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ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

- (a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORLD  
REFUGEE YEAR

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Helen HAMPTON (New Zealand)

1. The General Assembly, at its 881st plenary meeting on 1 October 1960, allocated item 33 of its agenda, "Assistance to Refugees", to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered part (a) of this item, "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", <sup>1/</sup> and chapter V, section IV, of the report of the Economic and Social Council <sup>2/</sup> at its 999th to 1004th meetings, held between 24 and 27 October 1960.
3. The Committee considered sub-item (b), "Report of the Secretary-General on the World Refugee Year" (A/4546), at its 1004th to 1006th meetings, held on 27, 28 and 31 October 1960.

I. ITEM 33(a) - REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

4. At the invitation of the Committee, the High Commissioner made an introductory statement (999th meeting). He stated that progress had been made in providing

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/4378/Rev.1) and A/4378/Rev.1/Add.1.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/4415).

international protection for refugees. During the year, three more countries, Greece, New Zealand and Yugoslavia, had ratified or acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and four more, Argentina, Brazil, Portugal and Turkey, were about to do so, thus bringing the number of parties to the Convention up to twenty-nine. The Office of the High Commissioner had also been successful in stimulating the inclusion of provisions favourable to refugees in other international treaties and in national laws and regulations, and in endeavours to ensure that decisions on refugee status followed a constant and humanitarian pattern.

5. Progress had been made with regard to the indemnification of refugees under the mandate of his Office who, by reason of their nationality, had suffered persecution under the German National-Socialist régime. On 5 October 1960 an agreement on this matter had been concluded between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Federal Republic of Germany.

6. The High Commissioner reported that the number of refugees requiring protection tended to diminish more slowly than the number of non-settled refugees. In Europe alone, 870,000 refugees still required protection in 1960.

7. The High Commissioner referred to the acute problems presented by more than 200,000 refugees from Algeria living in Morocco and Tunisia, and paid tribute to the Governments of those two countries and to the League of Red Cross Societies for their endeavours to assist these refugees. Unfortunately, the Executive Committee of the League had, as recently as 7 October 1960, decided that its participation in the joint operation should terminate on 30 June 1961, with the proviso that it could be extended if no satisfactory alternative arrangements had been completed by that time. The High Commissioner expressed the hope that the League would see its way to extend its participation in the joint operation. His Office felt bound by General Assembly resolution 1389 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 to continue the relief operation as long as the need existed.

8. The High Commissioner further reported that programmes which UNHCR had started in 1955 had drawn substantial matching contributions from national funds. In 1955, there had been 252,000 non-settled refugees in Europe, living both in and outside camps, but there would be no more than 75,000 by the end of 1960, even though 238,000 new refugees had arrived during the five-year period. From 1958, efforts

to evacuate all refugees under his mandate from official camps had been intensified. By the end of 1960, the camp population should fall to 13,800. By the beginning of 1961, there would be no refugees in camps in Greece. There should be none in Austria and Italy by the end of 1961, but it would take some time longer to clear the camps in Germany. The required sum of over \$3 million had been provided, thanks to World Refugee Year.

9. The problem of non-settled refugees living outside camps in Europe had assumed manageable proportions. Their number had dropped from 167,000 in 1955 to 61,000 at present. The High Commissioner was deeply grateful to the voluntary agencies for their assistance and their co-operation in dealing with this matter. The programmes for non-settled refugees living outside camps in Europe, including Turkey, concentrated on clearly defined objectives. In countries with fully developed economies the programme was limited to handicapped refugees. In States less satisfactorily placed economically, UNECR engaged in comprehensive country clearance programmes which should provide a complete solution for a given country within two or three years if the necessary funds were forthcoming.

10. Provided there was no influx of refugees, solution of the problem of the non-settled refugees under the UNECR mandate in Europe was in sight. Several factors contributed to this. Repatriation had been encouraged, integration had been facilitated by economic developments in many European countries, and emigration of handicapped refugees had been facilitated by developments in medicine and in other fields. The High Commissioner referred to the special contribution made by the Governments of the Scandinavian countries and of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, which had accepted significant numbers of handicapped refugees, and by several Governments which had liberalized their immigration regulations.

11. The High Commissioner also referred to the programme for refugees of European origin living in the Far East. His Office co-operated there closely with the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM).

12. Although the legal protection of his Office could apply only to refugees under the mandate of UNECR, the High Commissioner was authorized to use his good offices to assist Chinese refugees in Hong Kong and other refugees not coming within his mandate by such means as channelling funds or opening resettlement opportunities.

