



CONTENTS

Agenda item 50:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (continued):

(a) Report of the High Commissioner (continued):

(b) Question of the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner (continued) . . . 305

Chairman: Mrs. Mara RADIĆ (Yugoslavia).

AGENDA ITEM 50

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (continued):

(a) Report of the High Commissioner (continued) (A/6711);

(b) Question of the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner (continued) (A/6703 and Corr.1, chap. XIV, sect. 1; A/6711 and Add.1; A/6801; A/C.3/L.1493, A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1)

1. Mr. BABAA (Libya) said he wished to associate himself with those delegations which had expressed their appreciation to the High Commissioner; his delegation would continue to give moral and material support to the Office of the High Commissioner. He recalled that Libya had been one of the first African countries in modern times to suffer from the refugee problem. During its struggle against colonial rule, nearly half of the population had become refugees and had been accepted and aided by neighbouring countries.

2. His Government had made a modest contribution to the High Commissioner's programme in recent years, and, in response to the High Commissioner's appeal, it had decided to increase its contribution to the 1968 programme by 50 per cent.

3. His delegation noted with satisfaction that a final solution to the European refugee problem had been achieved, although the problem appeared likely to persist in other areas. In his statement at the 1519th meeting, the High Commissioner had told the Committee how the Organization of African Unity and a campaign launched by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands had contributed to refugee relief. Why could not similar initiatives be taken by other bodies and prominent individuals so that the High Commissioner could deal with his financial problems? He hoped that all countries would, through generous voluntary contributions, help the Office of the High Commissioner to carry out its humanitarian task during the next period. In conclusion, he requested that his country should be added to the list of those sponsoring the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493).

4. Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that she would like to join previous speakers in extending congratulations to the High Commissioner. No one could remain indifferent to the sufferings of thousands of people who had been forced to abandon their homes. The continued existence of colonialism in Africa had contributed in no small measure to the increase in the number of refugees on that continent, which created serious problems not only for the countries of asylum but also for the Office of the High Commissioner.

5. Since most African countries were engaged in fighting poverty, ignorance and disease, they lacked the necessary resources to lend effective assistance to the refugees who crossed their frontiers. Her delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Office of the High Commissioner for solving the problem by resettling the refugees and integrating them into the economic development of the host countries.

6. Her delegation also welcomed the increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and other members of the United Nations family with a view to achieving a permanent solution of the refugee problem through long-term development projects, and it was pleased to note the continued support which the High Commissioner's work was receiving from the Organization of African Unity. The increasing interest of African Governments in the legal status of refugees was an indication of their deep concern with the problem; true to their tradition of hospitality, many African States had granted asylum to people from neighbouring countries and had accorded them the same rights and privileges as they did to their own citizens.

7. In view of the increasing number of refugees, particularly in Africa, her delegation fully supported the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner for a further period of five years. As a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Liberia would continue to support the work of the High Commissioner's office and therefore heartily endorsed the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493).

8. Mr. MWITENDE (Rwanda) congratulated the High Commissioner on all that he had done for the benefit of refugees. He recalled that, as a result of the social revolution which, seven years previously, had led to the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a republican system in Rwanda, tens of thousands of people had sought and found refuge in various neighbouring countries. Although his delegation deplored the fact that groups of refugees had launched attacks on Rwanda after eluding the vigilance of the authorities of the host countries, it wished to commend the efforts which the High Commissioner had made in co-operation with the countries concerned, to settle

the refugees in places situated far from Rwanda's frontiers, thus helping to maintain peace in that country.

9. His delegation agreed with the High Commissioner that the refugees should be encouraged to participate in the development programmes of the host countries. He wished to emphasize that, in addition to those refugees who had been settled in rural areas, there were some who held university degrees or school diplomas; all of them had resources at their disposal. The High Commissioner's office should, in co-operation with the host countries, be increasingly vigilant in ensuring that the aid provided to such refugees or what they themselves earned was not used to purchase weapons for the purpose of launching attacks on their countries of origin; he suggested that there should be a greater exchange of information between the latter countries and representatives of the High Commissioner so that the refugees would know about the measures being taken in their countries with a view to their repatriation.

