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**Chairman:** Mrs. Turkia OULD DADDAH  
(Mauritania).

**AGENDA ITEM 49**

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees (*concluded*) (A/7603, chap. XI, sect. A; A/7612  
and Add.1, A/C.3/L.1755)**

1. Mr. PAOLINI (France) said that the three main aspects of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were its adherence to the principle of universality, the importance attached to the personal action of the High Commissioner and the ever-closer links between development programmes and programmes of assistance to refugees. The principle of universality was implicit in the mandate of the High Commissioner. He was competent to take action in respect of refugees in the territories of all States Members of the United Nations, and at present he was devoting considerable attention to the question of the growing number of refugees in Africa. The legal aspect of the principle of universality resulted in the formulation of international guarantees for the rights of refugees. Almost sixty States had become parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and more than thirty were parties to the 1967 Protocol; the recent adoption by the Organization of African Unity of the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa was of particular importance in a continent where the refugee problem was most widespread. The personal intervention of the High Commissioner was highly valuable; he acted as a diplomatic and totally apolitical intermediary in difficult circumstances which were inevitably the result of some form of political trouble.

2. The developing countries, and particularly those in Africa, were especially gratified by the increasing links between development programmes and refugee assistance programmes. A large influx of refugees often constituted an additional burden on countries which were experiencing their own national development problems. The temporary settlement of the refugee population often required expenditure on infrastructures; for example, the Office of the High Commissioner had financed the provision of water-supplies in the Sudan and in Uganda. The cost of that

undertaking had been relatively high in terms of the budget of the High Commissioner, but low in terms of the total funds available to the United Nations family for development programmes. It was clear that such expenditure on the part of the Office of the High Commissioner should subsequently be reimbursed by UNDP or IBRD.

3. His Government welcomed the growing co-operation between the High Commissioner on the one hand, and the specialized agencies, such programmes as the World Food Programme and UNDP and bilateral aid programmes, on the other. It also welcomed the involvement of the Office of the High Commissioner in rural development programmes financed by UNDP. It recognized the need for greater financial contributions to UNHCR, and in 1967 it had increased its own contribution to \$400,000.

4. Mr. NSANZE (Burundi) said that Burundi had always attached due importance to the refugee problem and had made every effort to find an appropriate solution to it. The High Commissioner's satisfaction with the results achieved in Burundi would be a source of encouragement to his country in the future. Burundi had been in a special position for the past eight years; although it was a small State with limited resources, it had been able to settle thousands of Rwandese refugees. Its success in doing so had been due to the co-operation of the United Nations High Commissioner, UNDP and the specialized agencies and to the fact that Burundi had made every effort to establish friendly relations with Rwanda, so that as many refugees as possible could be repatriated and there would be no hostility on the part of either the host country or the country of origin of the refugees. The diplomatic negotiations involved had recently been followed by a visit of the Head of State of Burundi to Rwanda.

5. He welcomed the signing of the African refugee Convention. Despite the fact that the foreign press tended to minimize the achievements of OAU, the Convention represented significant progress and had been signed by all the States members of that Organization.

6. In his view the United Nations should in the future devote more time to its consideration of the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees so that Members might be in a position to consider it in detail and, if necessary, to make suggestions directly to the High Commissioner.

7. Mr. BABAA (Libya) said that the report of the High Commissioner (A/7612 and Add.1) gave grounds for optimism. His delegation noted that effective co-operation between the High Commissioner and regional organizations such as the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity had led to the solution of several refugee problems. In Africa, the High Commis-

sioner's efforts were directed towards the progressive rural settlement of refugees until his intervention would no longer be necessary.

8. With regard to the financing of the Office of the High Commissioner, he welcomed the results achieved through the sale of the long-playing records of popular music. The "World Star Festival" was not only a source of revenue for UNHCR but also promoted an understanding of the work of the United Nations family throughout the world.

9. At the twentieth session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, in October 1969, the High Commissioner had expressed the hope that the day might soon come when human society would no longer produce refugees and when his Office would no longer be necessary. In view of the continued existence of wars and of religious and racial intolerance, which forced people to leave their homes, that was hardly likely to occur in the near future. In the meantime, the High Commissioner and his staff were accomplishing an invaluable task.

