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*President* : Mr. M. KLUSAK (Czechoslovakia).

*Present* :

Representatives of the following States: Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, France, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Republic.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Holy See, Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Health Organization.

## AGENDA ITEM 15

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/4390 and Corr.1-2 and Add.1-2; E/L.1176)**

1. Prince Sadruddin AGA KHAN (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), introducing his annual

report (E/4390 and Corr.1-2 and Add.1-2), said that the problems confronting his Office were more numerous and diverse than ever, mainly because of the continuing evolution in Africa.

2. In January 1967, there had been 740,000 refugees in Africa, 110,000 more than in 1966. As a result of co-operation between the Governments concerned and the United Nations agencies, 450,000 of the refugees had been resettled, 350,000 through spontaneous integration and 100,000 through national and international aid on a considerable scale. It was encouraging that those results had been achieved under a programme whose annual costs amounted only to some \$4 million. There had also been an increase in the number of voluntary repatriations, particularly among the Sudanese refugees.

3. He wished to stress the considerable advantages of settlement. On their arrival, the refugees represented a heavy burden for the country of asylum, but they could become a great asset to that country if they participated in the constructive work of development instead of being left in idleness in camps. In countries where agricultural development was an important aspect of the work of United Nations bodies, settlement called for close co-operation between his Office and those bodies. On the basis of recommendations made by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme at its sixteenth session and of General Assembly resolution 2197 (XXI), his Office had already benefited from the consultative services of other United Nations agencies in the planning and implementation of its programmes. The WFP had helped to finance certain projects, especially during the first stages of assistance, and the ILO and FAO, among others, had provided the services of experts under UNDP. Lastly, certain development and integration projects of benefit both to the refugees and the local population had been implemented by several United Nations agencies with the support of his Office; the ILO's activities in Burundi and the Congo were an example.

4. His Office envisaged even closer financial and technical co-operation with other United Nations bodies from the very moment when new problems arose, in order to ensure that the solutions being worked out would fit into national development plans.

5. In that connexion, he drew the Council's attention to chapter I of his report. He welcomed the opportunity he had been given to attend meetings of the Governing Council of UNDP and thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution submitted to the Council (E/L.1176), endorsing the recommendation of the Executive Committee of his Programme that he should be empowered to attend

meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of UNDP. At the same time, it should be stressed that the strengthening of inter-agency co-operation depended ultimately on the requests made to UNDP by the Governments of the countries of asylum. He was confident that their action would contribute to the attainment of the objectives of his Office.

6. Reference should also be made to the increasingly close co-operation between his Office and UNESCO, with which a memorandum of understanding had recently been signed on primary education and on programmes of fellowships and scholarships financed from the UNHCR refugee education account.

7. One of the traditional aspects of the work of his Office was the legal protection of refugees. In that connexion, it should be noted that the Secretary-General had transmitted to Member States the text of the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees with a view to enabling them to accede to it. Two States had already acceded to the Protocol and many others were giving active consideration to the possibility of doing so.

8. In Europe the refugee problem had become less acute and it was now possible progressively to reduce the volume of international assistance. In that region, the protection functions were now engaging the attention of his Office, which was making efforts to ensure that refugees should benefit, in the same degree as the citizens of the country of asylum, from the safeguards provided by national legislation and by international agreements. Many European refugees hoped to emigrate to other countries and he welcomed the opportunities provided by a number of countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

9. His Office was actively concerned with the protection of refugees in Latin America, and he was grateful for the help he had received from the Human Rights Commission of OAS in connexion with the problem of the forced repatriation of Haitian refugees. His Office was also endeavouring, in co-operation with the Latin American Governments concerned, to find solutions for a number of particularly difficult cases for whom material assistance was necessary.

10. His Office had been gravely concerned when the Macao authorities had yielded to pressure to return new illegal entrants to mainland China, and had repeatedly drawn the attention of the Portuguese Government to the need to respect the principle of *non-refoulement*. It was also endeavouring to continue the implementation of assistance programmes in that territory.

11. Work in Nepal, where groups of Tibetans had taken refuge in remote areas, was continuing satisfactorily. He wished to thank the Indian Government for its efforts on behalf of the Tibetan refugees, and welcomed the decision by committees of the European Refugee Campaign to devote sizeable sums from campaign proceeds to the Tibetan refugees.