10. Refugees of a new type had appeared in Africa, for the activities of mercenaries in the Congolese province of Kivu had caused more than 40,000 totally destitute people to enter Rwanda. His Government, working in co-operation with other countries and with various charitable organizations, had endeavoured to meet all the needs of the refugees but had been only partly successful. His delegation would like to see measures taken to include in the High Commissioner's programmes the Congolese who had been driven en masse from their country.

11. Since the refugee problem was far from having been solved, his delegation would support any resolution aimed at continuing the Office of the High Commissioner. He wished to state in conclusion that his Government had decided to ratify the 1951 Convention and accede to the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

12. Mrs. MIVÉDOR (Togo) said that she wished to join in the warm expressions of appreciation to the High Commissioner. The problem under consideration created particularly serious difficulties for the African countries, whose population pattern was a highly complex one. Togo had had to contend with the refugee problem but had been able to deal with it as a result of international co-operation and the efforts made by the High Commissioner's Office. However, there had recently been a new influx of refugees from Nigeria which was creating a serious economic problem for Togo, and her Government hoped that the High Commissioner's Office would also be able to find a satisfactory solution in the situation which had thus arisen.

13. Since the European refugee problem was almost completely solved, the United Nations could give greater attention to Asian, African and Latin American refugees. So long as Ian Smith, Salazar and Vorster continued to defy the United Nations and world public opinion and to treat the peoples of Africa in the most shameful manner, there would continue to be refugees in many African countries. His delegation therefore supported all action aimed at compelling the Lisbon, Pretoria and Salisbury Governments to alter their

behaviour. He was pleased that the Office of the High Commissioner had implemented the Secretary-General's recommendations that refugees should be regarded as a positive element in economic and social development. Rather spectacular results had been achieved, since 500,000 of the 800,000 refugees in Africa could now manage without outside assistance.

14. His delegation regretted the fact that the High Commissioner faced financial difficulties and wished to add its voice to the High Commissioner's appeal to the great Powers to give generous assistance to his programme. It endorsed the idea that the High Commissioner should be invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme and to participate in the preparatory work of the second Development Decade. It supported the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner for as long as was necessary.

15. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) joined with other delegations in paying tribute to the High Commissioner. Referring to the European refugees, she pointed out that the High Commissioner had now for the first time mentioned in his report (A/6711, para. 176) that only young and physically fit refugees found opportunity to emigrate. She wished to place on record her gratitude to the European countries which had taken in old and handicapped refugees; the prosperous countries of the old continent could well have done more to alleviate the lot of the refugees.

16. The High Commissioner's activities made it clear that he had been able to take advantage of his predecessors' experience and avoid repeating past errors. Thus, he had tried to solve the problems confronting him by making direct contact with Governments—a possibility that the General Assembly had never ruled out. She was confident that the High Commissioner would give effect to the recommendations of the Conference on the Legal, Economic and Social Aspects of African Refugees' Problems, held at Addis Ababa in October 1967. In the first of those recommendations it was stated that the best solution to the refugee problem was voluntary repatriation. Until recently, nothing had been done to further that end. It would appear from his report that the High Commissioner had taken account of that recommendation. In recommendation IV of the Addis Ababa Conference it was suggested that the General Assembly should extend the High Commissioner's powers so that he could assist Governments in their efforts to aid old refugees who returned to their countries. The reason why no mention was made of that point in the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493) was that it was doubtful whether the matter could be effectively raised in the General Assembly. Preliminary studies would be needed, and the subject was one for the consideration of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. Although voluntary repatriation was the best possible solution, the United Nations could not wash its hands of the refugees when they returned to their country, since their reabsorption was as difficult for the country of origin as for the country of asylum.

17. The Iraqi delegation was gratified to note the close co-operation maintained between the Office of the High Commissioner and the specialized agencies,

UNDP and the non-governmental organizations. However, there was one point to which insufficient attention was given in the High Commissioner's Report: emergency aid, especially to young children. At the time of the High Commissioner's early activities in Europe an important role in the provision of assistance to European children had been played by UNICEF. Her delegation was well aware that UNICEF's resources were limited, but it felt that that body should nevertheless continue to give assistance in the work of emergency aid to refugee children.

