

United Nations  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



THIRD COMMITTEE, 1272nd  
MEETING

Wednesday, 27 November 1963,  
at 10.50 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Tribute to the memory of Mr. John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America...</i>	319
<i>Agenda item 38:</i>	
<i>Report of the United Nations High Commis- sioner for Refugees (concluded)</i>	
<i>General debate (concluded).....</i>	319
<i>Organization of work.....</i>	324

*Chairman:* Mr. Humberto DIAZ CASANUEVA  
(Chile).

Tribute to the memory of Mr. John F. Kennedy,  
President of the United States of America

1. The CHAIRMAN felt that it would be fitting, on the occasion of the Committee's first meeting following the tragic bereavement that the United States of America and the whole world had just suffered, to extend the sincere condolences of the Third Committee to the United States delegation and to the family of the late President Kennedy. He invited the members of the Committee to observe a minute of silence as a tribute to the latter's memory.

*The members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America.*

2. Mrs. DICK (United States of America) thanked the Chairman on behalf of the United States delegation for his tribute to the memory of President Kennedy. She also wished to express her gratitude to Mr. Díaz Casanueva, whose statement in the General Assembly (1264th plenary meeting) had deeply moved her delegation. She had been greatly touched by all the expressions of sympathy that had been addressed to her personally and by the sincere display of grief that she had witnessed following the assassination of President Kennedy.

3. Having had the privilege of being acquainted both with the late President and with the new President of the United States she was confident that President Lyndon B. Johnson would prove fully equal to the heavy responsibilities he had inherited from the great American whom the world was now mourning.

AGENDA ITEM 38

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/5503, chap. IX, sect. VI, and chap. XIII, sect. VII; A/5511/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.3/L.1178 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.1179) (concluded)

GENERAL DEBATE (concluded)

4. Mr. GORIS (Belgium) congratulated the High Commissioner on his report (A/5511/Rev.1 and Add.1)

which testified to the care with which he performed his ever-increasing tasks and the meticulous manner in which he observed the principles governing his activities. The results that had been obtained showed how wise the General Assembly had been in continuing the Office of the High Commissioner for a further five years.

5. His Government, as in the past, wholeheartedly supported the humanitarian work of the High Commissioner and would contribute to his programmes in 1964 the same amount that it had done in 1963, namely \$200,000, plus an additional contribution of \$30,000 for the Palestine refugees and special contributions for the refugees from Rwanda. He approved of the High Commissioner's policy and of the plans for the future described in the report, particularly on the subject of international protection (see A/5511/Rev.1, paras. 10-29). Finally, he stressed that the Office of the High Commissioner was not called upon to consider why some refugees had fled their country, and that all refugees were equally worthy of the concern of the international community. He was gratified that the High Commissioner had not confined his activities merely to granting temporary material assistance on however large a scale, for his real aim should always be to secure the repatriation, assimilation or resettlement of refugees.

6. His delegation had no doubt that Mr. Schnyder would be re-elected by the General Assembly and it wished to pay a special tribute to his ability, while at the same time expressing its gratitude to his colleagues.

7. Miss ADDISON (Ghana) commended the High Commissioner's tact and dedication to his work. Her delegation had been pleased to see from the report that the problem of the refugee camps had been virtually solved in Austria and Greece and would shortly be solved in Italy and Germany. It had also noted with satisfaction the comments made by the High Commissioner, in his statement to the Third Committee (1270th meeting) on the subject of the refugee problem in Africa. He had shown himself to be fully aware of the fact that, in order to be dealt with effectively, those problems, which had arisen owing to the very complex evolution the continent was currently undergoing, must each be studied in the light of the individual circumstances.

8. She assured the High Commissioner of her Government's readiness to lend him its fullest co-operation, as evidenced by the fact that Ghana and four other African countries had acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.<sup>1/</sup> She hoped that other States would accede to that convention in their turn in 1964.

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 2 to 25 July 1951, Final Act and Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 51.IV.4).

