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Chairman: Mr. S. Amjad ALI (Pakistan).

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/2126 and addendum, A/2126/Corr.1, A/2172, chapter IV, section VI)

[Item 27]*

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. van Heuven Goedhart, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, took a place at the Committee table.

1. Mr. VAN HEUVEN GOEDHART (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) stressed the human importance of the problem of helping millions of men, women and children to recover a fatherland, a home and the living conditions to which every human being was entitled. That humanitarian problem was the outcome of one of the most tragic situations in the contemporary world and he was happy that the United Nations had undertaken the responsibility of solving it. All those who had been asked to help in the work could only feel proud and grateful. He took the opportunity of paying a tribute to all his fellow-workers, whose efforts and devotion were worthy of the highest praise.

2. The solution of the refugee problem had three main aspects: voluntary repatriation, resettlement in a new country, or assimilation in the country of residence. Special attention also had to be paid to the requirements of the most needy refugees, that is, those who could not subsist without outside aid. Lastly, until the refugees had found a home, they were entitled to the protection of the United Nations, since they could not count on the protection of their respective governments. Those were the five tasks with which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was concerned.

3. With regard to voluntary repatriation, he recalled that in 1950 the General Assembly, by its resolution 428 (V), had called upon governments to assist the High Commissioner in his efforts to promote the voluntary

repatriation of refugees. Furthermore, article 8 of the Statute of the High Commissioner's Office (General Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex) provided that the High Commissioner should assist governmental and private efforts to promote voluntary repatriation, while article 9 stipulated that the High Commissioner should engage in such additional activities, including repatriation and resettlement, as the General Assembly might determine, within the limits of the resources placed at his disposal. No new task, such as that envisaged in article 9, had been entrusted to the High Commissioner. Under its terms of reference, the High Commissioner's Office was not supposed to take the initiative, and its functions were confined to promoting the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

4. With regard to the protection of refugees, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees had been signed by twenty States and he was happy to announce that Denmark had just deposited an instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General. The convention would enter into force on the ninetieth day from the date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification. There was reason to hope that the necessary number of ratifications would be made in the course of 1953, and that the convention, which represented a step towards the solution of the refugee problem, would thus enter into force. The High Commissioner's Office had been able to conclude special agreements with certain governments relating to the protection of refugees, in particular with the Governments of Germany and Italy, whose co-operation had made concrete progress possible.

5. The two solutions to which the High Commissioner's Office attached special importance were migration and resettlement of refugees in another country and their assimilation in the country in which they were then living.

6. Migration was probably the most desirable solution from the point of view of the refugees themselves. They wished to forget the past and to look only to the

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

future and therefore they usually preferred settlement in a new country to assimilation in the country in which they were residing. The High Commissioner's Office recognized that that solution should be given preference, and in the three-point programme which he had transmitted to the General Assembly he had therefore noted that assimilation in the country of residence should be considered only when resettlement in a new country was impossible. The High Commissioner's Office had accordingly asked for special status with the Provisional Inter-Governmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe. The Committee had not yet granted the request, but he was happy to say that the two bodies maintained a close liaison.

7. Although migration was the most desirable solution of the refugee problem, the existing possibilities were very limited. Among the European refugees a distinction had to be made between the group left behind by the International Refugee Organization and a smaller group of new refugees who had become such after IRO had suspended its activities. The members of the first group had for the most part been refused by the emigration and immigration services of various countries because their families comprised sick persons, handicapped persons and invalids whom the countries in question were not ready to admit and from whom the persons concerned refused to be separated. Although the chances of the second group seemed to be better, it should not be forgotten that the same difficulty might arise there too.

8. The countries which had admitted large numbers of refugees between 1945 and 1951 were unable to continue that policy without launching vast public works programmes such as road and school construction, in order to provide employment for refugees and assure them of a living. Thus, Australia, which for the past three years had admitted 160,000 refugees, had been obliged to reduce that number to 80,000 for 1953. The same situation prevailed in Latin-American countries. States willing to grant visas to refugees first had to consider the possibilities of creating the economic conditions necessary to support them.

9. Over-population in Europe presented another obstacle to the settlement of the refugee problem by migration. Italy, for example, had two million fully unemployed and about as many partially unemployed. The Italian Government naturally gave preference to its own nationals in its employment policy, and, not knowing whether it could offer refugees employment, it was unable to admit as many of them as it would wish.

