on the Secretary-General's report. In accordance with the tradition in the Committee that resolutions on the subject were adopted without a vote, the sponsors

(Mr. Kasemsri, Thailand)

had endeavoured to conduct the necessary consultations so that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

67. The reference in the final preambular paragraph to the Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea was to be understood in the context of the refugee problem. Some delegations had requested the sponsors to clarify some of the expressions used in paragraph 4. The key word in that paragraph was "continue", which meant that the paragraph was intended to cover only those areas where co-operation already existed, such as co-operation in the form of the regulation of the safe and orderly flow of refugees. Any other areas not covered by the Secretary-General's report remained outside the scope of the draft resolution. The words "at source" referred to geographical source, in other words the geographical points where the flow of refugees started; they did not refer to the causes of the problem and had no political implications.

68. The sponsors had agreed to revise paragraph 6 to read as follows: "Requests United Nations specialized agencies and bodies concerned to give priority to their participation in rendering assistance to alleviate the problem, and to co-operate closely with Governments and to find durable solutions to the problem". In the provisional text of the Spanish version, the English word "durable" had not been translated correctly.

69. Mr. CABRERA (Spain) said that his country, which was accommodating many refugees, principally from Latin America and Equatorial Guinea, realized the importance of the work done by UNHCR. Spain had acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and made financial contributions which it intended to increase. His delegation wished to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.35.

70. Miss CHICOYE (France) and Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) said that their delegations also wished to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.35.

71. Mrs. LUANGHY (Zaire) said that the Office of the High Commissioner had contributed generously to the efforts of the Government of Zaire, since the declaration of the general amnesty in June 1978, to repatriate Zairians who had sought refuge outside the country. Her delegation was also grateful to the various United Nations agencies, such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme, as well as to the Government of Switzerland and individual institutions, for their contribution to the success of the repatriation operation.

72. Her delegation supported the efforts of the High Commissioner to render humanitarian assistance to the refugees in South-East Asia. The Arusha Conference of May 1979 had again emphasized the enormous problem of the 4 million refugees in Africa. Conscious of the importance of the world refugee problem, the delegation of Zaire had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.3/34/L.35 and L.36, which it hoped would be adopted by consensus. Her delegation also wished to express its full support for draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.37.

73. Mr. OKOTH (Uganda) said that approximately half the inhabitants of Uganda had become refugees, and many of them were still outside the country. For that reason,

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(Mr. Okoth, Uganda)

he would like to thank the High Commissioner for all the assistance he had given, and was continuing to give, to facilitate the return of all Ugandans to their country. His delegation was joining the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.3/34/L.35 and L.36.

74. Mrs. BOA (Ivory Coast), Mrs. BEHI (Somalia), Mr. KHALIFA (Sudan), Mr. NYIRONGO (Zambia), Miss ABOUL NAGA (Egypt) and Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) announced that their delegations wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.35.

75. Mrs. BOA (Ivory Coast), Mr. NYIRONGO (Zambia), Mrs. BARRY (Senegal), Ms. KEKEDO (Papua New Guinea) and Mr. NDOMBI (Congo) announced that their delegations wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.36.

76. Mr. KASEMSRI (Thailand) said that, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution contained in the provisional version of document A/C.3/34/L.37, he wished to introduce a number of amendments to paragraph 4 of that text. In the third and fourth lines, the words "to solve" should be replaced by the words "to deal with", and the words "at source" should be deleted. In the fifth and sixth lines, the phrase beginning with the words "full respect for" and ending with the words "as well as" should be deleted. In the penultimate line, the word "only" should be deleted, and the words "and not any other purpose" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

77. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that his country was responsible for Hong Kong, a Territory which, despite its small size, was now absorbing a large percentage of refugees. He thought a reference to the Territory should be included in draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.37. He therefore proposed that, in the third preambular paragraph, the words "and developing territories" should be inserted after the words "many countries", and that in the same paragraph, the words "the developing countries of" should be replaced by the word "in". In the fourth line of paragraph 5, the words "and adjacent territories" should be inserted after the words "South-East Asia".

78. Mr. HOLLOWAY (Australia) said that, although the heaviest burden arising from the refugee problem undoubtedly fell on developing countries, some developed countries were also suffering from it. He therefore proposed that the reference to the territories should be inserted in the third preambular paragraph without altering the original wording of the paragraph, in the following manner: "Expressing its deep concern with the serious plight of the refugees and displaced persons in South-East Asia, and the severe burden that the problem causes for many countries and territories, particularly the developing countries of South-East Asia".

79. Mr. KASEMSRI (Thailand), on behalf of the sponsors, accepted the United Kingdom amendment in the revised form proposed by the representative of Australia.

80. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the three draft resolutions on the item had been introduced during the meeting. Although the sponsors had given clarifications and accepted suggestions from other delegations, the item was so important that no immediate vote should be taken on them. His delegation was aware that the Committee's work had fallen behind schedule, but considered it impossible to achieve consensus during the current meeting. He therefore requested that, in accordance with the rules of procedure, a vote on the draft resolutions should be postponed until the next meeting.

81. The CHAIRMAN said that his repeated requests to delegations to facilitate the conduct of the discussions had met with no response. Such an approach would prevent the Committee from concluding its work within the time-limit. Although the Chairman could waive the rule that draft resolutions should not be voted upon on the day they were introduced, he did not intend to make use of that prerogative on that occasion and would postpone the vote on the draft resolutions until the following meeting.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

82. The CHAIRMAN said that, at the beginning of the meeting to be held on the morning of Thursday, 15 November, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs would introduce agenda items 76 and 77. The general debate on those items would begin at the same meeting, and a vote would be taken on the three pending draft resolutions relating to agenda item 83. The four delegations which had requested the right of reply would also be given the floor for that purpose, with their agreement, at the meeting of Thursday, 15 November. He reminded the Committee that the length of each statement had been restricted to ten minutes, and urged speakers to ensure that their statements were relevant to the draft resolutions.

83. He suggested that the deadline for the submission of all draft resolutions under any agenda item should be 27 November at 6 p.m.

84. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.