10. Mr. MEMMI (Tunisia) said that his country fully appreciated the humanitarian work of the High Commissioner, which it had witnessed both as a member of the Executive Committee and in co-operating with the High Commissioner during the Algerian war, when Tunisia had faced a serious refugee problem.

11. With regard to the report before the Committee, his delegation welcomed the progress that had been made but was concerned at the increasing number of refugees in certain regions of the world, particularly in Africa. Of particular importance was the emphasis placed on the integration of refugees in the rural community and on educational and vocational training programmes which not only were conducive to the economic and social development of the countries concerned but also enhanced the dignity of the individual.

12. His delegation welcomed the increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations, the specialized agencies and individual Governments. However, it considered that there should be more liaison with OAU, particularly with respect to certain aspects of international protection such as the right of asylum, the principle of *non-refoulement*, voluntary repatriation and the prohibition of subversive activities.

13. He assured the High Commissioner that Tunisia would continue to make its modest financial contribution to his Office and to give its complete support to the work undertaken by UNHCR.

14. Mr. EL SHEIKH (Sudan) said that his delegation had noted with appreciation the report of the High Commissioner and fully supported the work undertaken by his Office. It welcomed the emphasis being placed on the legal aspects of the problem. The lack of information among refugees concerning changes in the situation which had obliged them to leave their country had hindered the process of voluntary repatriation. His Government had therefore sent two Ministers to explain to the Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries the fundamental changes which had taken place since their departure and to offer

them the possibility of returning to the country, which would welcome their contribution to its development under the general amnesty law.

15. He drew attention to the close co-operation which existed between the Branch Office of UNHCR at Khartoum and the Government of the Sudan. The implementation of a settlement scheme in the Sudan for refugees from neighbouring countries had made his Government aware of the Office's need for greater financial support, and he assured the High Commissioner that the Sudan would always co-operate as fully as its financial resources permitted.

16. Mr. HAUGSTVEDT (Norway) stressed the importance which his Government attached to the work of the High Commissioner for Refugees and said he believed that the humanitarian basis of the High Commissioner's work was becoming more and more universally acknowledged.

17. It was gratifying to note the increased inter-agency co-operation aimed at maximizing the efforts to alleviate the plight of the refugees, and in that respect he commended the attitude of the specialized agencies, in particular the ILO, WHO, FAO and also UNDP. It was indeed to be hoped that the needs and interests of refugees would be fully taken into account in the planning and implementation of comprehensive development projects, especially in the field of education and vocational training. Further efforts would be made in 1970 to strengthen the infrastructure of refugee settlement areas, and new settlement areas were being prepared for new groups of refugees. His delegation fully supported the High Commissioner's Programme but recognized that it was a minimum programme determined by the High Commissioner's budget.

18. The question of legal protection for refugees was one of the major tasks of the High Commissioner. It was gratifying to note the increase in the number of States becoming parties to the 1951 Convention and to the 1967 Protocol, and the adoption of the African refugee Convention was particularly important, in view of the fact that refugee problems in Africa were likely to remain one of the most urgent concerns of the High Commissioner in the years to come. The new regional Convention would facilitate the work of UNHCR and would lead to an even higher degree of co-operation among Governments.

19. His delegation hoped that the High Commissioner's appeal for a further increase in governmental contributions would be favourably received, since that would probably result in a more equitable distribution of the financial burden among the supporting nations. Governmental contributions should be high enough to cover the entire costs of the Programme, thus enabling the High Commissioner to operate with the required flexibility without detriment to the important parts of the Programme. His Government intended to increase its financial support in 1970 by 25 per cent, to a total of \$US273,000; its contribution to the Education Account would be increased by 20 per cent. He was sure that his Government would give sympathetic consideration to requests from the High Commissioner for funds for more specific projects in years to come.

20. His delegation considered that the draft resolution which would shortly be introduced reflected the main

features of the situation facing the High Commissioner and hoped that it would be adopted by acclamation.

21. Mrs. BLACK (United States of America) said that, under colour of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which had merely authorized the President of the United States to negotiate with Red Indian tribes east of the Mississippi on the basis of payment for their land, many Red Indians had been herded together and taken 1,000 miles to the lonely plains of Oklahoma. By any definition, those Indians had been the refugees of their day. Historically speaking, no nation had a monopoly on the noble instincts of humanity.

22. In her view, the whole question of refugees was not open to facile generalizations, either in the legal definition of refugee status or in the solution to the dilemma in which the refugee found himself.