10. Lastly, whereas IRO had had sufficient funds to pay the refugees' travelling expenses, now, but for a few exceptions, those expenses had to be borne by the refugees themselves, which naturally complicated the situation still further.

11. Consequently, while not underestimating the possibilities of migration and being resolved to explore them fully, he felt that it was a delusion to believe that that aspect, attractive as it was, should alone be considered. It was unthinkable that the refugees who could not emigrate and who still lived in camps in deplorable conditions and on the outskirts of society—there were more than 50,000 such persons in Europe—should be

abandoned to their fate. Assimilation must therefore also be taken into account, as the Advisory Committee on Refugees had indicated in its report.

12. Assimilation was not a purely economic matter. A refugee would be "assimilated" not when he merely had work enabling him to make a living in the country, but when he also felt around him an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding which enabled him to become fully integrated in the community. That was why assimilation was not within the competence of an international body, which could do no more than try to promote the creation of favourable economic conditions. Assimilation, in the proper sense of the term, required the aid of private and religious organizations and charitable persons, and he wished to pay a tribute to the persons and institutions already lending such aid in many countries. Under its terms of reference, it was not for the High Commissioner's Office to take the initiative in that method of solving the problem, and it confined itself to facilitating the efforts of governments and institutions.

13. He had prepared a report on the problem of integration of refugees in Austria, Germany and Greece, in which he had defined the conditions required. Beyond doubt, the most important of them was the extension of credit facilities. In Germany, a Displaced Persons Branch had been added to the Expellee Bank, which did not aid non-German refugees, and IRO had allocated 1,500,000 German marks (DM) to provide the initial capital for the Branch. The German Government had made a payment of DM2 million and, after the liquidation of IRO, a further sum of DM3 million had been added to the existing fund. The Bank had a total capital of about DM7 million and could therefore give about 1,400 loans of DM5,000 each. It should be noted that the refugees who had received such loans had made excellent use of them and had on the whole succeeded in becoming integrated into the economy of Germany. Nevertheless, considering that there were over 4,600 requests for loans, it would be readily seen that the funds were far from adequate. He also wished to mention a grant of \$US2,900,000 from the Ford Foundation for financing the integration of European refugees, in particular young refugees. A number of projects had already been approved. He hoped that new plans would soon be prepared, thus bringing the problem closer to a final solution.

14. The financing of integration took the form not so much of gifts to refugees as of repayable loans. He had approached the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which he thought could take an interest in the matter. From the resulting conversations it had appeared that the Bank was anxious to contribute to the solution of the problem so far as it was entitled to do so. It was therefore ready to finance certain particular projects, but it was unable, within the scope of its activities, to grant small loans to small private enterprises. In accordance with the Advisory Committee's request, he would continue to explore the possibilities and to seek ways and means to finance integration.

15. The governments of the countries concerned were doing all they could for the most needy refugee group, the unfortunates whom he had already mentioned and who needed immediate aid. The available means were unfortunately limited; that was why the Refugee

Emergency Fund had been set up. He noted with satisfaction that his appeal for funds for emergency aid to the most needy refugees had been heeded by a number of governments and charitable persons. The sum total of the available credits, however, was only \$US800,000. He hoped that by the end of the year it would reach \$US1 million, which would be about one-third of the amount originally recognized as necessary.

16. Among the needy refugees, those in Shanghai deserved special mention. It was a mistake to think that they were all old, ill or handicapped; that description applied to only 429 persons out of 3,157; the remainder were perfectly normal individuals capable of resettlement. The High Commissioner's Office was in full charge of refugees in Shanghai and unfortunately its funds would be exhausted by 1 October 1953. It therefore appealed to all governments and all charitable institutions for new contributions to enable it to continue a programme which could not possibly be abandoned. It also hoped that States Members of the United Nations would issue visas to refugees in that group.

17. He hoped that the General Assembly would give instructions to the High Commissioner's Office regarding the needy refugee group, particularly the refugees in Shanghai, and regarding the entire question of integration. He once more stressed the urgency of the refugee problem. Millions of human beings looked to the United Nations, which alone could come to their aid and give them a roof under which their families could be reunited.

