



CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 15:	
Non-governmental organizations ( <i>resumed from the 928th meeting</i> ):	
Report of the Council Committee on Non-governmental Organizations on applications for hearings . . . . .	43
Agenda item 14:	
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees . . . . .	43

*President:* Mr. ENGEN (Norway).

*Present:*

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Venezuela.

The representative of the following specialized agency: International Labour Organisation.

AGENDA ITEM 15

**Non-governmental organizations**  
(*resumed from the 928th meeting*)

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR HEARINGS (E/2906)

1. Mr. EPINAT (France), Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, submitted to the Council the Committee's recommendations—contained in its report (E/2906)—regarding the hearing by the Council or its Committees of certain representatives of non-governmental organizations.
2. On 12 July 1956, the Committee had heard statements by the representative of the World Jewish Congress on the world economic situation (item 2 of the agenda) and by the representative of the International Road Federation on the economic development of underdeveloped countries (item 4 of the agenda) and technical assistance (item 9 of the agenda).
3. The Committee hoped that the Council would approve the recommendations contained in its report.

*The report was approved without comment.*

AGENDA ITEM 14

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2887 and Corr.1 and Add.1,<sup>1</sup> E/L.729)**

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Deputy High Commissioner to present the report of the late United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2887 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

5. Mr. READ (Deputy High Commissioner of the United Nations for Refugees) said that he was speaking with a deep sense of personal grief at the loss of a friend; but, what was much more important, the refugees had lost through the High Commissioner's sudden death a great protagonist of their cause. Dr. van Heuven Goedhart would not have wished for eulogies, and he could do no more than record some of the obstacles which had been overcome by the High Commissioner's imagination, industry and tenacity in the five years and a half during which he had served the United Nations as its High Commissioner for Refugees.

6. When the Statute of the High Commissioner's Office had been drawn up in 1950, governments had been anxious to get back to normal conditions and had sometimes tried to bring them about by acting as if problems no longer existed. The refugee problem was certainly a case in point. In the years immediately following the Second World War, an heroic and expensive effort had been made, after which governments had clearly wished to diminish, or to eliminate entirely from their budgets, the \$150,000,000 which they had been spending on refugees each year. When Dr. van Heuven Goedhart was elected High Commissioner at the end of 1950, he was given a modest administrative budget of \$300,000. Three years later he told the General Assembly that his budget had only been a guess, which had proved an incorrect one, and that he had needed \$600,000 for the second year. By his Statute, he had been called on to "assume the function of providing international protection, under the auspices of the United Nations, to refugees who fall within the scope of the present Statute and of seeking permanent solutions for the problem of refugees". Apart from the fact that he should establish his Office in Geneva, no mention was made of staff or branch offices, and the possibility of setting up an Advisory Committee was left to the Economic and Social Council "after hearing the views of the High Commissioner on the subject". His task was to promote "through special agreements with governments the execution of any measures calculated to improve the situation of refugees and to reduce the number requiring protection". Article

<sup>1</sup> The report will be submitted to the General Assembly at its eleventh session as A/3123.

10 of the Statute made it clear that he had no authority to appeal to governments for funds without the approval of the General Assembly.

7. A diplomatic conference held in Geneva in the first year of the High Commissioner's mandate, and attended by 26 States, had drawn up a convention relating to the status of refugees, opened for signature on 28 July 1951. At the same time the High Commissioner had begun to establish branch offices in the main countries where the refugees were, as well as in others to which they might go. Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had taken a keen interest in the problem of legal and political protection, and had encouraged governments to ratify the Convention. Two years had, however, elapsed before the convention had come into full effect upon ratification by the sixth government.

8. The High Commissioner had had to start from scratch. Neither the extent of the problem nor the time it would take to solve it had been known. Thanks to a gift he had secured from a private foundation, the High Commissioner had arranged that a study should be made by a team of experts, headed by the French scholar, Jacques Vernant, which had later been published under the title *The Refugee in the Post-War World*.<sup>2</sup> Many people had still declined to face up to the true magnitude of the problem, and perhaps one of Dr. van Heuven Goedhart's greatest services had been to re-awaken, in that way and through his reports, the conscience of the world. In response to his appeal, the General Assembly had at its sixth regular session adopted resolution 538 B (VI), which authorized the High Commissioner to "issue an appeal for funds for the purpose of enabling emergency aid to be given to the most needy groups among refugees under his mandate". That resolution had brought into being the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund (UNREF) which, together with residual funds from the International Refugee Organization (IRO), had enabled a bare minimum of subsistence to be given to some refugees who might otherwise have starved.