23. Several weeks previously she had participated in a conference of North American organizations on world refugee problems at which, once again, harsh light had been cast on the reality of a world-wide problem. Over the past five years, the total number of persons classified as refugees had more than doubled. For example, the increase in western Europe had been eightfold and in Africa tenfold, despite truly imaginative and Herculean efforts on the part of governmental, non-governmental and United Nations agencies. In the past year, it had been possible to reclassify only 200,000 refugees—a rate of success of barely more than 1 per cent. The basic problem was attributable mainly to war, politics and religion and, as such, was solidly rooted in the spiritual and intellectual weaknesses of mankind. Consequently, the utmost respect must be accorded to the fruitful labours of the High Commissioner and his Office. She considered it fortunate indeed that the programmes for refugees were being conducted by the present High Commissioner, who had demonstrated unusual initiative, perseverance and flexibility in the performance of his duties. Her Government had been particularly impressed by the High Commissioner's leadership at the *Ad Hoc* Inter-Agency Meeting on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, which had highlighted the enormous advantages of undertaking closely correlated efforts in the emergency and initial development stages of the settlement of refugees on African land. She also wished to compliment the High Commissioner and his staff on their efforts to bring about more accessions to the 1967 Protocol. Her Government had already expressed its approval of the landmark achievement of the High Commissioner and the Council of Ministers of OAU, who had together adopted the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, as enumerated in the Declaration on Territorial Asylum.

24. The current report (A/7612 and Add.1) correctly noted urban migration as a trend of major concern. It had been predicted, for example, that within thirty years three quarters of the population of the United States would be living in about one tenth of the land surface of the country. That problem was also being faced by the High Commissioner, and all must be prepared to support his new initiatives to meet the challenge.

25. Tangible support was essential and her Government had raised its level of financial support to the UNHCR programme by 30 per cent for the current fiscal year.

Nevertheless, total available resources were failing to keep pace with the over-all refugee problem, and the only remedy lay in better utilization of existing resources. The key words for the coming year would be "combination" and "co-ordination", not only within UNHCR programmes, but in sub-contracting and in the activities of several hundred co-operating organizations. Duplication of effort must be identified and rectified, as it was no longer possible to afford the luxury of inefficiency.

26. It was true that more than half the refugees throughout the world did not fall within the technical mandate of the High Commissioner, but their sufferings were no less real. Moreover, they were a threat to the social stability of the world and a critical element in the fabric of world peace. Recently, a small band of Red Indians had seized the rocky and inhospitable island of Alcatraz, in San Francisco Bay, which had been abandoned as a prison by the Federal Government and then offered for sale. The value of that island was symbolic, as it represented an anguished cry from impoverished descendants of the Red Indians. It was time to think in terms of co-operation and the effectiveness of international endeavours. All must do everything possible to assist the superlative effort of the High Commissioner and to minimize the long-term peril to the world.

27. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that the High Commissioner for Refugees had devoted himself to serving refugees everywhere and thus humanity as a whole. He was a man of talent and dedication, both a leader and a servant.

28. The hope of long ago that political refugees would be resettled had not been realized. Furthermore, after the Second World War, a new kind of refugee had emerged in continents other than Europe. Unfortunately, the number of refugees in Africa and Asia was increasing rapidly and, to his great regret, one category was sadly neglected. The present report failed to make any mention of assistance for refugees in Viet-Nam, although that was in no sense the fault of the High Commissioner, who received his mandate from the General Assembly. The United Nations still allowed itself to be guided by political considerations in matters of universal concern. It was shameful to raise the question whether or not a particular country belonged to the United Nations or one of the specialized agencies. Provision must be made for the refugees of the whole of Viet-Nam, regardless of their political ideology and the régime under which they lived. The United States was a great humanitarian country. However, it should not permit itself to become intoxicated with power, and it must heed the lessons of history. The Red Indians, for example, had been slain relentlessly and their treaties with the white man had frequently been broken.

29. In conclusion, he asked to be associated with any draft resolution concerning the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, whose task grew greater every day because of man's inhumanity to man. At a time when nations rationalized war on the pretext of self-defence, the High Commissioner set a great example for all. The Committee, which was opposed to discrimination, must follow that example; otherwise, it might find that it was itself practising discrimination.