18. She hoped that the joint draft resolution would be unanimously approved for it was clear that the continuance of the High Commissioner's Office was a vital need. The problems of the refugees were not of an exclusively humanitarian kind, since they were created and perpetuated by political factors. If countries viewed them within their political context they would perhaps make greater contributions to the High Commissioner's Programme.

19. Miss LOPES (Portugal) said that her delegation had always followed the High Commissioner's humanitarian work with sympathy, and had observed with satisfaction his efforts to divest his activities of any political colour. On the other hand, it regretted that some delegations had made political statements which were entirely divorced from the facts. The displacement of Portuguese nationals had been caused solely by violence from outside sources. The persons concerned had not been compelled to leave their countries of origin by internal events, and they could return whenever they wished. If they did so, as the Portuguese delegation had many times stated, they would be assisted by the authorities. Many of the displaced persons had already returned to their homes. They were not genuine refugees, and the best service that could be rendered them was to help them to return to their countries of origin.

20. Referring to the charges against Portugal made by the Chinese delegation (1519th meeting), she said that the question raised had already been dealt with in a communication of the Portuguese Government of 7 March 1967, in which the Portuguese Government had clearly stated its views, rejected the Chinese charges and declared that the Portuguese Government had not violated an international convention.

21. Mr. ALLIMADI (Uganda), rejecting the Portuguese representative's assertions, said that the refugees from territories under Portuguese domination were compelled to flee those territories by the oppressive policies of the Portuguese Government.

22. He wished to present his delegation's revised amendment (A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1) to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1493. The amendment was in no way polemical but was motivated by his country's support of the cause of the refugees and inspired by one of the recommendations of the Addis Ababa Conference. He thanked the delegations of Italy and the United Kingdom for their suggestions. He appreciated that the composition of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme reflected the size of financial contributions made, but he considered that the direct interest of the African countries in the Programme justified some increase in their participation in the direction

of activities. He hoped, therefore, that members of the Committee would have no difficulty in approving the amendment.

23. Mr. A. A. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) submitted a revised version of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1). The amendment just submitted by the representative of Uganda represented the least that could be asked for; but in view of Uganda's special situation in the matter he would support it. When the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme had been set up under operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII), the refugee problem had been mainly a European one. Four years ago it had been recognized that the situation had changed, and it had been decided to increase the membership of the Executive Committee from twenty-five to thirty. Even with that increase, however, the countries experiencing the most acute refugee problems still enjoyed little representation. The fundamental difficulty was that the refugee problem changed from year to year, whereas the structure of the Executive Committee was permanent. He suggested, therefore, that the Executive Committee, like other United Nations organs, should adopt a rotational structure which would give it greater flexibility in the discharge of its responsibilities. The summary records of the present session could perhaps be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Committee itself, so that they could begin to give that idea their consideration.

24. In exercise of his right of reply, he wished to reject the Portuguese representative's propaganda statements; the information contained in the High Commissioner's report regarding the thousands of refugees leaving Angola and Mozambique proved the falsity of any affirmations of the Portuguese Government's humanitarian policy. Those refugees were fleeing a racist and oppressive policy.

25. Mr. BASHIER (Sudan) congratulated the High Commissioner on the services he had rendered to refugees throughout the world and on his co-sponsorship of the Conference on African refugee Problems held at Addis Ababa in October 1967. Sudan, being both a recipient and an originator of refugees, was in a particularly good position to understand and appreciate the difficulties confronting the High Commissioner, and the ability and patience with which he was overcoming them. It was a plain fact that Africa had now become the centre of refugee problems, largely as a result of the disruptive influences of colonialism and the aggressive policies practised in the southern region of the continent by minority Governments. No immediate solution of the problem could be expected unless the international community implemented adequate measures striking to the root of the problem. The arrival of refugees in large numbers interfered with the economic development of the receiving countries. It was essential, therefore, that the Office of the High Commissioner should continue its efforts; without them the African countries with refugee problems could do little to solve them.

