



**OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EIGHTEENTH SESSION**

**AD HOC COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the
programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees and to the United Nations Relief and
Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

**SUMMARY RECORDS OF MEETINGS
29 NOVEMBER AND 9 DECEMBER 1963**

UNITED NATIONS

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
First meeting	
<i>Friday, 29 November 1963, at 10.30 a.m.</i>	
Opening statement by the Chairman	1
Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	1
Announcement of voluntary contributions to the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	1
Second meeting	
<i>Monday, 9 December 1963, at 3 p.m.</i>	
Opening statement by the Chairman	5
Statement by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	5
Announcement of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	5

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

**AD HOC COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**1st
MEETING**

Friday, 29 November 1963,
at 10.30 a.m.



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Opening statement by the Chairman</i>	1
<i>Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</i>	1
<i>Announcement of voluntary contributions to the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</i>	1

Chairman: Mr. Adnan KURAL (Turkey),
Vice-President of the General Assembly.

Opening statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN, in declaring the meeting open, explained that he had been requested by the President of the General Assembly to take the Chair in his capacity as a Vice-President of the Assembly.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to enable representatives of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies to announce the contributions pledged by their Governments to the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1729 (XVI). In his annual report (A/5511/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1) and his statement at the 1270th meeting of the Third Committee on 21 November 1963, the High Commissioner had described the programmes carried out in 1963 and the action proposed for 1964. The activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, which were constantly becoming more universal in scope, were strictly humanitarian and non-political, and he was convinced that the representatives would wish to pledge their countries' contributions in the same spirit.

Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

3. Mr. SCHNYDER (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) recalled that the target for the 1963 programmes had been set at \$6.8 million. That amount was intended mainly to finance the completion of the major aid programme for "old" European refugees. Although all the funds required had not yet been collected, he hoped that the target could be reached.
4. Although the target for 1964, \$2.6 million, was much lower, that did not mean that the needs of refugees had decreased; on the contrary, new situations involving hundreds of thousands of them had arisen, especially in Africa. The difference was due intrinsically to the higher cost, dictated by economic and social conditions prevailing in Europe, of the major aid programmes, which were being wound up, and

should be terminated by the end of 1965. Their liquidation had become possible, on the one hand, because increasing prosperity in Europe and the active co-operation of Governments in protecting and resettling refugees rendered them unnecessary and, on the other hand, because a vast mechanism of international solidarity, in which the facilities of large private welfare organizations, national administrations and his own Office all participated, had come into existence which was able to cope with new emergency and long-term requirements.

5. The 1964 programme was intended to provide continuing assistance to European refugees whose cases had not been covered by previous programmes, and also to enable his Office to act as a catalyst in helping other organizations to deal with new refugee situations. The 1964 target had been kept at a realistic figure consonant with the staple resources of his Office, and he hoped that Governments would maintain their contributions at the previous regular level, enabling his Office to pursue its activities effectively. If unforeseen problems should arise, he would inform the Governments accordingly and take whatever measures might be required.

6. In conclusion, he pointed out that his Office's activities had become more and more universal in scope and expressed the hope that that trend would be increasingly reflected in the list of States supporting international action on behalf of refugees, and that all Governments would wish to contribute in some measure to that cause.

Announcement of voluntary contributions to the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

7. Mrs. KONANTZ (Canada) praised the High Commissioner's qualities of leadership and the remarkable results he had achieved. Canada, which had consistently participated both financially and practically in the High Commissioner's programmes, had, since the end of the Second World War, admitted over 300,000 refugees, the majority of whom had become Canadian citizens. Great progress was being made towards solving the refugee problem thanks to the High Commissioner's efforts, and Canada was proud to pledge 290,000 Canadian dollars for 1964, subject to parliamentary approval.
8. Mr. BOTHA (South Africa) paid a tribute to the High Commissioner and his assistants and announced that, as an indication of its desire to assist in his work, the South African Government would again make a contribution in the amount of \$25,000 for 1964, subject to parliamentary approval. He hoped that, as in the past, part of that sum might be used by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration for the transport of refugees to countries of resettlement.

9. Mr. DEMETROPOULOS (Greece) said that Greece, which had had to contend with a substantial refugee problem in the post-war years, had been grateful for the generous assistance received from the Office of the High Commissioner. As a token of its appreciation, his Government would increase its contribution for 1964 from \$9,000 to \$10,000, subject to parliamentary approval. He also wished to express his Government's gratitude to all the other Governments contributing to the efforts on behalf of refugees, especially the United States Government, which had recently allocated \$500,000 to the High Commissioner's programme in Greece for 1963, as part of a three-year project.

10. Mr. KJARTANSSON (Iceland) said that his Government, while deploring the fact that there should still be large numbers of refugees requiring assistance in the world, fully sympathized with their plight, and had accordingly decided to raise its contribution for 1964 to 244,250 Icelandic krónur, or the equivalent of \$5,750; that sum was more than 50 per cent higher than the previous year's figure.