30. Mr. PIPARSANIA (India) commended the highly important work being done by the Office of the High

Commissioner, and in particular the great dedication of the Commissioner himself to his humanitarian task. Among the many important activities highlighted in the report now before the Committee, the *Ad Hoc* Inter-Agency Meeting on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held in January 1969, had been particularly significant, since it would foster greater co-ordination and would make concerted action by the High Commissioner's Office and other members of the United Nations system in the rural settlement of refugees increasingly effective. He noted with interest the information in paragraph 93 of the report (A/7612) concerning educational assistance under the UNHCR programme. The role of education and training in the integration of refugees need scarcely be emphasized, and he believed that increasing provision would be made in the programme both for secondary and higher education, particularly within the framework of the International Education Year to be observed in 1970. He was particularly gratified by UNHCR's participation in the preparatory work for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the emphasis placed by the High Commissioner on the rural settlement of refugees, which could play an important role in terms of utilization of human resources.

31. The sharp increase in the number of refugees in Africa was a matter of great concern, and he was pleased at the action taken by the Office in response to requests from the Special Committee on the Policies of *Apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII). His Government was also appreciative of the assistance provided in connexion with the settlement of Tibetan refugees in India. It welcomed the appointment of a UNHCR representative at New Delhi to co-ordinate the assistance to those refugees and wished to express its thanks for an allocation of approximately \$340,000 for that task during 1969. Lastly, he hoped that the Office of the High Commissioner would continue to receive the support of the international community. For its part, the Indian Government had increased its financial contribution, beginning in 1969, from 10,000 to 75,000 Indian rupees.

32. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) said that the Committee's debates would be incomplete without a comprehensive discussion of the important question of refugees, whose plight was of concern to all mankind. Governments should lend whole-hearted support to the High Commissioner not in words but in deeds, as he must be provided with the means to accomplish the targets set in the field of his responsibility. With a view to solving the problems involved, the High Commissioner should—and no doubt would—seek even closer co-operation with the United Nations system, and the latter should respond unhesitatingly. He was confident that the Office of the High Commissioner would continue, within the framework of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, to provide assistance and protection for all refugees, particularly the new groups in Africa. A draft resolution along those lines, which his delegation was co-sponsoring with pleasure, would shortly be submitted to the Committee. He commended the High Commissioner and his Office for work well done and wished them all success in the future.

33. Mr. CHIPESO (Zambia) said that, in the words of the Bible, the High Commissioner had taken in those who were

homeless and fed those who were hungry. His delegation wished him every success in his endeavours to serve the needy brethren throughout the world, and it was grateful to those countries and Governments which had so generously taken up the burden of accommodating and caring for refugees and to OAU for its attempts to solve problems which were obstacles to African unity and development.

34. His Government was one of those which helped to shelter and feed refugees. It was fully prepared to set aside land for those in need and was providing additional local assistance which had not been mentioned in the report. It was his country's hope that others would also perform those humanitarian services and that, at a time when journeys were being made to the moon, the most thorough exploration would be made of the highly complex problems of the rights, fundamental freedoms and dignity of man.

35. Mrs. GUNAWARDANA (Belgium) expressed her delegation's gratitude for the High Commissioner's impartial efforts on behalf of refugees in various parts of the world. A large part of the High Commissioner's report was devoted to the situation of the 1 million refugees in Africa (see A/7612, paras. 99-193), many of whom were receiving assistance from UNHCR. Her delegation approved the High Commissioner's efforts to achieve a satisfactory solution of the refugee problem in Africa and noted that much progress had been made through co-operation between the High Commissioner, the local authorities and the specialized agencies. That co-operation had made it possible not only to meet the most pressing needs of the refugees but also to ensure their relocation on a self-sustaining basis and their integration in development programmes.

36. At the same time, her delegation was concerned to ensure the protection of some categories of refugees in Europe. While the situation of the European refugees seemed to be on the way to stabilization, it was nevertheless subject to unforeseeable hazards, and the problem of some categories of refugees—particularly the old and the handicapped—justified continuous attention by UNHCR. She hoped that the draft resolution to be submitted would emphasize that aspect of the problem also.

37. Her delegation attached particular importance to the problem of the international protection of the refugees. In order to yield good results over the long term, such protection should be afforded continuously and efficiently. Her delegation would therefore seek to ensure that the competent organs of the United Nations, particularly the Fifth Committee, did not take any administrative or budgetary action that might jeopardize the effective accomplishment of that vital task.