GENERAL DEBATE

18. Mr. HSIA (China) congratulated the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work he had accomplished and the progress he had already made. The Chinese delegation approved of the position taken by the High Commissioner as indicated in paragraph 3 of the introduction to his report (A/2126 and addendum), in which he had stated that, as resettlement opportunities were not available on any considerable scale, the only real hope of a permanent solution lay in the direction of assimilation within the communities in which the refugees resided.

19. A passage in paragraph 5 of the introduction concerned the problems of the refugees in the Far East. The High Commissioner no doubt referred to the refugees previously dealt with by IRO, who were mentioned in more precise terms in chapter II, section K of the report. That group comprised about 5,000 persons. There were other and more numerous refugees in the Far East whose situation gave even more serious grounds for the deepest anxiety.

20. According to the estimates of the American Federation of Labor, 14 million persons had been massacred by the communists in continental China during the previous five years. In order to escape the same fate, many Chinese had fled as soon as they were able to do so. Their number had been estimated at 3,500,000—men, women and children, distributed among various countries and territories. One hundred and forty thousand of them were in Hong Kong and Kowloon, including 20,116 in a single refugee camp.

21. About a month before, Mr. Walter H. Judd, a member of the United States Congress, had published

in *The New York Times* an appeal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the United States of America, drawing attention to the precarious situation of the refugees in Hong Kong, who, although they should be an object of concern, were particularly neglected by the competent authorities. He had indicated that IRO had spent hundreds of millions of dollars on aid to displaced persons at the end of the Second World War. He had pointed out that the United Nations was carrying out a three-year programme, at a total cost of \$US250 million, to aid the Palestine Arab refugees. Yet, aside from a limited assistance given by the Hong Kong Government, nothing had been done for the Chinese refugees in that territory, even while the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner was taking care of 10,000 European refugees from communist China, for whom the United Kingdom Government had contributed 100,000 pounds sterling. Mr. Judd had concluded by saying that the Chinese refugees had been led to think that there was a double standard when it came to aid: the relatively small number of Europeans were given assistance and the Chinese were not.

22. The lack of resources of the High Commissioner's Office had been invoked as a reason for ignoring the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. There was however a more serious reason, which involved a more general problem: that of competence. The High Commissioner's Office took the view that the Chinese refugees were not within its province. One of its officials, however, had recently made a tour of inspection in the Far East and had visited the Chinese refugees' camps in Hong Kong. It was to be hoped that the visit would have happy consequences for the inmates of the camps. In his view, it was incumbent on the High Commissioner's Office to take care of those victims of the events in China. In support of his opinion, he cited paragraph 6 A (ii) of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Chinese refugees in Hong Kong fulfilled the required conditions as defined in that passage and consequently the High Commissioner's competence extended to them.

23. There was a danger that such a seemingly paradoxical situation might lead to misunderstanding. In the Far East, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, whose activities should in principle be of a universal character, was concerning itself exclusively with European and white refugees and ignoring the Chinese refugees, although their plight was worse. He had recently visited the Far East, where he had spoken with social workers and officials. All of them had expressed surprise at that state of affairs. For them, a refugee was a fact; poverty, hunger and disease were facts; no legal definition could alter their reality, their material existence. He feared that the situation in Hong Kong would have an adverse effect on the prestige of the United Nations.

24. When the General Assembly considered the possibility of prolonging the High Commissioner's mandate beyond 31 December 1953, the Chinese delegation would suggest that, if the High Commissioner's Office were continued in existence, its activities should be universal in character and world-wide in scope. No doubt the refugee problem had different aspects in dif-

ferent regions, and a different solution might be needed in each case, but China maintained that anything having to do with refugees anywhere, including Hong Kong, should fall within the competence of the High Commissioner's Office. The name of the United Nations should not be taken in vain.

25. Mrs. BEGTRUP (Denmark) congratulated the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work accomplished since the General Assembly's sixth session. The report before the Committee was really the first report on a complete year of activity. The High Commissioner had officially assumed his functions in January 1951, but as a result of various circumstances it had not been until much later that he had been able to take over the whole field of activities assigned to him and to organize both his services in Geneva and the branch offices, so essential to his work in various regions.

26. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been instructed in particular to promote the conclusion of international conventions for the protection of refugees and to supervise their application. In that connexion, Denmark was especially happy to have been one of the first countries to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees signed at Geneva on 28 July 1951, and hoped that there would soon be enough ratifications to enable the convention to enter into force.

27. Since the sixth session of the General Assembly, IRO had ceased operation. The liquidation of that organization was nearly completed, and the High Commissioner's Office, which was in part its successor, was the only international body concerned solely with refugees. It was true that some of the problems examined in the Council of Europe and elsewhere affected the refugees, but the High Commissioner's responsibilities with regard to both initiative and co-ordination in the matter were unique. It should, however, be noted that the Provisional Inter-Governmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe was discharging its functions in such a way as to further the interests of the refugees. Unfortunately, as the High Commissioner's report emphasized, the possibilities of emigration for the refugees still in Europe were limited, and the High Commissioner was rightly endeavouring to assist their local settlement and to promote their complete assimilation. Execution of those plans would probably be too much for the governments directly concerned, some of which had a number of other serious difficulties to cope with; the High Commissioner, in agreement with those governments, therefore asked for international assistance in the financing of the plans. The Advisory Committee, at its September session, had strongly encouraged the High Commissioner to continue his efforts, and the least that the General Assembly could do was to give him the moral support he required in carrying on the necessary negotiations.

28. In his report, and later in his statement to the Committee, the High Commissioner had painted a moving picture of the desperate plight of many refugees, in particular in Trieste and in the Far East. By its resolution 538 B (VI), the General Assembly had authorized him to issue an appeal for funds for the purpose of enabling emergency aid to be given to the most needy groups among refugees within the mandate

of his Office. It had been estimated that \$US3 million would be needed for that purpose; barely one-third of that amount had been collected. The General Assembly and the governments of States Members of the United Nations and of non-member States should do everything in their power to help the High Commissioner to raise the necessary funds. The High Commissioner had been more successful in another direction and the General Assembly would certainly take note with satisfaction of the Ford Foundation's generous grant of \$US2,900,000 to the High Commissioner's Office. The General Assembly should express its gratitude for the grant. But it should be noted that the grant was a contribution to the permanent solution of the problem of refugees and not to be used for immediate aid, and that it therefore had nothing to do with the emergency fund which the High Commissioner was trying to build up.

29. She wished to draw attention to an administrative matter: unless the General Assembly took a decision to the contrary, the mandate of the High Commissioner's Office would expire at the end of 1953. At its eighth session, the General Assembly would have to decide about its prolongation. In order to avoid administrative difficulties, it would be desirable not to wait until the last moment to study the question. She therefore hoped that the Economic and Social Council would consider the matter at its summer session and that the High Commissioner would submit to it a report on the subject, which might be prepared in collaboration with the Advisory Committee.

30. She hoped that representatives would not stray from the main topic and would not lose time discussing questions which were only remotely related to the functions of the High Commissioner's Office. She also hoped that delegations would refrain from making political statements, and would confine themselves to the disinterested humanitarian considerations by which the High Commissioner, in accordance with the General Assembly's instructions, was guided in his work.

31. Mrs. EMMET (United Kingdom) stressed the difficulty of the High Commissioner's task. Mr. van Heuven Goedhart had not allowed himself to be discouraged and already had some remarkable successes to his credit. All who had the interests of the refugees at heart were grateful to him for his efforts and had confidence in the outcome of his work.

32. The United Kingdom delegation was sorry governments had responded so poorly to the appeal launched by the High Commissioner for the establishment of an emergency fund of \$US3 million. Of the \$US800,000 contributed, 280,000 had come from the United Kingdom Government. The fund was of the greatest importance as a means of relieving the distress of refugees throughout the world. The United Kingdom delegation appealed to governments to be generous.

33. She noted with satisfaction the information in paragraph 128 of the High Commissioner's report concerning the Shanghai refugees, who had been resettled at an average rate of 120 a month. Like the High Commissioner, the United Kingdom delegation was of the opinion that the problem of the refugees from China could be solved if governments granted them visa

facilities and gave temporary shelter to refugees who could not obtain visas in China. The United Kingdom Government was studying a proposal for the temporary admission to Hong Kong of 200 refugees without visas and another proposal for issuing documents in place of visas.