13. At the 1000th and 1003rd meetings, the High Commissioner made additional statements in reply to questions put by the representative of Saudi Arabia. Referring to repatriation procedures, he stated, inter alia, that a person seeking repatriation should contact the diplomatic representative of his country of origin, but if this was not possible the Office of the High Commissioner would make the necessary arrangements. Where the person concerned, voluntary agencies and the Government of the country of origin were all unable to defray the travelling expenses, UNHCR was empowered to grant assistance from a special fund. The High Commissioner also stated that all refugees who were found to fulfil the necessary conditions laid down in the Statute of his Office were entitled to legal protection under the mandate of his Office without distinction of nationality, race or religion.

#### General debate

14. Many delegations commended the High Commissioner for his energetic leadership and expressed satisfaction with progress made during the year in carrying out refugee programmes, particularly the Camp Clearance Programme. Special reference was made to the valuable work performed by voluntary agencies in helping refugees to acquire training in skills and languages, as well as in providing relief. It was pointed out that the International Labour Organisation would consider at its next conference the question of equality of treatment of nationals and non-nationals in social security, a matter of great concern to refugees.

15. Some delegations pointed out that refugee problems and the right of asylum were closely linked, and that the international community should lighten the burden of countries giving asylum. It was stated that the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum could constitute a further step towards the promotion of a common international viewpoint. Several delegations emphasized that World Refugee Year had greatly benefited refugees and that the intensified action taken by Governments and by non-governmental organizations under that campaign had eased the task of the High Commissioner's Office.

16. Other delegations expressed the view that refugee problems might remain unsolved as long as the High Commissioner concentrated on resettlement and, furthermore, that it was inappropriate for the High Commissioner's Office to have

the duty of providing legal protection for refugees, a task which should be the responsibility of the Governments of the countries in which the refugees were living. These delegations also suggested that the time had come to consider abolishing the High Commissioner's Office since it had almost completed its work.

17. Some delegations drew attention to the question of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. Reference was made to General Assembly resolution 1167 (XII) of 26 November 1957 and it was suggested that a larger programme of assistance was now required to ensure the effectiveness of the work already undertaken. Similar views were expressed concerning assistance to other groups of refugees who did not come within the immediate competence of UNHCR.

18. Several delegations referred to the situation of refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia and expressed gratification that, as a result of the generosity of the Moroccan and Tunisian Governments, and the assistance provided by other Governments, the High Commissioner and various voluntary agencies, the condition of these refugees was being steadily improved.

Draft resolution on the report of the High Commissioner

19. At the 1003rd meeting, Brazil, Ceylon, Colombia, Denmark, the Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Togo submitted a draft resolution on the report of the High Commissioner (A/C.3/L.864), the operative paragraph of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly

.....

"Invites States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to continue to devote attention to refugee problems still awaiting solution:

"(a) By continuing to improve the legal status of refugees living in their territory, in consultation, where needed, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

"(b) By further increasing facilities for the voluntary repatriation, resettlement and integration of refugees,

"(c) By enabling the High Commissioner to reach the financial targets both of his current 1961 programmes as well as of the other programmes entrusted to his Office,

"(d) By continuing to consult with the High Commissioner in respect of measures of assistance to groups of refugees who do not come within the competence of the United Nations."

/...

20. The sponsors of the draft resolution urged further improvement of the legal status of refugees. It was pointed out that the magnitude of the problems still remaining made it essential for the financial requirements of the High Commissioner's programmes to be fully met. The target of \$6 million for 1961 was only half reached, and an additional \$2.8 million would be needed in cash for refugee work in Morocco and Tunisia. The last clause of the draft resolution reflected the increasing interest of Governments and non-governmental organizations in giving practical assistance to refugees outside the High Commissioner's mandate.
21. Some delegations expressed regret that the possibility of discontinuing the activities of the High Commissioner's Office was not referred to in the draft resolution and that only favourable aspects of the High Commissioner's work were mentioned.
22. The Committee, at its 1004th meeting, adopted the eleven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.864) by 65 votes to none, with 12 abstentions (see para. 63, draft resolution I below).

Draft resolution on refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia

23. At the 1002nd meeting, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861). It read, in part:

"The General Assembly,

.....

"Observing with regret that no solution has been found to be problem which is the cause of this situation, which is therefore likely to continue,

.....