38. Her country was a party to all the agreements listed in annex I to the High Commissioner's report (see A/7612). The Belgian Act approving the 1967 Protocol extended to the refugees admitted under the Protocol all the legal benefits applicable to refugees admitted under the 1951 Convention. It was her country's traditional policy to make no distinction among refugees, whatever their ethnic or national origin and regardless of when or why they had had to flee their country.

39. Belgium, being aware of the limited financial resources of the High Commissioner's Office and the increasing needs



it was facing, had increased its contribution to the programme for 1969 from \$180,000 to \$280,000 and, subject to parliamentary approval, would contribute the same amount in 1970.

40. In conclusion, her delegation hoped that refugees would be increasingly eligible for the benefits of development programmes carried out by other United Nations organizations; that would foster genuine integration of the refugees into the local population, thus releasing more resources for assistance to refugees in particularly urgent or distressing situations.

41. Mrs. SIPILA (Finland) felt that a sense of international responsibility was particularly important in dealing with the problems of refugees; since no single Government was primarily responsible for them, the best focus of action for their benefit was the United Nations. The refugee depended on the conscience of the international community for his legal protection and his well-being, including his minimum human rights. However, the responsibility of States was not equally shared when it came to asylum or practical arrangements for the well-being of the refugees. Nevertheless, every Government could assume a share of that responsibility by becoming a party to the instruments for their legal protection and by helping to defray the financial needs of the United Nations organs concerned with their well-being. She was gratified that an increasing number of Governments had acceded to those instruments, that international co-operation within the United Nations family and outside it had brought good results, and that the growing feeling of shared responsibility was exemplified by the increasing number of Governments which contributed to the financing of the High Commissioner's Office. The Finnish Government's contribution, which had already been increased, would again be considerably increased in 1970.

42. One of the reasons for that increase was that more information about the problems of refugees was being conveyed to the Finnish people through the activities of a voluntary organization which had sponsored a small travelling exhibition about the refugees, and through publicity in the mass media. She particularly commended the new record "World Star Festival", the proceeds of which would be used for the refugees. The Nordic countries were planning a combined action on behalf of the refugees in 1970 with the help of all the mass media.

43. Mrs. DAES (Greece) expressed her gratitude to the High Commissioner for his incomparable humanitarian work. It was clear from the High Commissioner's statement at the preceding meeting and from his report that he was exerting his utmost efforts to deal with one of the most tragic and difficult problems of the age.

44. The refugee problem, which was as old as history, had become a legal problem only with the advent of the national State and had become a humanitarian problem of the highest priority only after the formulation of article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; for to refugees the right of asylum was often equivalent to the right to life. Her country, in the spirit of that article, provided asylum to everyone seeking it, without discrimination. It also put in practice the principle of *non-refoulement*,

which was one of the most important legal safeguards for refugees.

45. As stated in paragraph 70 of the report (see A/7612), Greece had amended its Nationality Act of 1955 to permit persons of non-Greek ethnic origin to be naturalized under certain conditions, and thousands of refugees had taken advantage of that opportunity. The Greek people respected the refugees and tried in every way, despite their own problems, to integrate them into Greek society.

46. Her delegation agreed with the High Commissioner that the refugees should be enabled to play a part in the Second United Nations Development Decade and that all Governments should make the best possible use for that purpose of the human resources they represented.

47. Her delegation was a sponsor of the draft resolution that would shortly be introduced.

48. Mr. PETERSEN (Denmark) said his delegation found the High Commissioner's statement at the preceding meeting encouraging for its positive approach to the sad subject of the refugees and noted with satisfaction the consolidation of his activities and the efficiency with which they were being carried out.

49. His Government was deeply concerned about the refugees, particularly in Africa, who posed considerable difficulties to the recipient countries. Their problems would not be solved until they were able to play a productive part in the economic life of their new homelands.

50. His delegation attached importance to the development of close and effective ties between the High Commissioner and other organs of the United Nations system and noted that such co-operation had increased considerably in the field of rural settlement, including medical assistance, employment and education and training. It therefore welcomed the *Ad Hoc* Inter-Agency Meeting on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva in January 1969 to consider practical arrangements for the purpose of extending such co-operation, particularly in the first stages of settlement.

