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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 2957 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, the General Assembly decided to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1974 and to review, not later than at its thirty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1978.
2. At its 48th meeting on 16 November 1977, the Third Committee adopted unanimously a draft resolution (A/32/352, draft resolution II) by which the General Assembly would decide to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1979.
3. At its 2187th plenary meeting on 3 December 1973, the General Assembly had decided to extend for a further period of five years, from 1 January 1974 to 31 December 1978, the term of office of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
4. On 8 November 1977, the Secretary-General announced that he had accepted the request of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan to be released from his responsibilities as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at the end of the current year. The Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to express his deep appreciation to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who has discharged his responsibilities with great distinction and devotion.
5. In view of the foregoing, the General Assembly should add to agenda item 87 of its agenda a new subitem entitled:

"Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".