"Recommends that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should:

"(a) continue his present action;

"(b) use his influence to ensure the continuation of the operation carried out jointly by the Office of the High Commissioner and the League of Red Cross Societies, and, should this prove impossible, draw up and execute a programme for the assumption by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of complete responsibility for these refugees from 1 July 1961."

Afghanistan became a co-sponsor of this draft resolution.

/...

24. Subsequently, the sponsors presented a revised text (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1 and Corr.1), in which the fifth preambular paragraph was revised to read:

"Regretting that the situation which is the cause of this problem continues."

The operative paragraph remained the same.

25. It was stated in support of the four-Power draft resolution that the Moroccan and Tunisian Governments had made a great effort to help the refugees, but that their resources were limited. Increased international co-operation was required because one half of the refugees from Algeria were children who needed food, adequate health care and an opportunity to continue their education. The hope was expressed that the League of Red Cross Societies would be able to continue its activities for as long as they were needed.

26. Other delegations stressed the strictly social and humanitarian character of the draft resolution and appealed to the Third Committee to show its interest in alleviating the misery of these refugees by adopting the text unanimously.

27. The representative of France recalled his Government's position on the problem and stated that France claimed the right to provide all necessary assistance for the refugees from Algeria who under the pressure of events had been obliged to leave their homes. Being anxious, however, that humanitarian considerations should come before legal considerations, it had made three payments, each of NF1,250,000, to the High Commissioner's Office.

28. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that the additional activities contemplated under the revised four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1 and Corr.1) could, if the draft resolution were adopted, lead to operational expenses which would be met from the High Commissioner's voluntary funds. The adoption of the draft resolution would have no financial implications for the normal United Nations budget.

29. The revised four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1 and Corr.1) was adopted at the 1004th meeting by a roll-call vote of 76 to none, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France.

(See para. 63, draft resolution below.)

Draft resolution expressing appreciation to the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees

30. At the 1002nd meeting, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.860), the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly . . .

"Expresses its thanks and admiration for Dr. Auguste Lindt's brilliant and important work during his years as High Commissioner for Refugees,

"Extends its good wishes for equally great success in all his future undertakings."

The sponsors subsequently orally revised the first operative paragraph to read as follows:



"Expresses its thanks to Dr. Auguste Lindt and its admiration for the brilliant and important work he has performed during his years as High Commissioner for Refugees."

31. An appeal was made for all delegations to pay tribute to Dr. Lindt, during whose term of office great progress had been made towards a solution of the refugee problem. The High Commissioner, it was said, had always adopted a humanitarian approach and, in spite of the limited resources at his disposal, had been able to establish priorities for practical solutions for each problem according to its particular needs.

32. The thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.860), as orally revised, was adopted at the 1004th meeting without a vote (see para. 63, draft resolution III below).

## II. ITEM 33(b) - REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

33. At the 1004th meeting, the Secretary-General introduced his report (A/4546). He stressed that the Year, which had been instituted under General Assembly resolution 1285 (XIII) of 5 December 1958, consisted, first and foremost, of a series of national efforts. The endeavours of one year could not solve all the problems relating to refugees; the information contained in the report before the Committee was not final because some countries had decided to continue the campaigns organized in connexion with World Refugee Year.

34. Ninety-seven countries and territories, representing a large part of the world, had taken part in the campaign. Thirty-nine national committees had been established in the participating countries, often under the patronage of the Head of State. Seventy-four of the most important non-governmental organizations had established an International Committee for the World Refugee Year. One particularly outstanding fact was that all religious faiths had united in supporting that humanitarian undertaking. In all the participating countries World Refugee Year had been given far more publicity than refugee questions had previously enjoyed, and henceforward these problems would be more widely understood by international opinion.

35. The Secretary-General stated that, according to reports received up to 30 September 1960, the total sum raised in World Refugee Year or pledged subject to legislative approval, in addition to the regular annual contributions of

Governments and voluntary agencies, was more than \$US80 million. Of that sum, more than \$23 million came from Governments and some \$57 million from the public. Since 30 September, campaigns in Austria, Belgium, Canada, France and Switzerland had raised an additional \$3 million, and the sale of stamps and first-day covers under the Stamp Plan sponsored jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was expected to bring in a sum in the neighbourhood of \$1 million.

36. By 20 October 1960, the sum of \$22,673,646 had been contributed, pledged or raised on behalf of refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees, not counting refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco.