9. She intended to vote for the seven-Power draft resolution on the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (A/C.3/L.1178 and Corr.1) and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously. There was certainly a need to enlarge the membership of United Nations bodies in all spheres of activity, so that they might reflect the universal character of the Organization and the different social systems and customs of all the States constituting the international community. She would also vote for the fourteen-Power draft resolution on the report of the High Commissioner (A/C.3/L.1179) as an indication of support for the High Commissioner's work.

10. In conclusion, she wished to express her Government's gratitude to all the non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies which were giving valuable help to the Office of the High Commissioner.

11. Mr. PINHEIRO (Brazil) associated himself with the representatives who had congratulated the High Commissioner on the achievements to which his outstanding report bore witness.

12. The Office of the High Commissioner had originally been thought of as a temporary body but, even before the problem of the "old" refugees in Europe could be solved, a series of upheavals in other parts of the world had confronted the international community with new refugee problems which, humanly speaking, were no less tragic. Those developments had led to the renewal of the High Commissioner's mandate and brought about a gradual change in the nature of his activities. The Office of the High Commissioner, whose task had originally consisted mainly in giving refugees international protection and in co-ordinating the activities of the voluntary agencies, had assumed a more dynamic character following the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 1388 (XIV) and 1673 (XVI), and now actively participated in the implementation of programmes drawn up by it. The broad concept of good offices had made the activities of the High Commissioner more flexible and had enabled him to provide valuable assistance and guidance to a number of countries. Given the necessary funds and in view of his experience and the moral support he enjoyed, he would be able successfully to continue his remarkable work.

13. He had a few comments to offer regarding the evolution of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the principles on which its programmes must be based. First, Brazil considered that it was impossible to disregard the fate of the new refugees who were not covered by the provisions of the 1951 Convention, and had given proof of its concern by providing aid to those refugees on several occasions; it followed that the High Commissioner's responsibilities should be broadened to enable him to protect all refugees, anywhere and at any time and, if it should prove necessary to confer new powers on him for that purpose, the Brazilian delegation would be willing to vote for the relevant provisions. Second, Brazil believed that, if refugees were integrated in the economic and social structure of the developing countries that received them, they would cease to be a burden on the international community and become on the contrary a force for progress. Relief activities, to which the programmes of the High Commissioner still appeared to be mainly devoted, should accordingly be reduced to the strict minimum, the more so since there was a risk that protracted relief might rob the beneficiaries of their dignity and encourage what might be

called a refugee mentality. On the contrary, if increased stress were placed on joint programmes to facilitate the resettlement of refugees in the receiving country, through the initial provision of funds by international organizations and the countries concerned, the effect would be not only to provide a lasting solution for the social and human problems of refugees, but also at the same time to give substantial assistance to the developing countries. The example of Brazil which, through the joint endeavours of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) and its own Government, had accepted thousands of immigrants, showed that that approach, which had also proved its worth in various African countries, was the most constructive.

14. His delegation consequently hoped that the High Commissioner would consider the possibility: (a) of drawing up, with international technical and financial assistance, large-scale immigration plans designed to promote the permanent resettlement of refugees; (b) of keeping down, as far as possible, outlays resulting from the provision of relief and the transportation of refugees for purposes of repatriation, since in conformity with international practice and the provisions of the 1951 Convention, the cost of the latter was to be borne by the country of origin; (c) of avoiding impermanent solutions, such as the settlement of refugees in countries too close to areas of conflict or politically unstable.

15. He would vote for the seven-Power draft resolution and for the fourteen-Power draft resolution which was designed to extend the mandate of the High Commissioner and to secure increased co-operation by Member States in his activities.

16. Mr. FARHANG (Afghanistan) paid tribute to the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and their staff, for the strictly humanitarian and non-political work they were doing in an effort of international solidarity. They were to be congratulated on their successes in 1962, particularly with respect to the solution of the problem of "old" refugees.