51. Some encouraging developments had taken place in 1969 with regard to the international protection of refugees. A number of Governments had acceded to the 1967 Protocol and Denmark had withdrawn its reservations to article 24, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, relating to labour legislation and security, and to article 27, relating to wage-earners. In addition, OAU had adopted the Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

52. With regard to the High Commissioner's Education Account, his Government felt that secondary education and vocational training should also play an important part in the High Commissioner's programmes. It attached particular importance to vocational training programmes and hoped that the negotiations in progress with the specialized agencies, particularly the ILO, would lead to an extension of such facilities to refugees. Efforts to find employment for urban refugees were of crucial importance to the successful solution of their problems.

53. The Danish Board of Technical Co-operation with Developing Countries had approved a grant of 1.6 million Danish kroner as an un earmarked contribution to the High Commissioner's programme for 1970 to be used under the Education Account or for other technical assistance activities to refugees. His delegation felt that the ordinary programme of the High Commissioner should be financed as far as possible by governmental contributions, which were not only an earnest of international solidarity but also an international duty. His delegation was gratified that a growing number of Governments had responded to the High Commissioner's appeals for increased financial support and that the number of Governments making voluntary contributions had also increased significantly.

54. Introducing draft resolution A/C.3/L.1755 on behalf of the sponsors, which now included Saudi Arabia, he said that, since UNHCR had been established, the refugee problem had spread to almost every part of the globe—a fact which had made the humanitarian character of the High Commissioner's task better understood. A broad recognition of the humanitarian mission of the High Commissioner would help him to solve the refugee problem and thereby contribute in a non-political way to the establishment of better relations between States and peoples. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

55. Mr. NTAWIHA (Rwanda) commended the High Commissioner for the great help he had provided to the refugees, particularly in Africa. He was particularly gratified by the tangible results the High Commissioner had achieved in resettling some 900,000 African refugees so successfully that they had ceased to need his assistance. He appreciated the difficulties that had been involved; no doubt the High Commissioner had had to convince the refugees of the necessity of their final resettlement in the host country and to persuade the latter to agree to that solution and to provide the necessary financing to make it possible. He was glad to note that the assistance provided to the refugees was being increasingly wisely used and thanked all those who had contributed to the financing of the High Commissioner's programmes.

56. The international protection of refugees and observance of the principle of *non-refoulement* was obligatory for every State Member of the United Nations as a basic human right and fundamental freedom of every individual.

57. Where the Rwandese living in other countries were concerned, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania had shown the warm hospitality characteristic of the African peoples. His country, which also prided itself on that tradition of hospitality and recognized the right of asylum for anyone seeking it, maintained friendly relations with those four countries and highly appreciated their efforts to relocate the refugees far from the frontiers of their country of origin. That gesture had greatly contributed to the establishment of a good-neighbourly atmosphere, which was a prerequisite for co-operation in other fields. The four Governments and the High Commissioner had made every effort to neutralize armed bands of refugees who had been attacking his country and causing much loss of life and property in border areas. The concerted action taken to

resettle them far from the border and to supervise their behaviour and movements could produce good results both for the country of origin, which would suffer no further acts of aggression, and for the host country, which might otherwise have been subject to internal subversion fomented by those of the refugees who formed outlaw bands. The High Commissioner's policy of resettling refugees in rural projects should be encouraged, because in addition to integrating the refugees in the economic life of the host countries it also associated them with the development programmes of those countries, stabilized them in the areas in which they were settled and dissuaded them from the temptation to attack their country of origin or their host countries.

58. His Government also supported the High Commissioner's efforts to ensure that the refugees acquired the nationality of their country of residence. The High Commissioner should inform those who wished to return to their country of origin about the situation that would greet them on their return. Many of the Rwandese refugees had responded to his Government's repeated appeals and had returned to the country. His Government fully supported the High Commissioner's efforts to help to solve the problem of the refugees throughout the world.

59. Mr. BROUWERS (Netherlands) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the High Commissioner's successful efforts with regard to the legal protection and material assistance to refugees throughout the world, particularly in Africa and Asia.

60. His delegation welcomed the increase in the number of States parties to the 1951 Convention and to the 1967 Protocol. He agreed with the High Commissioner that the time had now come to emphasize the implementation of the legal standards embodied in those instruments. The system of standard questionnaires concerning the implementation of the most important provisions of those instruments would no doubt facilitate reporting by Governments. In that respect, his Government had also initiated action to apply the provisions of the 1967 Protocol to the 1967 Hague Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen, since the definition of the term "refugee seamen" was based on the definition of refugees given in the 1951 Convention.