37. Of that sum, more than \$8 million had been handed directly to the High Commissioner to finance the special World Refugee Year programme on behalf of refugees within his mandate. The amount available would fully finance the High Commissioner's Camp Clearance Programme in Europe, permitting integration within their countries of first asylum or resettlement elsewhere of the 32,000 refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate still living in European camps. In addition, a considerable number of refugees in Europe within the mandate of UNHCR living outside camps would be helped towards integration or resettlement with the assistance of supplementary World Refugee Year funds.

38. The \$22,673,646 referred to (para. 36) included a sum of \$1,210,724 exclusively for refugee transportation, mainly by ICEM, and \$13,404,047 for other programmes also benefiting refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate, but in most cases not administered by him.

39. Particularly encouraging results had been obtained in connexion with the resettlement of refugees who were handicapped or difficult to resettle. The High Commissioner estimated that, thanks to the liberalization of immigration criteria by various countries during World Refugee Year, some 4,000 handicapped refugees and their dependants, making about 7,000 persons in all, would be resettled outside their countries of first asylum - as compared with 4,665 handicapped refugees and their families resettled in the seven years 1952-1958.

40. Appeals on behalf of the refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco had produced contributions amounting to \$5,360,122, of which more than \$2.7 million had been directed to the High Commissioner's Office.

41. The sum of \$4,514,694 had been contributed or pledged, up to 30 October 1960, on behalf of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. Of that sum, approximately \$2.5 million would go towards the Hong Kong Government's goal for its World Refugee Year projects.
42. Up to 20 September 1960, \$7,875,967 had been contributed or pledged for the Arab refugees from Palestine within the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Of that sum, more than \$2 million had been contributed or pledged for Agency programmes, and the Agency had received promises of a further \$1 million in contributions towards the \$4 million minimum target set by the Director of UNRWA at the beginning of World Refugee Year for the special programme.
43. Other refugees - including refugees in Europe not within the mandate of the High Commissioner and various groups of refugees in Asia - would benefit to the extent of \$17,914,112 raised for them so far.
44. Of the total of \$83 million, more than \$20 million appeared to be still unallocated to any specific programme. It was stressed that only \$14 million had been directly allocated to the two United Nations agencies dealing with refugees - the High Commissioner's Office and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency - or used to finance the transportation of refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner.
45. Finally, with regard to voluntary repatriation, more than 3,000 refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner had been repatriated at their own request.
46. All the above figures showed that the high hopes centred on World Refugee Year had not been misplaced. A notable feature was the universality of the programmes: economically less privileged countries had also contributed generously to reduce the burdens of others. A number of organizations especially set up for World Refugee Year had decided to continue their work on behalf of refugees permanently.
47. The High Commissioner for Refugees referred to the statement he had made at the Committee's 999th meeting and again expressed his gratitude to all those who had participated in the World Refugee Year which enabled his Office to make considerable progress in bringing refugee problems nearer to a solution.
48. The Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East stressed the complexity of the problems entrusted to UNRWA and pointed out that by its action the Agency not only alleviated the

suffering of the refugees but also contributed to the stability of that entire part of the world. He was very grateful for the assistance given to UNRWA by Governments, national committees, voluntary agencies and private individuals and he expressed the hope that the efforts made during the campaign might continue.

49. Many delegations informed the Committee of their contributions in connexion with World Refugee Year and others reported on practical steps which they had taken or intended to take in order to receive refugees in their countries. Appreciation was expressed to the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and his staff for their assistance. Tribute was also paid to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to which credit for having launched the idea of the Year was due.

Draft resolution on World Refugee Year

50. At the 1004th meeting, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution on World Refugee Year (A/C.3/L.863), the third paragraph of the preamble and the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly . . .

"Noting with gratification the remarkable success of the World Refugee Year in many parts of the world, not only financially but also in promoting the ultimate settlement of large numbers of refugees, particularly those who are handicapped,

. . .

"1. Expresses its thanks to the many Governments, national committees, non-governmental organizations and private individuals who have contributed to the success of the World Refugee Year as well as to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for their efforts in this regard;

"2. Urges States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and international non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to assist refugees on a purely humanitarian basis, especially by:

"(a) Increased co-operation with the United Nations programmes working towards solutions of the problems of refugees;

"(b) Efforts to maintain the public interest in the solution of refugee problems aroused by the World Refugee Year;

"(c) The encouragement of additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves; and

"(d) The further encouragement of financial contributions for international assistance to refugees including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the general public."

51. The sponsors of the draft resolution emphasized that, although much progress had been achieved as a result of World Refugee Year, world public opinion should be kept continuously aware of the plight of millions of people who were without homes and often without hope. To achieve a final solution of all refugee problems, the work already begun should be continued.