17. In his view, the High Commissioner, during his new term of office due to begin in 1964, would have to pay special attention to the many and complex refugee problems that were arising in Africa. Indeed, the High Commissioner had already stressed the urgency of the situation in his remarkable statement to the Committee. The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme played an important steering and executive role in the High Commissioner's activities and it was for that reason that the Afghan delegation, with six other delegations, had submitted a draft resolution with a view to enabling those regions, which were inadequately represented on the Executive Committee and which had urgent refugee problems to cope with, to participate more closely in the work of that body. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously and it would also support the fourteen-Power draft resolution.

18. In conclusion, his delegation would vote in the General Assembly for the re-election of Mr. Schnyder, in whose competence it had absolute faith.

19. Mr. KIRONDE (Uganda) congratulated the High Commissioner on his excellent report, in which he had emphasized the need for effective measures to resolve, before they became intractable, the new refugee problems which, following the Middle East and the Far East, had now arisen in Africa. The international

community must wake up to the magnitude of those problems for the African host countries, which were less able than any others to shoulder their new financial and administrative burdens. All Member States must contribute to the humanitarian work being done for the refugees for, by signing the Charter, they had undertaken to respect human dignity and to pursue the ideals of social justice, ideals which unfortunately were sometimes relegated to the background in a world that was a prey to ideological strife. Moreover, at a time when nations were becoming increasingly inter-dependent, it was in the interest of the more developed countries themselves to resolve the problems afflicting mankind and it was regrettable that, having succeeded in resolving the mainly ideological problem of the "old" refugees, those countries now showed less interest in the humanitarian problem posed by the new refugees.

20. Although, for the "old" refugees, the High Commissioner had had more funds than he could use, he had been able to give only very inadequate assistance to the countries of asylum in East Africa. The Ugandan Government for its part had already spent \$1.4 million on the refugees from Rwanda alone, without counting those refugees who had entered Uganda over the northern frontier. That sum represented a very substantial proportion of the total budget of Uganda, which had thus contributed proportionately more generously to the humanitarian efforts on behalf of the refugees than the great Powers, whose contributions often represented only an infinitesimal part of their resources. The international nature of the refugee problem could not be overstressed; to say that it was basically a responsibility of a country of asylum was to deny its humanitarian nature. If Uganda had refused to accept the 60,000 refugees who had sought asylum in its territory in a single period of twenty-four hours, they would have had to go to some other territory where they would have created the same financial and administrative problems. The Ugandan Government was grateful for the contribution of about \$90,000 which it had received from various bodies, including the Office of the High Commissioner, but that sum represented barely one-tenth of the expenditures which it had incurred through the refugee problem and which, as a young and developing State, it was not in a position to meet.

21. In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the work done by the High Commissioner and said that his delegation would vote for both the draft resolutions before the Committee.

22. Mrs. MANTZOULINOS (Greece), referring to the fourteen-Power draft resolution, which her delegation had co-sponsored, drew attention to one particularly important point — the legal protection of refugees mentioned in operative paragraph 2 (a). While material assistance was of vital importance, and while it was essential that refugees should be able to survive and to choose, under the best possible conditions, one of the three permanent solutions open to them, it was also necessary, in those cases where the refugees selected integration or resettlement, and so found themselves deprived of the protection of their countries of origin, to ensure that the Government of the host State guaranteed respect for their rights and their dignity. In that field the competent authority was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and States which acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees helped him in that basic part of his task by taking measures on behalf of the refugees in their territory. The more States acceded to the 1951

Convention, the greater would be the international legal protection accorded to refugees, particularly as regards the right to education, work and property, the right of association and the freedom to practise religion.

23. Under the 1951 Convention, refugees, for the purpose of the protection of their rights, were either regarded as nationals of the host country or were subject to the same conditions as foreigners legally residing in that country. In ratifying it, States undertook to implement the provisions relating to refugees in their respective territories who had become refugees as a result of events occurring prior to 1 January 1951. The High Commissioner had made it clear in his statement that the provisions of the Convention did not apply to refugees who did not meet that condition, but such refugees existed and indeed there were new refugees each year—and all of them must be given the necessary legal protection. It was for that reason that the Final Act of the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons <sup>2/</sup> recommended that States Parties to the Convention should extend the largest possible measure of the protection accorded in that Convention to refugees who were not strictly entitled to claim it.