61. His delegation paid a tribute to the Governments of the African countries and to OAU for their endeavours in the field of the legal protection of refugees. While voluntary repatriation was perhaps the best solution to the problems of the refugees, it would only be effected on a small scale; it was therefore desirable that refugees should acquire the nationality of their countries of residence, particularly if they had lived there for some time.

62. With regard to material assistance to the refugees, his delegation felt that the changes made in the activities of the High Commissioner as a consequence of the mass migration that was typical of the present refugee problem and the fact that the problem was now primarily of concern to developing countries made it necessary to emphasize collective assistance of a structural nature in order to promote the special and economic integration of the refugee population in the host countries. The need for the co-ordination of such projects by the organizations and agencies concerned was particularly important.

63. Political situations which caused refugee problems were such that the permanent or semi-permanent settlement of the refugees in the country of asylum must be envisaged. However, since the countries of asylum themselves had serious development problems, the influx, settlement and permanent integration of considerable numbers of refugees often laid a heavy burden on them. His delegation appreciated the contributions made by the High Commissioner to the permanent solution of the refugee problem in developing countries and the very substantial assistance given by the host countries themselves.

64. His delegation also welcomed the shift in the High Commissioner's policy from emphasis on emergency aid, which often merely prolonged the tragic position of the refugees, and commended the success he had achieved in providing infrastructure assistance to the refugee settlements and to zonal development projects. In that respect, he was gratified by the High Commissioner's successful efforts to promote inter-agency co-operation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations. It might be advisable, however, for the High Commissioner to re-evaluate his activities in the light of his terms of reference.

65. His Government intended once again to increase its contribution to the High Commissioner's Programme, and he emphasized the need for public support of the High Commissioner's work. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1755 his delegation would, of course, vote in favour of it.

66. Mr. SANON (Upper Volta), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dahomey, Gabon, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, thanked the High Commissioner for his humanitarian work in behalf of the refugees, so many of whose problems had been caused by colonialist activities. He expressed the satisfaction of the delegations for which he spoke that the Convention adopted in September 1969 by the Organization of African Unity embodied the principle of *non-refoulement* and their hope that the future of the refugees would be assured by the increased international solidarity which developed and developing countries alike were displaying. The African countries were grateful for the help they had received, welcomed the support provided by the specialized agencies and hoped for further governmental support for the High Commissioner's activities.

67. Mrs. KUME (Japan) expressed her delegation's appreciation to the High Commissioner for his untiring efforts to solve the problem of the refugees in many parts of the world. That problem had never been a serious one for Japan, owing to its geographical situation and historical background. Although Japan was not directly involved in any of the current refugee problems, it had been giving financial support to the Office of the High Commissioner since 1967 and would continue to do so. It would also support the draft resolution.

68. Mr. BENLER (Turkey) said that his country, which was a member of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme and a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1755, could assure the High Commissioner of its full support and confidence and commended him for his

achievements in difficult circumstances. The Third Committee should not be unduly optimistic, however, since the legal, social and material situation of the refugees was still an urgent problem the solution of which required redoubled efforts. He expressed his gratification that intervention in some areas was now no longer necessary; the solution of the problem of the European refugees was proof of the effectiveness of regional settlements, which he hoped would yield the same results in Africa. However, the increasing number of refugees seeking employment in large towns required a concerted effort to ensure their integration in the economic and social development of the country—a goal for which collaboration between UNHCR and the other organs of the United Nations family was becoming increasingly essential.

69. His country was a party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol and would shortly take final action on the adoption of an entry quota for refugee immigrants. Turkey, which had doubled its contribution to UNHCR the previous year, would continue to contribute to the extent that its financial means allowed.

70. Mr. IDDIR (Algeria) said that his country, as a member of OAU, was especially grateful for the spirit of co-operation displayed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who was held in the highest esteem by the people of Algeria. His delegation wished to express its warmest support and encouragement for the High Commissioner's work and proposed that draft resolution A/C.3/L.1755 should be adopted not only unanimously, but by acclamation.