52. Taking into account suggestions made by the representative of Saudi Arabia, the sponsors of the draft resolution submitted a revised text (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.1). Pakistan became a co-sponsor of this revised text. In that text, the third paragraph of the preamble quoted above (para. 50) was revised to read:

"Noting with gratification the remarkable success of the World Refugee Year in many parts of the world, not only financially but also in promoting solutions of problems relating to large numbers of refugees, particularly those who are handicapped,".

They also revised sub-paragraph (a) of operative paragraph 2 to read:

"2. (a) Increased co-operation with the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees;".

53. The representative of Saudi Arabia, while grateful to the sponsors for having stressed the universal character of World Refugee Year by using the words "world opinion" and "refugees everywhere" in the fourth preambular paragraph, pointed out that the operative part of the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.1) did not correspond to that sentiment because it referred only to the States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies whereas many States which were not members of either had taken part in World Refugee Year. He further felt that States should be "Invited" rather than "Urged" and suggested replacement of the words "Urges States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and" in operative paragraph 2 by the words "Invites all States and".

54. On behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.1), it was stated that the suggestion to refer to all States instead of to States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies was not acceptable; the fact that States which were not members of the United Nations or of a specialized agency had made a substantial contribution to World Refugee Year was duly recognized in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution.

55. The representative of Saudi Arabia did not think it was sufficient to express thanks to the "many Governments ... [which] have contributed to the success of the World Refugee Year". He therefore suggested that a new paragraph should be added to the preamble to read:

"Noting that many Governments, including those of States not Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, have contributed to the funds of the World Refugee Year;"

He also suggested that a third paragraph should be added to the operative part, to read:

"Appeals to all peoples [everywhere] to consider contributing to the assistance of refugees [everywhere]".

56. He stated that, in a spirit of compromise, his delegation had refrained from addressing the appeal contained in that paragraph to States, and left the sponsors to insert the word "everywhere" at the place they wished, either after the word "peoples" or after the word "refugees". He told the Committee that the General Assembly had often in the past - for example, at its fourth, fifth and sixth sessions - addressed appeals to all peoples or all nations.

57. In reply, the authors of the draft resolution hoped they might satisfy the Saudi Arabian delegation by replacing in operative paragraph 1 the words "to the many" by the words "to all the". They accepted the Saudi Arabian suggestion to replace in operative paragraph 2 the word "Urges" by the word "Invites". They did not think it necessary to add a third operative paragraph.

58. The representative of Saudi Arabia accepted the sponsors' suggestions with regard to operative paragraph 1 but stated that he could not relinquish his demand that the draft resolution should be universal in character.

59. To take into account the interest of the representative of Saudi Arabia in the universality of the draft, the representative of the United Kingdom - one of the co-sponsors - suggested insertion of the word "everywhere" after the words

"public interest" in sub-paragraph (b), and also after the words "general public" at the end of sub-paragraph (d) of operative paragraph 2. The representative of Saudi Arabia said he could accept the United Kingdom proposal on the understanding, confirmed by the representative of the United Kingdom, that the word "everywhere" signified "everywhere in the world".

60. At the 1006th meeting, the sponsors of the eleven-Power draft resolution presented a further revised version of their draft resolution (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.2). This draft, while taking into account some of the suggestions made by the representative of Saudi Arabia, did not contain the word "everywhere" in sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) of operative paragraph 2. Wishing, however, to give full satisfaction to the Saudi Arabian representative, the sponsors had decided further to delete from the fourth preambular paragraph the words "everywhere and on the need for sustained and increased efforts for their ultimate solution", and to add a third operative paragraph, the text of which appears below. The operative part of the revised draft resolution would thus have read as follows:

"The General Assembly ...

"1. Expresses its thanks to all Governments, national committees, non-governmental organizations and private individuals who have contributed to the success of the World Refugee Year as well as to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for their efforts in this regard;

"2. Requests States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and international non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to assist refugees on a purely humanitarian basis, especially by:

"(a) Increased co-operation with the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees;

"(b) Efforts to maintain the public interest aroused by the World Refugee Year in the solution of refugee problems;

"(c) The encouragement of additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves;

"(d) The further encouragement of financial contributions for international assistance to refugees including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the general public;

"3. Expresses the hope that all people will take into consideration the problems of refugees and the need for sustained and increased efforts for the ultimate solution of these problems."