24. The purpose of the fourteen-Power draft resolution was thus to invite those States which, for one reason or another, were unable to become Parties to the Convention to improve the status of the refugees, old or new, in their respective territories, taking into account the fact that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees must be able to count upon the understanding and co-operation of Governments in carrying out his task of international protection. Those States which were in a position to accede to the Convention were invited to do so in order to encourage the economic and social integration of the refugees. The lot of the refugees, whoever they were, was so tragic that the international community must do all it could to give them the necessary legal protection. She therefore hoped that the fourteen-Power draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

25. Mrs. DICK (United States of America) congratulated the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his deputy on their dedication and resourcefulness in dealing with the problems of the refugees, both those within the mandate of the High Commissioner's Office and the new groups of refugees. It was particularly gratifying to realize that the refugee camps would soon have disappeared from Europe. The favourable economic situation in Europe had facilitated the integration of many refugees in the host countries. However, some refugees still preferred emigration to third countries, and in that connexion she was proud to report that in 1962 nearly half of the refugee immigrants within the mandate of the High Commissioner's Office had come to the United States. With regard to the programme for "old" refugees, the United States delegation attached special importance to the work with the handicapped; the preparation of specialized programmes and the use of psycho-social techniques were evidence of the High Commissioner's human approach.

26. It was also gratifying to note that the social rights of refugees were being increasingly recognized. Many countries had removed the barriers to the employment of refugees and had opened up opportunities for refugees in the liberal professions and in other fields.

<sup>2/</sup> Ibid.

There could be no doubt that the High Commissioner's attention to those social problems had greatly contributed to the new trends. The High Commissioner was also to be congratulated on his efforts to provide the refugees with legal protection.

27. The United States delegation also appreciated the High Commissioner's activities in support of new refugees under the programme of complementary assistance. Thanks to the rapidity with which the High Commissioner's Office had acted, it had been possible to prevent whole families from being destroyed and to spare the international community the political and economic repercussions of the new problems which had arisen. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had acted as a catalyst and stimulated international action on behalf of the refugees.

28. The resettlement of the Algerian refugees illustrated the role of the Office as a co-ordinator of international assistance. The High Commissioner was especially to be commended for having co-ordinated his programme closely with those of other international organizations, such as the United Nations, the specialized agencies, ONUC, TAB and UNICEF, and for having co-operated with various non-governmental organizations. She was confident that, thanks to the experience which the High Commissioner's Office had acquired, it would be able to solve future refugee problems.

29. The United States delegation noted with pleasure that the Government of the United Kingdom was increasing its contribution to the High Commissioner's programme, and she thanked the United Kingdom representative for his reference (1270th meeting) to the significance of the United States financial participation in the programme. She recalled that, in 1963, the United States Government had contributed \$900,000 to the High Commissioner's Office and had made additional grants for other refugee programmes.

30. The United States delegation was a co-sponsor of the seven-Power draft resolution, concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee. It trusted that the Economic and Social Council would elect five additional members to the Executive Committee, having due regard to the special nature of the programme and the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

31. The United States delegation also welcomed the fourteen-Power draft resolution. However, it would be happy if the co-sponsors could agree to insert the words "as appropriate" between the words "by acceding" and the words "to the 1951 Convention", in operative paragraph 2 (a). Nevertheless, if the sponsors could not accept that suggestion, the United States delegation would not press it to a vote. In the plenary meeting of the General Assembly, the United States delegation would vote for the re-election of Mr. Schnyder as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

32. In conclusion, she said that the interest of the United States in the problems of the refugees was heightened by the fact that among the first immigrants to North America there had been many refugees who had fled war, political and religious persecution, famine and poverty and who had become part of the lifeblood of the country. It was therefore natural that the people of the United States should help the refugees to make new lives for themselves.