34. The United Kingdom delegation was also of the opinion, as it had stated the previous year, that refugees who were prepared to emigrate and fulfilled the necessary conditions should be given an opportunity to do so at least on the same terms as other emigrants. In that connexion, it was fortunate that the High Commissioner maintained close liaison with the Migration Committee and the International Labour Organisation. In the case of most of the refugees who came under the High Commissioner's mandate, however, voluntary repatriation and resettlement were no longer possible, and, as was stated in the report, the only hope of a permanent solution lay in the direction of assimilation within the communities in which the refugees were at that time resident. Some of the countries concerned were experiencing considerable economic difficulties, and sometimes had to provide for other categories of refugees, a circumstance which might prevent them from giving the problem thus raised all the attention it deserved. The United Kingdom Government thought the governments concerned might work out practical plans for integrating groups of refugees, preferably small at first, and submit those plans to the international organizations. It was indeed the countries concerned which were primarily responsible for deciding upon an assimilation policy and for requesting the assistance of the international organizations in applying it. The United Kingdom Government, for its part, would give sympathetic consideration to plans of that kind. In any case, no great progress would be achieved until such plans were prepared and until the governments concerned had shown a readiness to contribute to a solution of the problem.

35. She wished to thank the High Commissioner and to express the hope that he would continue the work that had been begun without allowing himself to be discouraged by the difficulties. He would thus win the gratitude, not only of the Third Committee, but also of the thousands of unfortunate people who placed all their hopes in the spirit of international solidarity and humanity which he represented in their eyes, and who regarded him as their protector and friend.

36. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) said it was impossible, after reading the High Commissioner's report and listening to his statement, not to be deeply impressed by the work that had been done, and perhaps even more so by the work that remained to be done. Before the picture of distress which the High Commissioner had drawn, the United Nations could not but be concerned at the enormity of its task, for, although it had given the High Commissioner the daily task of protecting and assisting the refugees, it was nevertheless the United Nations which had assumed the chief responsibility for them.

37. In 1946, and then in 1949, the General Assembly had adopted resolutions in which it had stressed the international implications and nature of the problem and had recognized that international protection of the refugees was the responsibility of the United Nations.

The considerable achievements made since the end of the Second World War must be noted, not without satisfaction. The period which had elapsed since the first Assembly resolution (resolution 62 (I)), however, could be divided into two parts: the first, which could be described as the period of indirect responsibility, extending from the establishment of IRO to its dissolution; and the second, the period of direct responsibility, which had begun with the Assembly's decision to establish the Office of the High Commissioner.

38. So far as the first part was concerned, it must be admitted that the task accomplished by IRO deserved the highest praise. That organization, which had been composed of eighteen States, including sixteen States Members of the United Nations, had arranged for the resettlement of more than one million refugees, to whom it had thus given the chance of starting a new life in another country, not to mention the assistance it had rendered to others.

39. The second part also had given the United Nations grounds for satisfaction. During the short period which had elapsed since its establishment, the High Commissioner's Office had become the centre for the issuance of instructions to branch offices which assisted the governments of the countries of asylum to resolve the problems raised by the refugees, and had helped to provide the refugees with legal protection, where necessary, and, through the intermediary of charitable organizations, to supply them with material assistance. The Netherlands delegation placed a high value on the work accomplished by the High Commissioner and his staff.

40. Praiseworthy though that work was, however, much remained to be done if the United Nations was to discharge its obligations. In 1949, the Member States had perhaps not clearly understood the facts of the case, but the High Commissioner's alarming report disclosed them. The first reason for concern was the extent of the problem: IRO had reduced its proportions, but had not fully disposed of it. It should not be forgotten that no real solution had yet been provided for several hundreds of thousands of refugees, that years had elapsed since many of them had been condemned to live in camps, and that their numbers had been increased by the constant influx of new refugees.

41. The second reason for concern was the difficulty of finding a way to solve the problem finally. By that, he did not mean repatriation, which, though it seemed the natural solution, was in practice excluded. A number of refugees, indeed, had left their homelands, not because they were not attached to them, but because they loved freedom, and they would obviously refuse to return home while the existing conditions continued. In the case of refugees, even more than in the case of prisoners of war, forced repatriation had to be opposed.