12. In the Middle East, his Office had been able to find appropriate solutions for various groups of refugees. However, in view of recent events, an increase in material

assistance might prove necessary. In that connexion, he recalled that the problem of the Palestinian refugees was not within his jurisdiction, but within that of UNWRA, whose work he was following with sympathy.

13. His Office co-ordinated its action everywhere with that of the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and OAS, all of which provided him with valuable support. By way of illustration, he cited the Conference on the Legal, Social and Economic Aspects of the African Refugee Problem, to be held at Addis Ababa in October 1967 under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, ECA, the Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Foundation and the High Commissioner's Office. With respect to the legal problems of refugees in Africa, he stressed the need to keep in mind, especially during the International Year for Human Rights, a whole series of rights whose importance was not realized until they were lost; they ranged from the right of asylum and safeguards against expulsion and *refoulement* to the rights that were essential to integration—the right to a legal identity, to move about freely, to education, to work and to social security.

14. His Office now faced a serious financial problem. Although the estimated cost of the 1967 programme amounted to \$4,846,130, the total of the contributions pledged amounted to only \$3,011,311 or 60 per cent of the sum needed. The appeals addressed to Governments had had little effect, and his Office was having to rely, for the realization of its programme, on the co-operation of voluntary organizations participating in the European Refugee Campaign. He had therefore recently appealed to Governments to increase their contributions by at least 25 per cent.

15. In conclusion, he stressed that the solving of refugee problems had the effect of reducing tension and ensuring political stability, thus strengthening the structure of peace and concord which the United Nations was striving to build.

16. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) congratulated the High Commissioner and his staff on their untiring efforts on behalf of refugees.

17. Sweden noted with satisfaction that the problem of European refugees had lost its urgency and that the High Commissioner could now concentrate on the situation existing in Africa, in States which were already faced with difficulties of every kind. The results obtained in resettlement were impressive, but there were still nearly 300,000 refugees for whom a permanent solution had not yet been found, and the flow of refugees was still continuing.

18. Referring to the financing of those activities, he pointed out that Sweden had made a contribution of \$140,000 for the education of refugees in 1966 and was contemplating a similar contribution for 1967, quite apart from the considerable sums contributed by Swedish non-governmental organizations. The budget deficit of the High Commissioner's Office was particularly disquieting, since its effect was to delay urgently needed assistance. It would be a mistake to rely entirely on donations from voluntary organizations to make good

that deficit, and it was essential for Governments to take all the necessary measures. In that regard, he recalled that, at the seventeenth session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, Sweden had announced its intention of making a special contribution of \$50,000 in addition to its annual contribution of \$200,000. It was also to be hoped that part of the funds collected by the European Refugee Campaign, the total of which was estimated at \$3.5 million, would be earmarked for the UNHCR current programme.

19. The draft resolution submitted by Dahomey, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Venezuela and also sponsored by Iran was based on the need to ensure the most rational use of the available resources, both national and international, in implementing programmes of assistance for refugees, with due regard for the development plans of the host countries and, for that purpose, to establish the closest possible co-operation between the High Commissioner's Office and the other United Nations agencies. The operative part of the resolution was based on the recommendation made by the Executive Committee at its seventeenth session on the proposal of the representative of Norway, that the High Commissioner should attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of UNDP. The rather vague term "attend" had been used deliberately, since the question of the High Commissioner's participation in those meetings needed further consideration and a decision could be taken only by the General Assembly.

20. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom) said he, too, wished to congratulate the High Commissioner on his achievements, particularly with regard to increased co-operation with Governments and with international and private organizations. The development of vocational training and resettlement projects suitable for UNDP financing was extremely encouraging and his Government endorsed the recommendation on that point in paragraph 101 (a) of the Executive Committee's report on its sixteenth session (E/4380/Add.2). His delegation also welcomed the completion of the camp clearance programme in Europe. Remarkable progress had also been made in Africa, where the High Commissioner and his staff had acted as a focus for co-operation between Governments.