61. The representative of Saudi Arabia expressed his agreement with the text thus revised but suggested a further change, namely that, in order to meet the desire for universality, the English text of the draft resolution should use the words "all peoples" instead of "all people". This was not acceptable to the sponsors, on behalf of whom it was stated that in English the word "peoples" had the connotation of "nations" and in using the singular form "people" the sponsors had intended to stress the contribution which individuals had made to World Refugee Year. The sponsors agreed, however, to add the word "everywhere" after the words "all people" in operative paragraph 3 and they submitted a revised version of the text as follows:

"Expresses the hope that all people everywhere will take into consideration the problems of refugees and the need for sustained and increased efforts for their ultimate solution."

62. At the 1006th meeting, the eleven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.2), as amended, was adopted by 64 votes to none, with 12 abstentions (see para. 63, draft resolution IV below).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

63. The Third Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### I

##### Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>3/</sup>

Noting the recent favourable developments in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner in respect of international protection as well as of the promotion

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<sup>3/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 11  
(A/4378/Rev.1) and A/4378/Rev.1/Add.1.



of permanent solutions, including voluntary repatriation, resettlement to other countries and integration in the present countries of asylum,

Noting in particular that pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 1167 (XII) of 26 November 1957 and 1388 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 increasing attention is being paid in many countries, by Governments and by non-governmental organizations, to the problems of refugees who do not come within the immediate competence of the United Nations,

Further noting that none the less there still are considerable numbers of non-settled refugees, whose problems can be solved only by a further concentration of efforts of the international community,

Invites States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to continue to devote attention to refugee problems still awaiting solution:

(a) By continuing to improve the legal status of refugees living in their territory, in consultation, where needed, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(b) By further increasing facilities for the voluntary repatriation, resettlement and integration of refugees;

(c) By enabling the High Commissioner to reach the financial targets both of his current 1961 programmes and of the other programmes entrusted to his Office;

(d) By continuing to consult with the High Commissioner in respect of measures of assistance to groups of refugees who do not come within the competence of the United Nations.

## II

### Refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia

The General Assembly,

Having examined chapter IV of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>4/</sup>

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<sup>4/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/4378/Rev.1).

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1389 (XIV) of 20 November 1959,  
Considering the action taken by the High Commissioner and the encouraging results achieved during World Refugee Year,

Noting with appreciation the progress made on behalf of refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia,

Regretting that the situation which is the cause of this problem continues,  
Recognizing that the living conditions of these refugees and, in particular, those of the children remain precarious and require constant improvement,

Recommends that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should:

- (a) Continue his present action;
- (b) Use his influence to ensure the continuation of the operation carried out jointly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the League of Red Cross Societies, and, should this prove impossible, draw up and execute a programme for the assumption by the Office of the High Commissioner of responsibility for these refugees from 1 July 1961.

### III

#### Expression of appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Noting with regret that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will shortly leave office,

Considering that remarkable and encouraging progress has been made during his years in office in solving many of the problems of refugees, both under his mandate and through use of his good offices,

Confident that these achievements will lead to further improvement of the refugee situation under the Office of the High Commissioner,

1. Expresses its thanks to Dr. Auguste Lindt and its admiration for the brilliant and important work he has performed during his years as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
2. Extends its good wishes for equally great success in all his future undertakings.

IV

World Refugee Year

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1285 (XIII) of 5 December 1958 and 1390 (XIV)

of 20 November 1959 on the World Refugee Year,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the World Refugee Year,<sup>5/</sup>

Noting with gratification the remarkable success of the World Refugee Year in many parts of the world, not only financially but also in promoting solutions of problems relating to large numbers of refugees, particularly those who are handicapped,

Noting further that the World Refugee Year has focused the attention of world opinion on the problems of refugees,

Believing that the enthusiasm and interest aroused by the World Refugee Year can, if maintained, make a vital contribution to this end,

1. Expresses its thanks to all Governments, national committees, non-governmental organizations and private individuals who have contributed to the success of the World Refugee Year, as well as to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for their efforts in this regard;
2. Requests States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and international non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to assist refugees on a purely humanitarian basis, especially by:
  - (a) Increased co-operation with the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
  - (b) Efforts to maintain the public interest aroused by the World Refugee Year in the solution of refugee problems;
  - (c) The encouragement of additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves;

(d) The further encouragement of financial contributions for international assistance to refugees, including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the general public;

3. Expresses the hope that all people everywhere will take into consideration the problems of refugees and the need for sustained and increased efforts for their ultimate solution.

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