11. Mrs. LINDSTROM (Sweden) said that thanks to its political neutrality, Sweden had offered asylum to many refugees from adjacent countries, who had at times represented a substantial economic burden. As a result, its cash contribution to the High Commissioner's programmes had hitherto been consistently moderate. However, a new situation was emerging: whereas the European refugee problems were being solved, new problems were arising in other regions, and the indications were that Africa, with its many new States and the discriminatory practices current in large areas, would create some major difficulties.

12. Moreover, it was sometimes difficult to distinguish between political refugees and persons who emigrated mainly for economic reasons, and it was a moot point how far the High Commissioner should participate, when the motives for emigration were uncertain. In her opinion, economic emigration should not be subsidized from public funds, which should be reserved entirely for aid to political refugees. Since Sweden could not directly assist such refugees in Africa, it would do so indirectly by increasing its contribution for 1964 to \$200,000, which was about 50 per cent more than the amount Sweden usually pledged.

13. The efficient care of refugees was expensive. Moreover, refugees from less developed countries might have to be provided with basic education in order to avoid their becoming a permanent burden on the country of asylum. In view of the prospect that aid to refugees might equal or exceed that given to less developed countries, she felt that the time might have come to co-ordinate the programmes of the High Commissioner's Office with that of the various United Nations technical assistance organs.

14. Mr. TSAO (China) congratulated the High Commissioner on his success in bringing the aid programme for "old" European refugees close to its conclusion, which allowed more attention to be devoted to new problems arising in Asia and Africa. For 1964, as in previous years, his Government would contribute \$5,000.

15. Mr. THALMANN (Switzerland) said that, as proof of its appreciation of the outstanding work done by the High Commissioner, his Government had made available for 1963, in addition to its ordinary contribution of 500,000 Swiss francs, the two special contributions

of 320,000 and 200,000 Swiss francs to help wind up the new programme of assistance to "old" European refugees. Although for budgetary reasons he was not yet in a position to state the amount that Switzerland would pledge for 1964, he could give the assurance that his Government would take into consideration the many and urgent problems with which the High Commissioner would be faced.

16. Mr. RADIVOJEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that his Government would contribute \$5,000 for 1964, subject to parliamentary approval.

17. Mr. CAMPBELL (Ireland) paid a tribute to the outstanding work carried out by the High Commissioner's Office. Subject to parliamentary approval, his Government would contribute \$5,000 for 1964.

18. Mr. GUDENUS (Austria) expressed his appreciation of the High Commissioner's work and said that his Government would increase its contribution for 1964 to \$15,000.

19. Mr. VON BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) thanked the High Commissioner for the progress made under his leadership in 1963. In view of the large number of refugees still to be found in the world, the work of the High Commissioner's Office must go on. His Government, which had supported that work consistently in its capacity as a member of the Office's Executive Committee, would again contribute 1.2 million Deutsche Mark, or the equivalent of \$300,000 in fully convertible currency, subject to parliamentary approval.

20. Mrs. DICK (United States of America) recalled that at the 1272nd meeting of the Third Committee she had already expressed her Government's support of the High Commissioner's work and reported on her country's past contributions. She had been gratified to note that many of the pledges announced thus far represented an increase over the previous year. Unfortunately, her Government was not yet in a position to announce its pledge for 1964, but hoped to do so in the very near future.

21. Mr. BEREKET (Turkey) expressed appreciation of the work accomplished by the Office of the High Commissioner. Subject to the approval of the legislative authorities, his Government would contribute 24,000 Turkish pounds for 1964, and would in addition make an extraordinary contribution of \$2,000 for 1964 only.

22. Mr. TINE (France) said that in 1963 France's regular contribution had been supplemented by the granting, in agreement with the High Commissioner, of direct assistance to refugees in France, in order to cope with certain contingencies which had called for immediate solutions. Having thus spent a large part of its contribution in advance, his Government would have to limit its contribution for 1964 to 635,143 French francs, or the equivalent of \$128,000, subject to parliamentary approval. He wished to stress, however, that in effect France's contribution remained unchanged.

23. Mr. EL BAKI (Algeria) paid a tribute to the humanitarian work of the High Commissioner's Office, of which his country had had first-hand experience during the recent war. His Government would contribute \$5,000 for 1964.

24. Miss ADDISON (Ghana) said that her Government, which had recently acceded to the 1951 Conven-

tion relating to the Status of Refugees, was concerned about new refugee problems, especially in Africa. As a token of its support of the High Commissioner's programmes, she pledged the sum of \$3,000 for 1964.

25. At the same time, she pledged a contribution of \$3,000 for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees for 1964 on behalf of her Government.

26. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) recalled that at the 1270th meeting of the Third Committee he had expressed his Government's appreciation of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner, and had explained that his Government intended to respond to the appeal for additional funds in 1963 by doubling its usual contribution. He regretted he could not yet specify the amount to be contributed in 1964, which would depend on parliamentary procedures, on the results of the 1963 appeal, and on the progress of the major aid programme, but it would certainly be substantial.