26. The Government of the Sudan was making great efforts to achieve an equitable solution of its own refugee problem through the voluntary repatriation of the refugees or their voluntary settlement and inte-

gration in the productive forces of the country. The Government and people of the Sudan were grateful to neighbour countries, which had shown understanding of their problems and had offered their co-operation. Sudan had concluded agreements with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda with a view to solving the refugee problems on the basis of respect for human rights. The Sudanese Government guaranteed the freedom from any form of punishment of refugees returning to their home countries. A number of measures had been taken, with very encouraging results, to facilitate the participation of the refugees in the democratic process and in economic activity. With a view to the reintegration of returning refugees "peace villages" surrounded with fertile land had been erected near the principal towns. The Office of the Commissioner for Refugees established by the Government was assisting in the repatriation and settlement of the refugees.

27. His delegation unreservedly supported the efforts of the High Commissioner's Office, and hoped that the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1), which it had joined in sponsoring, would be unanimously adopted.

28. Mrs. WILLIAMS (Sierra Leone) said that Africa's refugee problems were caused by the brutal and oppressive policies of countries like South Africa and Portugal, which compelled oppressed people to seek asylum in other countries. She appreciated the financial contribution of States which, by their political activities in southern Africa, had demonstrated their willingness to obey General Assembly and Security Council resolutions; she was particularly grateful to the Nordic countries for their contribution. On the other hand, the contribution of States which profited from their inaction or unwillingness to co-operate in measures against the Governments of Portugal, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia seemed to be simply in the nature of conscience money.

29. She emphasized the value of the High Commissioner's work and the importance of co-operation between his Office and Governments, local authorities, the Asian-African Legal Committee, the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies.

30. Her delegation endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (A/6711, app. para. 138) that the High Commissioner should be invited to attend meetings of the UNDP Inter-Agency Consultative Board. She supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1) calling for the continuance of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, for the need for such an office was even greater today than when it had been established. She also supported the amendment submitted by the representative of Uganda (A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1).

31. Mr. KOITE (Mali) expressed satisfaction with the High Commissioner's report, which showed a complete understanding of the refugee problem. The international community was becoming increasingly aware of the fact that that painful problem was not a temporary one but would persist for as long as its causes

still obtained. It was therefore necessary for the States Members to continue supporting the High Commissioner's Office.

32. An encouraging feature was that the problem of the European refugees was approaching a complete settlement; but the disturbed situation in the African continent was causing serious problems which were jeopardizing the development of the young States. The direct cause of the refugee problem in Africa, and of the steady increase in the number of refugees, was the terrorist policy pursued by the colonialists and racists of Portugal, South Africa, and Southern Rhodesia. The solution of the problem was therefore inextricably bound up with the elimination of colonialism.

33. As to international protection, the large number of States which had acceded to the 1951 Convention, on the one hand, and the entry into force of the corresponding Protocol, on the other, showed that progress was being made along the right lines.

34. Lastly, he supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1) which proposed the continuation of the High Commissioner's Office for a further period of five years.

35. Mrs. NØRTHEN (Denmark) expressed her satisfaction with the High Commissioner's report, which showed how, through international co-operation and effective handling of the problem, the refugees could be given a new life in the country of asylum or the possibility of returning to their own country under better conditions. Experience had shown that the best way of ensuring effective utilization of the Office's financial resources and staff experience was a system of close co-operation between the High Commissioner and other United Nations bodies, and with the voluntary organizations.

36. At the same time, a successful solution of the refugee problem could be endangered by shortage of funds, in view of the growing difficulty of covering the budgetary deficit, even partially, by voluntary contributions. The Danish Government for its part had decided to increase its contribution for 1968 by one third.

37. Her Government also attached great importance to educational programmes for refugees, which it regarded as the most effective way of solving their problems in the long run; and it had, from time to time, contributed to specific educational projects, such as the Mkushi Agricultural Training Centre in Zambia and the construction of university colleges in that country. Lastly, her delegation fully supported the continuation of the High Commissioner's Office for a further period of five years.

38. Mr. NSANZE (Burundi) said he welcomed the objectivity displayed by the High Commissioner's report (A/6711). His delegation, which was one of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1), supported the continuation of the High Commissioner's Office because of the increase in the number of refugees and the inability of the other organizations in the United Nations system to set aside part of their human and material resources for dealing with refugee problems.

39. The refugees were at present being assisted by the countries of asylum and by international organizations, but such assistance must come to an end and the refugees must be given conditions in which they could look after themselves, so that the countries of asylum, relieved of their economic burden and the need to apply for assistance, could become real home-countries for the refugees, who would contribute to their development. The High Commissioner would thus be able to turn his attention to more urgent cases, and the refugees would not get the idea that they had a permanent right to free assistance from outside.