21. There was increasing recognition of the special status of refugees and of their right to asylum. His Government hoped to be in a position in the near future to sign the Protocol extending the personal scope of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

22. The financial situation of UNHCR, on the other hand, was far from satisfactory. The United Kingdom had increased its contribution in 1966, and, in spite of economic difficulties, had maintained it at the same level in 1967, while United Kingdom voluntary agencies had raised almost half a million pounds towards the European Refugee Campaign. His Government was studying the appeal launched by the High Commissioner and hoped to be able before long to increase its contribution. He ventured to hope that other Governments more fortunately placed at present would be able to do so now.

The High Commissioner could count on the United Kingdom's strong support.

23. Mr. DELISLE (Canada) said that his Government had always paid special attention to the refugee problem. Its substantial contribution to UNHCR (the highest per head of population) was concrete evidence of its interest in the matter. Canada, where more than 300,000 refugees had been settled since 1945, endeavoured to place the most liberal interpretation on its immigration procedures, and in 1966 had admitted 2,500 political refugees.

24. His delegation had supported resolution 2197 (XXI), in which the General Assembly had noted the financial crisis now affecting UNHCR and had requested the Governments of Member States to increase their contributions. The difficulties now facing the High Commissioner's Office were basically due to the disturbance that had broken out in Africa, and to the serious inadequacy of the resources at its disposal to meet that situation.

25. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that co-operation between the High Commissioner's Office and the specialized agencies would be strengthened during the coming years.

26. Miss JAMES (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the memorandum of understanding between UNHCR and UNESCO referred to in paragraph 15 of the High Commissioner's report had been signed on 10 July 1967. It provided for consultations between the parties and laid down the procedure for their collaboration in various fields (material assistance, teacher training, fellowships, etc.). In the opinion of the Director-General of UNESCO, that memorandum was a model which might well be followed by the other specialized agencies.

27. Mr. GREGH (France) said that his country had always regarded the activities of the High Commissioner's Office as being among the most immediately productive of the United Nations. To carry out its task, UNHCR had to have the necessary information on emergency situations, which changed very rapidly. Personal relationships between the High Commissioner and his representatives, on the one hand, and the beneficiary Governments, on the other, ensured that that requirement was met. At the same time, the administration of the High Commissioner's Office had to retain the necessary flexibility and care had to be taken to ensure that its resources were not tied up in long-range programmes. His delegation had been impressed by the magnitude of the High Commissioner's achievement in resettling 450,000 African refugees in comparison with the resources employed. It noted with satisfaction that the Office was not content to provide refugees with merely temporary assistance but, in co-operation with the Governments of the host countries and other United Nations agencies such as the ILO, UNESCO, FAO and WFP, was attempting to consolidate the results obtained by providing for their settlement. Its activities were consequently bound up with national development plans and projects receiving assistance from the specialized agencies.

28. France unreservedly supported the recommendation that the High Commissioner should be invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of UNDP. In response to the appeal addressed to contributing Governments, it had increased its contribution to UNHCR by \$100,000. It also hoped that the Office would benefit from increased resources during the International Year for Human Rights.

29. Mr. HAYTA (Turkey) said that the High Commissioner's statement left no room for doubt concerning the profoundly humanitarian nature of UNHCR's work. The problems facing UNHCR in Africa were serious, but the measures so far taken augured well for the future. International public opinion was becoming increasingly interested in the work done by UNHCR, whose resources were unfortunately inadequate for current needs.

30. Mr. AZIMI (Iran) drew the Council's attention to the growing importance of international co-operation in assistance to refugees. It was encouraging to note that UNHCR was carrying out its task in increasingly close co-operation with the specialized agencies and with non-governmental and voluntary organizations.

31. He hoped that the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, of which the General Assembly had taken note by its resolution 2198 (XXI), would soon enter into force. It was indeed important that refugees should enjoy the same protection as the nationals of the host country and that the principle of *non-refoulement* and the right of asylum should be respected.

32. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the refugee problem had been virtually solved in Europe. The situation in Asia, where India had assumed responsibility for Tibetan refugees and where UNHCR was continuing to help Chinese refugees in Macao and Tibetan refugees in Nepal, was on the whole satisfactory. On the other hand, the number of African refugees had increased from 630,000 at the beginning of 1966 to 740,000 in 1967. Although 450,000 African refugees had been resettled through the efforts of UNHCR, the situation still gave rise to anxiety. Nevertheless, UNHCR, whose function was that of a catalyst, had done outstanding work within its limited means.