33. Mrs. AISHAH (Malaysia) said that, although it was twelve years since the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been established, the problem of the refugees was still one of the most tragic of the modern world. For that reason, the Malaysian Government, upon its admittance to the United Nations, had declared its willingness to contribute as much as it was able to the programme for assisting the refugees.

34. In the view of the Malaysian delegation, the refugee problem was essentially a humanitarian problem and must be approached in the light of the great principles laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations. That approach must be free of all partiality, all discrimination and all political bias. It was the duty of the international community to see that the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees did not become embroiled in political controversy, as could not fail to be the case if the refugee problem was approached from any but a strictly humanitarian angle. Her delegation welcomed the fact that the Office stood aside from the political developments which gave rise to the refugee problem everywhere in the world.

35. The international community was now becoming increasingly aware that the refugee problem was not a temporary but a continuing phenomenon and that, because of its size and complexity, Member States must not relax their efforts to help the High Commissioner find an effective solution. Through its unanimous adoption of resolution 1783 (XVII), whereby the Office of the High Commissioner had been continued, the General Assembly had given new hope to thousands of unfortunate people who had thus been shown that the international community was actively concerned about their fate. She was sure that the General Assembly would once again appoint Mr. Schnyder to the post which he had filled with so much devotion, impartiality and efficiency.

36. On behalf of her delegation, she congratulated Mr. Schnyder on the constructive statement which he had made to the Third Committee. It was particularly encouraging that the programmes and activities for the benefit of the "old" European refugees would soon be completed and that the High Commissioner would henceforth be able to concentrate his efforts on strengthening the international protection of refugees. Her delegation was happy to note that forty-two States had ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and it hoped that many other countries would follow that example in the near future.

37. It was also encouraging that great progress had been made during the past year with respect to the new refugees, particularly in Africa. The problem of the Algerian refugees had been successfully settled, and a solution to that of the refugees in Togo was near at hand. Her delegation was convinced that, with the active co-operation of the governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, the problem of the Rwanda refugees would soon be a thing of the past.

38. As the functions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had broadened in scope and become universal in character with the passage of time, her delegation thought it essential to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee. It would therefore vote in favour of the seven-Power draft resolution.

39. It would also vote in favour of the fourteen-Power draft resolution, which not only was a token of the international community's confidence in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees but also assured him of its continued support.

40. Mr. SOLODOVNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) associated himself with the delegations which had thanked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the useful work which they had done on the refugees' behalf.

41. In the view of his delegation, the refugee problem was by no means a strictly humanitarian one, as maintained by the colonialist countries, and particularly by Portugal, whose policy of terror and oppression was the cause of the constant increase in the number of refugees in Africa. Despite all the provisions of international law and the United Nations Charter, Portugal was ruthlessly crushing the indigenous inhabitants of its African colonies. Neither women, old people nor children were spared. Angolans were obliged to flee to neighbouring countries by the thousands in order to escape the air raids and napalm bombs. In his report (see A/5511/Rev.1, para. 91) the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had noted that in 1961 there had been 150,000 Angolan refugees in the Congo (Leopoldville) and that a new influx of refugees had taken place in 1962. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had received impressive evidence of the Portuguese Government's policy of genocide and had made available to all interested delegations extremely significant data in that regard. In addition to the Angolan refugees, there were those from Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. There could no longer be doubt in anyone's mind that the refugee problem was linked with one of the great political problems of the day, namely, the liquidation of colonialism, and that it would not be resolved until the colonialist Powers abided by the General Assembly's resolutions concerning the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. His delegation thanked the representatives of Algeria, Tanganyika and the Congo (Brazzaville) for shedding light on the real origins of the problem.

42. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should concentrate his attention and efforts exclusively on the new groups of refugees and should direct all assistance towards the developing countries which had admitted refugees to their territory. As the financial resources available to the High Commissioner's Office were limited, it was essential to prevent them from being dissipated in such a way as practically to nullify the effects of the action undertaken. The economically developed countries of western Europe should assume responsibility for the refugees in their territory instead of taking a part of the funds available to the High Commissioner's Office at the expense of the poorer countries which really needed them. Moreover, it was strange to hear talk of the "humanitarian" work accomplished by Governments which, although eighteen years had passed since the end of the war, had not yet integrated all their refugees. It was obvious that for some of those Governments the refugees were a cold-war weapon, an instrument of national policy and a means of poisoning relations among States. He recalled in that connexion that, in its resolution 8 (I) adopted on 12 February 1946, the General Assembly had stated that the presence of any

war criminals, quislings and traitors among the refugees and displaced persons constituted an obstacle preventing such persons from deciding, freely and without constraint, whether they wished to return to their countries and that the surrender of war criminals, quislings and traitors for judgement not only was desirable but was one of the urgent acts and obligations which required close co-operation on the part of all the authorities concerned.

43. In his view, the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been extended by the General Assembly solely because of the new refugee problems which were arising in certain parts of the world. It was therefore inconceivable that the High Commissioner's Office should continue to direct its efforts toward the solution of problems such as emigration and immigration, which were not really within its competence; it should likewise put an end to the so-called Far Eastern operation so that in future its activities might be based solely on the purposes and principles of the Charter and contribute to peace and to the development of friendly relations among States. His delegation hoped that the High Commissioner would re-examine the activities of the Office which he headed in the light of the considerations which the speaker had just set forth.

44. His delegation was in general agreement with the draft resolutions which had been submitted to the Committee. It felt, however, that operative paragraph 1 of the fourteen-Power draft resolution was too vague; it should be made clear that the "new refugee groups" mentioned in that paragraph were African refugees who were the victims of repression by the colonial Powers. Furthermore, the solution of the refugee problem was not to be found in the adherence of States to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The essential thing was to eliminate the underlying cause of the problem, in other words the existence of colonial régimes.

45. Mr. KABBANI (Syria) said that he would like the sponsors of the fourteen-Power draft resolution to reverse the order of sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of operative paragraph 2 of their text, since the enumeration of general principles in sub-paragraph (b) should logically precede the principle of more limited scope which was the subject of sub-paragraph (a).

46. Mrs. DELLA GHERARDESCA (Italy) said that the sponsors of the fourteen-Power draft resolution were willing to accept the change proposed by the Syrian representative, as also that suggested by the representative of the United States.

47. U MYAT TUN (Burma) recalled that his country had a refugee problem to contend with and was devoting much effort and considerable financial resources to refugee assistance and resettlement programmes. To its great regret, therefore, Burma was unable to respond to the invitation in paragraph 2 (a) of the fourteen-Power draft, although it was wholeheartedly in sympathy with the spirit of that text.

48. Mr. VISUDDHIDHAM (Thailand), after thanking the High Commissioner for his statement and paying a tribute to the work which he had accomplished, noted that Thailand had given asylum to 50,000 refugees who had been obliged to flee from neighbouring countries. The Thai Government was thus in a position to appreciate the difficulties and the usefulness of the mission entrusted to the High Commissioner's Office and, despite the responsibilities which it was shouldering

with respect to the refugees in its territory, would study carefully any possibility of making a material contribution to the Office's programmes.

49. Mr. LEMA (Congo, Leopoldville) said that his country had given asylum to more than 100,000 persons coming mostly from Angola and fleeing from the brutal repression of the Portuguese authorities and that it would do all in its power to help its African brothers. The Congolese Government wished to thank the High Commissioner—who belonged to a country whose traditions of generosity and hospitality were well known—the Deputy High Commissioner and their staff for their untiring efforts on behalf of those refugees.

50. He commended to the Committee's attention the fourteen-Power draft resolution, which had been drafted in a humanitarian spirit devoid of any political considerations and which drew attention to the various objectives of the action on behalf of the refugees. The first of those objectives, in the case of the refugees received by the Congo (Leopoldville), was return to their ancestral soil, and a solution through integration should not be substituted for that objective, unless repatriation was impossible or did not accord with the wishes of the persons concerned. The draft resolution also clearly indicated that the receiving States had the obligation, as a logical result of the Universal Declaration, to guarantee a certain status to the refugees.