42. He had been thinking rather of resettlement, which had proved the most effective means. Unfortunately, a number of countries which had hitherto been favourably disposed towards the refugees, were unable to continue the liberal immigration policy they had applied, for economic reasons. Furthermore, world public opinion, even before the problem was settled, seemed to be turning to other matters, and concern as to the fate of the refugees was giving way to the

legitimate fears occasioned by over-population. It was to be hoped, however, that the refugees would receive a fair share of migration opportunities, and that Member States would take steps to facilitate transit and resettlement.

43. Lastly, there were many cases in which, in spite of the co-operation of governments, it was impossible to use such means, and the only possibility that remained was the assimilation or integration of the refugee within the country in which he was then residing. Assimilation, however, implied the need for a long-term programme of economic development, and hence for capital, which would have to be found. The special difficulties of the country of residence had to be taken into account. Germany, for example, would hardly be able to provide work for the 50,000 non-German refugees whom it was sheltering in camps, sometimes remote from places where work was available, so long as there were 350,000 German refugees in the same situation. The same was true of Austria. Understandably enough, that situation had aroused deep discontent among some groups of refugees. It was, however, encouraging to learn that a remedy could be provided by the implementation of long-term economic plans for assimilation.

44. It was also encouraging to observe that some countries were convinced of the need for assimilation and were finding it possible to devote large sums to economic programmes on behalf of the refugees; but their resources were limited, especially since they were already contributing to the maintenance of the refugees to whom they gave shelter.

45. The inevitable conclusion was that no permanent solution was possible without international action. The United Nations, however, had the means of action at its disposal, and furthermore it was in duty bound to use them in the interests of the refugees from whom it was responsible. The High Commissioner had stated that he had had some conversations with representatives of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, but the conversations did not seem to have been successful, and they had related only to small-scale projects. The Netherlands delegation hoped that the negotiations would be resumed and that they would induce the Bank to help to carry out assimilation programmes.

46. Pending final solution of the problem, consideration should be given to the emergency assistance required by the needy refugees who could neither be resettled in other countries nor integrated within a general economic plan in their country of residence. That was what the General Assembly had been thinking of when it had authorized the High Commissioner to establish an emergency fund.

47. In that connexion, he wished to make two observations. First, since the sixth session of the General

Assembly, when the decision had been adopted, the urgent cases had not only continued to exist, they had even increased: there had been an influx of new refugees in the Far East, at Trieste, and in Germany, Austria and Italy. Secondly, the response to the High Commissioner's appeals had been astonishingly poor. He asked what was to be thought of the way in which the sixty Members of the United Nations discharged their responsibilities if they were unable to provide \$US3 million, while in three and a half years the eighteen States members of IRO had been able to help more than one million persons and operate on an annual budget of \$US125 million.

48. It should not be forgotten that in some cases, as for example in the Far East, it was human life itself that was at stake. The Emergency Fund was intended to help not only the new refugees, but also the aged, the sick, the children and the handicapped, that is, a group which, in any human society, was unable to provide for itself. As human beings, they enjoyed human rights, and if the European refugees had fled from their homelands, it was in most cases because human rights had been constantly violated there. It was incumbent upon the Third Committee, which held long discussions on human rights every year and was attempting accurately to define them so as to ensure international respect for them, to assist the High Commissioner in helping those who had sacrificed nearly all they possessed for the sake of those rights. Governments would not perhaps always be in a position to organize large-scale assistance. In that connexion, a voluntary committee was engaged in the Netherlands in organizing help for the refugees by launching appeals throughout the country.

49. The High Commissioner had his needy cases, and like *The New York Times*, which every year at the Christmas season made an appeal, in a special Sunday supplement, on behalf of a hundred needy cases, he had launched an appeal on their behalf. It was to be hoped that the appeal would evoke a response in generous hearts, and that the United Nations would be able to apply to itself a sentence from *The New York Times*: "We are our brother's keeper, and we act accordingly".

50. The CHAIRMAN proposed that 11.30 a.m. on 10 December should be set as the time limit for the submission of draft resolutions.

51. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan), Mrs. SPERANSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Miss NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) engaged in an exchange of views on the possibility of declaring the general debate closed at the same time.

There being no objection, the Chairman's proposal was adopted.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.