33. The refugee problem was, of course, complex and the solutions inevitably varied from country to country. Although emigration seemed to be an appropriate solution in Europe, local settlement and integration in agriculture seemed to be the most satisfactory arrangement in Asia and Africa. In any case, collaboration between UNHCR and the other interested agencies, each one of which had its own part to play, was an essential condition of success. Thus, the execution of UNHCR's projects in Africa depended on the co-operation of the ILO, FAO, WHO, WFP, etc. Those projects might subsequently benefit by assistance from UNESCO and UNDP. In that connexion, excellent results had been obtained in Burundi, and WFP alone had allocated more than \$4.5 million to aid African refugees. Such collaboration was necessary both at the stage of preparation and at that of the execution of projects, and his delegation, which had

become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution before the Council, attached great importance to the High Commissioner's participation in the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of UNDP.

34. After drawing the Council's attention to the efforts made on behalf of refugees by other inter-governmental organizations, he pointed out that because of the humanitarian and social nature of his task, the High Commissioner's Office was contributing to the political stability of the regions benefiting from his assistance.

35. Mr. TUBBY (United States of America) observed that UNHCR was dealing concurrently with all the aspects of the refugee problem from legal protection to material assistance. The United States attached special importance to the High Commissioner's functions relating to protection of the right of asylum. In encouraging liberal practices, the High Commissioner sought to ensure that no refugee should be sent back to his country of origin against his will. The protection of the other rights of refugees (the right to employment, to education, etc.) was also essential to make them self-supporting and enable them to cease being refugees.

36. After noting the success achieved by UNHCR in Europe and Asia, he observed that half of the High Commissioner's resources had had to be allocated to Africa. His Office had succeeded in meeting the requests of the African countries promptly by the despatch of competent officials and the development, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, of appropriate programmes; its achievements in that region were impressive. The United States delegation particularly supported the programmes for the permanent settlement of refugees, who could subsequently make a useful contribution to the development of the host countries. The United States would continue to give UNHCR financial assistance, and he would support the draft resolution before the Council.

37. Mr. NAVA CARILLO (Venezuela) thanked the members of the Council for the sympathy they had expressed in connexion with the disaster which had struck his country.

38. The High Commissioner's report showed that the refugee problem was being viewed in a broader context than that of emergency aid, and that UNHCR would henceforth try to integrate refugees in the economy of the host country and to improve their legal status. The agreements and collaboration between UNHCR and other United Nations bodies were very useful, and it was gratifying that assistance to refugees was being linked with the economic development of the host country, as in the case of Burundi. Nevertheless, the deficit in the UNHCR budget gave cause for concern and that situation could not be remedied except by increased contributions from Governments.

39. Some Governments were more responsible than others for the refugee problem, while others were doing nothing to encourage the integration of refugees. On the other hand, several countries had shown a highly commendable spirit of solidarity in that respect.

40. Venezuela, which had been obliged to allocate nearly \$100 million to aid for the homeless, was not sure whether it could continue to make as large a contribution as in the past. It would be desirable to secure the assistance of private organizations, in order to meet the needs of the situation. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Council would adopt the draft resolution before it unanimously.

41. Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) commended the High Commissioner on his service to the cause of refugees and said his delegation would support the draft resolution before the Council. Libya, which contributed to the High Commissioner's programme, welcomed the results already achieved, but felt compelled to express its concern at the extent and gravity of the problems which remained to be solved. His delegation wished to point out that the situation of the Palestinian refugees dealt with by UNWRA was entirely different from that of the other refugees scattered throughout the world. The former refugees were people who had been expelled from their own country by foreign groups and whose property had been seized. As a result of recent events in the Middle East, 200,000 new refugees had been added to the million Palestinian refugees of 1948. Zionist leaders were calling for foreign immigration to replace the refugees who had left the country, and were pursuing a policy of aggression against their neighbours. His delegation wished to emphasize that, whatever measures might be taken by the United Nations to help those refugees, no final solution could be found for their problems so long as the Palestinians were prevented from exercising their legitimate rights and so long as the United Nations tolerated the existing situation.

42. Mr. FARUQI (Pakistan) expressed his satisfaction at the excellent results achieved by UNHCR in spite of its limited funds and the complexity of the problems to be solved. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution before the Council; it would be most useful for the High Commissioner to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of UNDP.