40. As to the situation of the refugees in his own country, he said that Burundi was aware of its international obligations and welcomed the joint efforts of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, which had enabled his Government to face the problems of health, food supply, education and settlement. His country was prepared to increase the assistance it was giving, but he pointed out that the growing number of refugees, in such a small country as Burundi, raised serious political problems. His Government was therefore making great and costly efforts to prevent any kind of incident with neighbouring countries which might occur as a result of the influx of refugees. That was not always possible, however, and it was therefore essential that the countries of origin should reciprocate by exercising extreme vigilance, for the refugees did not always give information about their movements. The countries of origin had always met with understanding on the part of Burundi, and he hoped that such understanding would be mutual and that the countries in question would do what they could to remove the causes of conflict.

41. Lastly, he affirmed that the special refugee situation in Africa was due to foreign intervention, which caused internal dissention, and also to the colonial and racist policy which was still being pursued in different parts of the African continent and which was preventing the refugees from returning to their countries of origin. The statements made by the representative of Portugal on that subject were thus devoid of meaning. His delegation, for its part, was prepared to collaborate with the neighbouring countries in facilitating the repatriation of those refugees who desired it.

42. Mrs. CISSE (Guinea) congratulated the High Commissioner on his excellent report (A/6711), and particularly on his new and realistic approach to refugee problems in Africa. As to the cause of those problems and the corresponding responsibility of the international community, she fully shared the views expressed by the representatives of Morocco and Tanzania, for the High Commissioner's services would be needed so long as the present policy of Portugal, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia persisted; and at the same time the international community would have to render assistance to the liberation movements which were trying to put an end to that policy.

43. Her delegation was pleased that 500,000 refugees had been resettled in Africa and it hoped that, thanks to the High Commissioner's work, the situation of the remaining refugees would soon be settled.

44. Since independence, her country had opened its doors to all African refugees, whom it treated in the

same way as its own nationals. Her country's inability to contribute to additional funds for dealing with the refugee problem was due precisely, among other things, to the thousands of refugees from so-called Portuguese Guinea who had found asylum there; and in that connexion she asked the Portuguese representative to urge his Government to put an end to the slaughter of innocent human beings and apply resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly.

45. The success achieved in dealing with the European refugee problem highlighted the connexion that existed between that problem and the phenomenon of development; and she therefore firmly supported the proposal for the continuation of the High Commissioner's Office, and hoped that the relevant joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1)—of which her delegation was one of the sponsors—would be adopted unanimously. She understood the reasons for which the Ugandan amendment (A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1) had been submitted, and she would vote for that amendment.

46. Miss HART (New Zealand) thanked the High Commissioner for his excellent report (A/6711) and observed with satisfaction that his Office was continuing to approach refugee problems in a practical and realistic way, while bearing in mind at the same time the human aspects of individual cases. The New Zealand delegation welcomed the development of procedures for consultation between the High Commissioner's Office and the specialized agencies and other bodies concerned with development as a means of ensuring that the completion of refugee assistance projects was suitably followed up where appropriate by the efforts of other international agencies.

47. Refugees from Europe and Asia had over the years been permanently settled in her country, which had given particular attention to handicapped groups; and, despite its economic difficulties, her Government had been able to maintain its 1967 contribution to the programme at \$28,000. Her country, which was a party to the 1951 Convention, had other instruments for the protection of refugees, which it had not yet ratified, under active consideration. She expressed appreciation to the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1), which her delegation would support. She was also sympathetic towards the Ugandan proposal (A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1), for it would be appropriate that the increasing preoccupation of the Office with African problems be reflected in the composition of the Executive Committee. She suggested, however, that consideration should be given to changes which would not affect the number of members.

48. Mr. BENAYADA (Algeria) associated himself with delegations which had congratulated the High Commissioner; his delegation, as one of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution, supported the continuance of the High Commissioner's Office.

49. The High Commissioner's report (A/6711) gave the Committee a picture of the progress he had achieved in his work; but it had to be emphasized that the major activities of the High Commissioner's Office were a great burden on its budget. There was a need for additional measures, which should come from national and international organizations. Aid to refugees was a duty of all men and all States; they

could help in the solution of the problem in various ways, such as the supply of food-stuffs or the provision of assistance in vocational training or general education.