51. As to the seven-Power draft resolution, he said that the refugee problem now lay primarily in Africa and no longer in Europe; it was therefore reasonable to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme and to provide adequate representation in it for the African countries. The delegation of the Congo (Leopoldville) would therefore vote in favour of the seven-Power draft resolution.

52. Mr. CHAKCHOUK (Tunisia) said that his country, being the only African State represented in the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, unreservedly supported the initiative taken by the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution and hoped that the Economic and Social Council would take the African candidacies into consideration when the five additional members were elected. The Tunisian delegation also expressed the hope that similar action would be taken in the case of other bodies—the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in particular—on which Africa was inadequately represented.

53. He would, moreover, support the fourteen-Power draft resolution, for the Tunisian Government had always appreciated the efforts of the High Commissioner on behalf of the refugees, whether they were old or new, and particularly admired and respected the way in which the High Commissioner's Office had facilitated the repatriation and resettlement of the Algerian refugees. The Tunisian delegation expressed its gratitude to the High Commissioner and his staff and was convinced that, if the Member States abided by the resolutions of the United Nations and respected the principle of self-determination, the refugee problem would not arise in Africa.

54. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the two draft resolutions before the Committee.

*The fourteen-Power draft resolution on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/C.3/L.1179) was adopted unanimously.*

*The seven-Power draft resolution on the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (A/C.3/L.1178 and Corr.1), with the oral amendments proposed by Syria and the United States of America, was adopted unanimously.*

55. Mr. UNG MUNG (Cambodia) said that he had voted in favour of both draft resolutions because the hopes expressed by their sponsors were also those of the Cambodian delegation. Faithful to its humanitarian traditions, Cambodia had exerted enormous efforts on behalf of the refugees residing in its territory. Thus, the so-called social action funds had been largely devoted to assisting persons who had fled from the dictatorship and tyranny of the Ngo Dinh Diem Government. Those refugees now lived in suitable circumstances and were entitled to special consideration on the part of the Cambodian Government, which had also granted aid and protection to the Laotian refugees who had fled from their country in consequence of the bloody conflicts between the various Laotian factions. Being familiar through experience with the problems the High Commissioner's Office had to face, the Cambodian delegation wished to congratulate the High Commissioner for the encouraging results he had achieved and to thank him for his efforts, which the Cambodian Government fully endorsed.

56. Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO (Mexico) paid a tribute to the High Commissioner for the work he was doing and for the humanitarian spirit guiding his efforts. He said that he had voted in favour of the fourteen-Power draft resolution but recalled that his country had abstained, for reasons which were known to everyone, from contributing financially to the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that he believed he was speaking for all delegations in thanking the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner for having participated in the discussions and for having, thanks to their co-operative spirit, enabled the Committee to conclude the consideration of agenda item 38 within a very short time. He had no doubt that the refugees who had received considerable assistance from the High Commissioner's Office would continue to benefit from the same assistance during the coming year and that at its nineteenth session the Committee would have before it a very positive report informing it of the further results achieved in solving the problem of the European refugees and in assisting the refugees on other continents.

58. Mr. SCHNYDER (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) thanked the Chairman for his encouraging words. He said that he had followed the Committee's discussions with the closest attention and was gratified to note the profound humanitarian spirit demonstrated by the delegations that had spoken. The discussions and the resolution that had just been adopted would have important effects on the activity of his Office, and he was glad to have had the opportunity to ascertain personally the wishes of the various delegations, which he would not fail to honour fully in carrying out his mission.

#### Organization of work

59. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, when there were no further names on the list of representatives who wished to speak on the measures for implementing the draft Covenants, the Committee should, in accordance with the decision adopted at the beginning of the session (1212th meeting) turn to agenda item 47

(Measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples), which could be taken up at the 1274th meeting.

*It was so decided.*

60. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, since the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman would both be unable to

attend the 1273rd meeting, the Rapporteur should take the chair in their absence.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.