43. Mr. ZOLINER (Dahomey) pointed out that, in Africa, the refugee problem was directly related to colonialism and its after-effects. Of the 740,000 Africans who were at present refugees, less than half came from the thirty-eight independent countries of the continent. The majority were from the few remaining colonial enclaves, including the Portuguese territories (Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea) and from South Africa and South West Africa. There were at present more than 300,000 Angolan refugees in the Congo (Kinshasha).

44. His delegation welcomed the establishment by the High Commissioner's Office of a regional liaison office at Addis Ababa, as well as the drafting of the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, which considerably extended the scope of the 1951 Convention. The Organization of African Unity was also concerned with those questions and the Committee of Legal Experts of its Refugee Commission was currently preparing a draft convention relating to African refugees, which would be a useful supplement to the 1951 Convention.

45. Dahomey considered that assistance to refugees should not be limited to emergency aid, but should seek to find a permanent solution to the problem: integration in the host country or repatriation. Co-operation with the specialized agencies and UNDP was particularly helpful in that connexion, and his delegation could not but welcome the draft resolution that had been submitted. It should be recalled, however, the UNHCR's opportunities for action were directly related to the amount of the voluntary contributions it received; it was regrettable that it could not be sure of achieving the modest targets it had set itself for 1968. Domestic economic problems had compelled Dahomey to suspend its contributions, but it hoped to resume them as soon as conditions permitted. It was encouraging that thousands of persons had responded to the appeals for funds made by voluntary agencies during the previous year. It was to be hoped that Governments would also make a major effort.

46. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) said that his country would continue to contribute as much as it could afford to the High Commissioner's programme, and would support the draft resolution.

47. Prince Sadruddin AGA KHAN (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) thanked the representatives who had spoken. Their support for his humanitarian work would be a source of encouragement for the future.

48. The PRESIDENT put to the vote draft resolution E/L.1176, of which Iran had become a co-sponsor.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 1

##### Adoption of the agenda

*(resumed from the 1492nd meeting and concluded)*

##### SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM PROPOSED BY KUWAIT, LIBYA AND MOROCCO (E/4415)

49. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the letter from the delegations of Kuwait, Libya and Morocco proposing the inclusion in the agenda of a supplementary item entitled "Action to be taken following the earthquakes in Turkey, Colombia and Venezuela and the storm in Pakistan" (E/4415).

50. He proposed that the question should be included in the agenda as item 30.

*It was so decided.*

##### SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (E/4414)

51. The PRESIDENT called the Council's attention to the note from the Secretary-General suggesting that the



Council should include in the agenda of its forty-third session an additional item entitled "Appointment of a member of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development" (E/4414).

52. He proposed that the question should be included in the agenda as item 31.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 30

##### **Action to be taken following the earthquakes in Turkey, Colombia and Venezuela and the storm in Pakistan (E/4415)**

53. Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) said that the draft resolution submitted by Kuwait, Libya and Morocco (E/4415) was intended to convey the sympathy of the United Nations to the countries which had recently been victims of natural disasters and to assure them of the Organization's help. Such a step was in accordance with the practice previously followed by the Council in similar circumstances. His delegation was confident that the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies would do everything in their power to assist the victims of those disasters.

54. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom) said that he fully supported the draft resolution and proposed that the delegations of all countries represented in the Council should become co-sponsors in accordance with the procedure followed in adopting resolution 1212 (XLII) concerning the flooding of the river Euphrates, in order

better to convey their sympathy to the countries affected by those disasters.

55. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone), Mr. TUBBY (United States), Mr. ZOLLNER (Dahomey), Mr. GREGH (France) and Mrs. MIRONOVA (USSR) supported the United Kingdom proposal.

56. The PRESIDENT said that since all the members of the Council seemed to be in agreement, the Secretariat would consult those delegations which were absent in order to determine whether they too wished to become co-sponsors. He put the draft resolution to the vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

57. Mr. HAYTA (Turkey), Mr. FARUQI (Pakistan) and Mr. NAVA CARRILLO (Venezuela) thanked the members of the Council for the expression of sympathy with their countries.

#### AGENDA ITEM 31

##### **Appointment of a member of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/4414)**

58. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should approve the appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee of Professor Staicu, who had been nominated by the Secretary-General (see E/4414).

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.