



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



GENERAL

A/1716
13 December 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifth session
Agenda item 32 (e)

ELECTION OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Note by the Secretary-General

I.

Under the terms of the resolution relating to the office of High Commissioner for Refugees, which has been approved by the Third Committee, "the High Commissioner shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General" (A/1682, resolution A, annex, chapter III, paragraph 13).

A number of distinguished candidates have been suggested to the Secretary-General by certain delegations. Two of these candidates, Dr. G.J. van Heuven Goedhart and Mr. J. Donald Kingsley, appear to have outstanding qualifications and each of them has been widely supported for the post. Since the many consultations which the Secretary-General has undertaken have not succeeded in bringing about general agreement in favour of one or other of these candidates, the Secretary-General has the honour to put forward both names for the consideration of the General Assembly.

The curricula vitae of Mr. Goedhart and Mr. Kingsley are attached for reference.

II.

The same resolution approved by the Third Committee provides that "the terms of appointment of the High Commissioner shall be proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly", and that "the High Commissioner shall be elected for a term of three years from 1 January 1951".

At its 282nd meeting, the Fifth Committee decided to recommend that the rank and salary of the High Commissioner should be that of an Assistant

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Secretary-General. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit this recommendation to the General Assembly.

Curricula Vitae

G.J. VAN HEUVEN GOEDHART

Born: Bussum, Netherlands 1901

Educated at University of Leyden: LL.D., 1926

1930 Chief Editor of newspaper De Telegraaf

1933 Editor-in-Chief of Utrechtsch Nieuwsblad

1942-44 Served in the resistance movement in the Netherlands and edited underground newspaper Het Parool

1944 Escaped to England where appointed Minister of Justice in the Netherlands Government in exile

After the war, resumed Chief-Editorship of Het Parool and became a member of the Netherlands Senate

1947-48 Chairman of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, first and second sessions

1948 Member of the Netherlands Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information and Chairman of the First Committee of the Conference

1949 Chairman of the Netherlands Delegation to the General Assembly

1950 Acting Chairman of the Netherlands Delegation to the General Assembly and Chairman of the Third Committee.

J. DONALD KINGSLEY

Director-General, International Refugee Organization

Born: Cambridge, N.Y., 1908

A.B., Syracuse University 1929; M.A., Maxwell Graduate School of Public Affairs, 1930; Ph. D. Maxwell Graduate School of Public Affairs, 1933; graduate work London School of Economics, University of London, 1936-38, as post-doctoral European Fellow of (American) Social Science Research Council.

/Teaching Fellow

Teaching Fellow, Political Science Department, Syracuse University, 1929-30; Graduate assistant, Syracuse University, 1930-32; Instructor in government, Antioch College (Ohio), 1933-35; Assistant Professor of government, Antioch College, 1935-36; Professor of government, Antioch College, 1938-42; Assistant Regional Director, United States War Manpower Commission (Cleveland, Ohio), 1942-44; Deputy Executive Director, War Manpower Commission, 1944-45; Deputy Director, Office of War Mobilization, 1945-46; Program Coordinator, White House Office, 1946-47; Executive Secretary, President's Science Research Board, 1946-47; White House liaison, President's Commission on Higher Education, 1946-47; Principal Chief of Sections in charge of economic employment and statistical work, International Labour Office, Geneva, 1947-48; Chief of Mission to Greece, 1947; Assistant Federal Security Administrator, 1948-49. Member United States Delegation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, 1948; Director-General, International Refugee Organization, 1949 to present time.