50. His delegation's support for the work of the High Commissioner reflected its sympathy for all persons who, for whatever reason, were obliged to leave their countries and suffer great hardships.

51. Mr. COULBARY (Senegal), congratulating the High Commissioner on his excellent report, said that the refugee problem was still a matter of concern to many Governments, and had become increasingly serious in Africa. That was why Senegal had welcomed the establishment at Dakar of a local branch of the High Commissioner's Office, which had done very useful work.

52. The Senegalese delegation noted with satisfaction the co-operation maintained between the High Commissioner's Office and the United Nations specialized agencies—in particular UNESCO, since education was the most human form of assistance which could be provided to the masses of refugees; he hoped that that co-operation would be intensified in the future. He supported the suggestion that the High Commissioner should attend meetings of the UNDP Inter-Agency Consultative Board. He also welcomed the fact that of the 800,000 African refugees, 500,000 could already provide for their essential necessities; that testified to the magnitude of the efforts made. He associated himself with the fears expressed by the High Commissioner with regard to his programme for 1968. The financing of that programme would essentially depend on the contributions of States Members of the United Nations, and his delegation joined in the appeal to donor countries to increase their contributions. Senegal for its part had spared no efforts in that connexion. Since acceding to the 1951 Convention it had every year increased its contribution despite its own difficult financial situation. In addition, it had given a fraternal welcome to the constantly increasing numbers of refugees arriving in Senegal and had given them assistance at the cost of great sacrifice.

53. The joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1), whose sponsors included Senegal, was designed solely to consolidate the positive results achieved by the High Commissioner and confirm the confidence placed in him. The Senegalese delegation hoped that it would receive the affirmative votes of all members of the Committee, for much still remained to be done with regard to the refugee problem.

54. Mr. DE BROMLEY (Honduras) congratulated the High Commissioner on his valuable work and his excellent report. She emphasized the humanitarian character of the High Commissioner's activities and the tragic plight of the refugees. It was important that the work should not be interrupted, and she hoped that the Committee would give its full support to the joint draft resolution, which her delegation had joined in sponsoring.

55. Mr. GHAOUCY (Afghanistan) associated himself with the congratulations addressed to the High Commissioner. The refugee problem had happily been solved in Europe, but it had re-emerged in acute form in other parts of the world, particularly in Africa, where the numbers of refugees were constantly increasing, especially in the countries of first asylum which in view of their limited resources were unable to solve the problem. It was gratifying that the High Commissioner had endeavoured to solve that problem; but until the situation in southern Africa changed, the number of refugees would continue to increase. There was no doubt that the High Commissioner's efforts would have been more successful if he had more funds at his disposal. The members of the international community, and especially the developed countries, should raise their contributions in order to facilitate and strengthen the High Commissioner's work. He emphasized the value of the High Commissioner's personal efforts and of co-operation between the countries of first asylum and other countries of immigration, and the importance of education for the children of the refugees.

56. The Afghan delegation supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1).

57. Mr. SANTAMARIA MALLARINO (Colombia), associating himself with delegations which had congratulated the High Commissioner, emphasized the importance of the latter's work. His delegation was one of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution. He stressed the importance of the appeal to States to accede to the 1951 Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

58. Mrs. CABRERA (Mexico) wished also to congratulate the High Commissioner. She suggested that the amendment submitted by Uganda (A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1) should be redrafted in the following manner: "Requests the Economic and Social Council, in view of the continuance of the Office of the High Commissioner for a further period, to study the present composition of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme with a view to ensuring greater participation of countries intimately interested in that Committee's work".

59. Mr. TEKLE (Ethiopia) congratulated the High Commissioner on his valuable work and stressed the importance of the co-operation of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries and the specialized agencies. The work of the High Commissioner's Office for the legal protection, education and resettlement of refugees enjoyed universal support, and would clearly be necessary in the years to come; his delegation therefore supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1). He also supported the amendment submitted by Uganda (A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1), which simply meant that the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme would be able to benefit by the experience of the countries most concerned with the refugee problem.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.