



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/582/Add.1
20 November 1981
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Thirty-sixth session
Agenda item 66

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	
Cuba	2
Sweden	4

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[29 September 1981]

1. Cuba believes that the need to eliminate the underlying causes of the tragic flows of refugees, whose ranks millions of people of the so-called third world are compelled to join, must be fully understood. This can be done only by taking action, with the requisite urgency, to establish a new international economic order which will ensure an equitable and just redistribution of the wealth of mankind, the elimination of injustices and inequalities between the developed world and the under-developed world, the eradication of hunger, the provision of medical care where it is now lacking, the elimination of unemployment and illiteracy, and full respect for all other inalienable human rights; this would help to reduce world-wide migration and to stem large-scale flows of migrants in the future.
2. In this noble endeavour, the United Nations should therefore prevail upon those principally responsible for the tragic mass emigration of refugees to put a stop to: the plundering and exploitation of the peoples of the third world; imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialist domination; the opposition of the imperialist Powers to the exercise by peoples of full sovereignty over their natural resources and their absolute right to self-determination and independence and freely to choose the social system best suited to their national interests; the imperialists' support of apartheid and zionism and the illegal occupation of Namibia; support of colonial régimes which hold on to power only by violence against their own populations; and the economic and financial blockade and aggression and destabilizing actions of every kind carried out by the imperialists against Governments struggling for their national self-determination - all of which are causes which induce or oblige millions of human beings to emigrate in search of better living conditions, in some cases in order to survive and, in others, to flee from the prevailing reign of terror.
3. Cuba believes that this evil cannot be overcome by formal action, such as the establishment of new United Nations machinery to deal with it, as that would be a mere palliative for a problem of such great scope and would only benefit those who are the real instigators of the exodus and are now trying to evade the consequences of the migrations, and it would not go to the root of the problem. The situation is much more serious; immediate and practical solutions are needed to eliminate the poverty, discrimination and backwardness implanted by colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism and to allay the sufferings of people compelled to emigrate en masse, or continuously and quietly, in search of a better life, or who are encouraged by those who, in many cases, are interested in depriving the poor countries of their skilled workers, intellectuals and scientists which constitutes a criminal brain-drain.
4. Further to the foregoing comments and suggestions, Cuba considers it highly important, in analysing these problems, not to forget the consequences, in terms of migration, of the imperialist war of aggression against the peoples of Viet Nam,

Laos and Cambodia which turned into refugees millions of people who were the direct or indirect victims of the effects of thousands of tons of defoliants sprayed over Vietnamese fields in order to spread hunger among the population and displace hundreds of thousands of rural inhabitants. Nor can it be forgotten that it is the same imperialist forces which are responsible for the tragedy of hundreds of thousands of refugees in different parts of the world, for example, it is the policies and practices of the racist régimes of South Africa and Israel and their allies which are primarily responsible for the flows of refugees, displaced persons, emigrants and people doomed to indescribable suffering.

5. Cuba has had first-hand experience of the policy of blockade and diversion designed to destroy its growing economy and social development in line with the counter-revolutionary strategy conducted by United States imperialism which therefore bears a heavy responsibility for the existence of conditions which still create potential or real emigrants in all the under-developed countries, especially in the liberated countries and the countries which are struggling for real independence.

6. Lastly, Cuba wishes to express its firm conviction that, so far as the political aspect of this problem is concerned, the existing components of the United Nations - the Security Council and the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly - that have managed to solve other crises can handle this problem which, given its humanitarian and social nature, fall directly within their terms of reference. It is therefore inadvisable to put forward ideas advocating possible proposals or criteria or institutional arrangements for setting up subsidiary organs or good offices committees which Cuba considers unnecessary. On the contrary, Cuba is in favour of improving the present machinery of the United Nations system and of directing efforts towards overcoming the problems besetting the system and towards solving the serious budgetary difficulties of components such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. Improving the work of the United Nations through the existing political, economic and humanitarian organizations and institutions is a practical alternative which has already proved its effectiveness.

7. In the light of the foregoing, the Government of the Republic of Cuba attaches great importance to the report on this subject which the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and expresses the hope that everything possible will be done to eradicate the causes responsible for the flows of refugees and emigrants.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[3 November 1981]

1. The Swedish Government considers that the discussion initiated last year by the Federal Republic of Germany is important. During the past years the world has witnessed an alarming increase in the number of refugee emergencies. Many of those have at least initially been man-made, either caused by failure to reach proper political solutions nationally, or resulting from outside intervention in national affairs. In our opinion, therefore, the search for political solutions, if possible at an early stage, would be a welcome and necessary complement to the activities by which the international community already seeks to cope with mass movements of refugees.
2. However, Sweden does not believe that it would be possible for a long time to put an end altogether to refugee flows resulting from man-made emergencies. It is therefore important that a search for political means to avert mass flows of refugees should under no circumstances be allowed to weaken the efforts in assisting refugees through traditional channels.
3. It is also the view of the Swedish Government that political solutions cannot be imposed upon States, but should be worked out in agreement with the States concerned in accordance with principles and procedures recognized by them.
4. Believing that all good ways must be tried in the efforts to limit the flows of refugees, the Swedish Government is in favour of the establishment of an expert group or committee to study this question. One important task for the group or committee would be to elaborate a set of guidelines for the conduct of States. In our view these guidelines should be collected from among the principles and recommendations already recognized by States in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international instruments, including those dealing with refugee protection. It is our belief that a valuable contribution will be made if principles relevant to the refugee situation which are now to be found in various instruments are also assembled and made available in this context. We believe this would be a way to place in focus and to reaffirm these basic principles.
5. The group or committee may also wish to consider additional principles for inclusion in the guidelines.
6. The Swedish Government believes that it is desirable to limit the mandate of the expert group or committee to those refugees who have fled their country for other reasons than solely natural catastrophes or personal convenience.
7. It has been suggested that the expert group or committee may wish to consider the question of an institutional framework for the new efforts to avert flows of refugees. Sweden believes that the first mandate to be given to the group in that case should be to make a thorough study of the possibilities of using existing international institutions.

8. It is possible that the expert group or committee may find that it wishes to consider new measures to be taken to prevent man-made refugee flows, such as fact-finding missions, discussions with the country or countries involved aimed at eliminating the acute causes, or early information to enable the international community to prepare preventive or remedial measures. Whatever practical measures will be discussed by the expert group or committee, the Swedish Government strongly believes that the following positions must be taken into account:

(a) No measures which may limit the recognized right of the individual to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his own country must be accepted;

(b) The mechanisms which may be applied to prevent man-made refugee flows must not impede or delay assistance by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or other organizations;

(c) The UNHCR must continue to be solely a humanitarian organization giving refugee assistance without political considerations.

9. In its work the expert group or committee should also take into account the work being done in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights regarding mass exoduses and violations of human rights.