27. Mrs. HEROMA (Netherlands) stressed her Government's wholehearted support of the humanitarian activities of the United Nations and pledged, subject to parliamentary approval, a contribution of 800,000 guilders, or approximately \$220,200, for 1964. That sum included an extra contribution of 270,000 guilders made pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe with a view to hastening a solution to the problem of the "old" European refugees.

28. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) said that Australia, which had done its utmost to alleviate the plight of the refugees by taking in as many immigrants, including handicapped persons, as possible, strongly supported the efforts of the High Commissioner and endorsed his current programme. For 1964, his Government would contribute the equivalent of \$112,000, plus a further \$56,000 for that year only, for that programme, and the equivalent of \$201,600 for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

29. Mr. MEVIK (Norway) announced that his Government would contribute 800,000 Norwegian kroner for 1964, subject to parliamentary approval. That amount, which was equivalent to \$115,000, represented an increase of 100,000 kroner—intended for the major aid programme for "old" European refugees—over the amount regularly pledged by Norway in the past.

30. Miss Uloma WACHUKU (Nigeria) commended the work of the High Commissioner and pledged the sum of \$5,000 for his Office's programmes and another \$5,000 for that of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees for 1964.

31. Mr. NORRISH (New Zealand) regretted that for parliamentary reasons he was not yet in a position to state the amount of his Government's contribution for 1964. He pointed out, however, that in 1963, as in the preceding years, his Government had contributed the equivalent of \$28,000 each to the Office of the High Commissioner and to the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration and those amounts had been more than matched by the contributions made by the New Zealand people through a non-governmental organization. During his recent visit to New Zealand, the High Commissioner would undoubtedly have been able to gauge the extent of local support for his programme, which his Government's decision on its 1964 contribution would no doubt reflect.

32. Mrs. AISHAH (Malaysia) said that Malaysia, a new Member of the United Nations, strongly supported the humanitarian work of the Office of the High Commissioner and would play its full part in the Organization's programmes for refugees. On account of its limited resources, Malaysia could make no more than a token contribution to that cause, however, and it was in that light that the contribution of \$1,000 that she was pledging for 1964 on behalf of her Government was to be viewed.

33. Mrs. REFSLUND THOMSEN (Denmark) paid a tribute to the work performed by the High Commissioner and stated that, subject to parliamentary approval, her Government would, as in previous years, contribute 500,000 Danish kroner for 1964.

34. Mr. TALLARIGO (Italy) joined in the tribute paid to the High Commissioner, and while regretting that for administrative and parliamentary reasons he was not in a position to announce Italy's contribution for 1964, he wished nevertheless to reaffirm his Government's continuing interest in the work of the High Commissioner, evidenced by the fact that since 1953 it had spent the equivalent of some \$20 million on direct assistance to about 40,000 refugees.

35. Monsignor FLYNN (Holy See) announced that the Holy See would contribute a token sum of \$1,000 to the work of the High Commissioner in 1964. That contribution, which was additional to the contributions of \$10,000 towards the settlement of "old" European refugees and \$5,000 for the support of refugees from Rwanda and Tanganyika recently made by the Holy See in response to the High Commissioner's appeal, was indicative of its continuing interest in alleviating the plight of refugees, and of its moral support, affirmed both by Pope Paul VI and by the late Pope John XXIII, in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, of all endeavours in that direction. He expressed his appreciation of the High Commissioner's efforts towards that end.

36. Mr. YAPOU (Israel) stressed the significance of the reference made by the High Commissioner at the beginning of the meeting to the emergence of a mechanism of international solidarity able to deal with new situations, and to the pooling of available facilities and means of assistance for the solution of difficult problems. Subject to the usual parliamentary procedures, his Government, as in 1963, would contribute \$5,000 for 1964.

37. Mr. CHAKCHOUK (Tunisia) said that his delegation had already expressed its support of the High Commissioner's work, at the 1272nd meeting of the Third Committee and at the 1265th plenary meeting of the General Assembly. Despite the burden represented by Tunisia's efforts to improve the living conditions of its population, his Government would contribute \$2,000 for 1964.

38. Mr. SKALLI (Morocco) thanked the High Commissioner and his staff for their unstinting efforts on behalf of refugees and said that his Government would contribute 50,000 dirhams for 1964.

39. Mr. KPONVI (Togo) pointed out that Togo had been executing a refugee programme of its own since 1961 and thanked the High Commissioner for his efforts on behalf of refugees in Togo. He announced that his Government would contribute 500,000 francs for 1964.

40. Mr. COULIBALY (Mali) said that he was gratified to note the High Commissioner's concern for the fate of the numerous African refugees, who were the victims of apartheid and colonialism, and whom Mali was already assisting as a member of the Organization of African Unity. Although a developing country

with only limited resources, Mali was keen to take part in the humanitarian activities of the United Nations, and his Government would therefore contribute a token sum of \$1,500 for 1964.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.