71. Mr. AL-JABIRI (Iraq) commended the High Commissioner and his staff for their untiring endeavours to assist refugees, particularly in Africa. His country was lending all possible assistance to UNHCR in its humanitarian work. In his view, the High Commissioner's field of responsibility should be extended to include refugees in South-East Asia, who were the victims of violations of human rights, massacres and even genocide. The Arab nations were only too well acquainted with the sufferings caused by aggression and illegal occupation. No one could deny the need to care for refugees in all parts of the world and he hoped that greater financial resources would be made available to the Office of the High Commissioner. His delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1755 and the Algerian representative's proposal that it should be adopted by acclamation.

72. Mr. ALI (Somalia) congratulated the High Commissioner and his staff on the exemplary manner in which they continued to render services to refugees everywhere. In his statement, the High Commissioner had brought home to the members of the Committee the fact that, whilst they were dealing with statistics and figures, the problem essentially concerned human beings. Refugees everywhere were looking to the Third Committee for action to alleviate their plight, and the international community must make an effective response to their pressing needs. In that connexion, his delegation wished to pay a special tribute to the Governments of Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for the generous and increasing contributions they continued to make to the Office of the High Commissioner.

73. Mrs. HAZARIKA (Uganda) said that she welcomed the opportunity to convey to the High Commissioner her delegation's deep appreciation of the work done by his office, without whose assistance the refugee problem in Uganda would have been insurmountable. She thanked the representative of Rwanda for his kind words and said that it would be most appropriate if the draft resolution were adopted by acclamation.

74. Mr. TEKLE (Ethiopia) said that the programme of action and the selfless efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner merited the "unreserved co-operation of all nations. He was particularly grateful for the help given to African refugees and noted with satisfaction the way in which co-operation with regional organizations was bearing fruit. It was in the interest of States to solve the problem of refugees, and he therefore hoped that the international community would continue to support the organization with increased moral and material assistance. Developing countries experienced financial difficulties, but Ethiopia, which was doing everything within its power to facilitate the task of the High Commissioner, would announce a modest contribution at the forthcoming Pledging Conference. He agreed that the Algerian representative's proposal was most fitting.

75. Mrs. DE BROMLEY (Honduras) associated herself with the tributes paid to the High Commissioner and his staff and wished him every success in the coming year in solving the increasingly difficult and complex problem of refugees.

76. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) said there was no doubt that the work of the High Commissioner was becoming more and more vital as new situations resulting in the displacement of persons arose. The task of helping so many individuals to forge a new life either through their voluntary repatriation to their country of origin or through their economic and social integration in the country of asylum required increasing support from all Governments.

77. She welcomed the increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations family generally and the Organization of African Unity. She also drew attention to the recent adoption at San José of an international instrument for the legal protection of refugees, with particular reference to asylum and *non-refoulement*.

78. Her delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1755 and welcomed the inclusion, in the preambular part, of references to the support given to the relevant

international instruments and to the adoption, under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity, of the African refugee convention.

79. Mr. ACYL (Chad) assured the High Commissioner that his Government would continue to make the most generous financial contribution it could. However, it hoped that the United Nations as a whole would apply itself to attacking the root of the problem. Refugees were the victims of certain circumstances. The great Powers, which contributed more financial assistance because of their relative wealth, also gave unlimited aid to the Powers which were responsible for the refugee problems in the world. The Security Council was currently considering the question raised by Portuguese bombing of Senegalese territory. Those who were bombed were obliged to flee, and if they crossed the borders of their country they became refugees. However, the oppressors pursued them further and even bombed the territories which had granted them asylum. In the view of his delegation, it was necessary for the Organization to focus its attention on eradicating the cause of the refugee problem. The great Powers, when giving assistance to certain countries, should think seriously of their international responsibilities.

80. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syria) associated himself with the tributes paid to the efforts of the High Commissioner to solve the refugee problem and wished him every success in the future.

81. Mr. DRISSI (Tunisia) agreed with the representative of Algeria that the draft resolution should be adopted by acclamation.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/L.1755 was adopted by acclamation.*

82. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) announced that there had been a small financial surplus from the Third Committee's annual party held on Friday, 5 December 1970. On behalf of the members, he requested the High Commissioner to accept that surplus as a token of the Committee's appreciation of the work of his Office.

83. Prince Sadruddin KHAN (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) thanked the members of the Third Committee for their thoughtful gesture, for their instructive and encouraging statements and for their unanimous adoption of the draft resolution.

*The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.*