9. That fund had always been near exhaustion, and the High Commissioner had been particularly disturbed about his failure to collect enough funds to help refugees of European origin in China. His problem at that stage had been that international protection for refugees had not been enough, and his task had been to encourage governments pleading poverty to assume the responsibilities which they often put at the end of their scale of priorities. He had therefore turned to the Ford Foundation, and with the support of international voluntary agencies and the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) had secured a grant of \$3,100,000 to finance a programme to help the refugees to help themselves. Direct relief was, however, to be avoided, and the work was not to relieve governments of their normal responsibilities.

10. The six voluntary agencies concerned had put that grant, made in the autumn of 1952, to good use, and although the High Commissioner had been authorized to spend up to 2 per cent of the grant on administration, he had kept his expenses closer to 1 per cent. The

programme had included vocational training, loans for small business men and farmers, the operation of advisory services and the promotion of resettlement.

11. The emphasis had been on social and economic integration, because Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had clearly seen that the vast majority of the refugees could not move overseas, and also because there was another inter-governmental organization, ICEM, responsible for migration.

12. The Ford Foundation's grant had been exhausted by the end of 1953, when the High Commissioner's original mandate had expired. The Council, however, had proposed, and the General Assembly had approved, an extension of the mandate for five years. The Ford Foundation had not, however, found it possible to renew their assistance, except for a terminal grant of \$200,000, and had expressed the view that governments should assume responsibility for the programme. The High Commissioner had put that problem to his Advisory Committee in the spring of 1954, and to the Council a few months later, and had been able to present to the General Assembly at its ninth regular session a programme of permanent solutions which had eventually been embodied in resolution 832 (IX). The executive Committee established at that time by the Council had set a target of \$16,000,000 for the execution of the programme, and Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had devoted himself indefatigably to ensuring that it was completed in its entirety during the second five years of his mandate.

13. At that point he should mention some of the salient features of the High Commissioner's report which he was presenting to the Council. An outstanding example of the High Commissioner's achievements had been the fight he had conducted against the use of the term "hard core", which he had considered inhuman. "Difficult case" was much more appropriate. He had been instrumental in instituting the Nansen Medal, which was awarded to individuals for their pre-eminence in refugee work by a committee consisting of representatives of the Governments of Norway and Switzerland, the Secretary of the Council of Europe and the Chairman of the Standing Conference of Voluntary Agencies Working for Refugees. In 1955 the medal had been awarded to Queen Juliana and Mrs. Roosevelt. Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had called attention to the German refugee situation at the time of the greatest influx of refugees, and had also called world attention to the problem of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, and had secured private funds to enable a study to be made of that problem by Dr. Hambro for his Executive Committee. In accordance with Council resolution 565 (XIX), the reports of the Executive Committee of UNREF had been attached to the High Commissioner's annual report to the General Assembly.

14. The Council would have noted the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee at its third session, contained in paragraph 27 of its report thereon (A/AC.79/41), by which the High Commissioner had been requested to consult the governments of the countries in which the refugees resided on the additional measures needed to bring about a systematic closing of the camps. The Austrian Government had already drawn up a list of nine camps, containing 5,000 refugees, to be closed

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, Geneva, 1951.

during 1957; the Government of Greece had said that it intended to close all camps by the end of 1957; in the Federal Republic of Germany it had been decided to close 17 camps before the end of 1957 and eight in the course of 1956; in Italy it was hoped to close one particular camp in 1956, but, owing to the continuing influx of refugees, it was not absolutely certain that any camp could be closed in 1956, or even in 1957. Even if those results could be considered satisfactory, it did not mean that the whole problem of camps was as yet near solution. No camp could be closed unless a solution could be found for its population, and the present rate of contributions to UNREF was insufficient. There were at present 89 camps in the Federal Republic of Germany, 65 official camps in Austria, 15 in Greece and seven in Italy.

15. Statistics showed that 540 new refugees had applied for refugee status in the four countries mainly concerned in December 1955. In January 1956, the figure had been 489; in February, 333; in March, 612; in April, 677; and in May, 968. The High Commissioner's Office was concerned with procedures for determining eligibility. He was glad to be able to say that the Austrian Ministry of the Interior had issued an instruction in February last providing for special screening units to determine the status of persons entering Austria. As a result of the findings of those units certificates were issued under the terms of the 1951 Convention. It had also been agreed by the Austrian Government that the High Commissioner's Branch Office in Vienna should be notified whenever a claim to be recognized as a refugee was rejected. He believed that that would provide the necessary safeguards to ensure that no genuine refugee was forcibly repatriated. A similar procedure had been established in the Netherlands. Four more States had ratified the Convention of 28 July 1951, thus bringing the total to 18. They were the Holy See, Ecuador, Iceland and the Netherlands.

16. With regard to the problem of refugee seamen, the Netherlands Government had convened a conference, attended by eight governments, in September 1955, and a second conference held at The Hague in April 1956 had concluded an agreement by which it was estimated that the position of some 4,000 such seamen would be regularized.

17. He was glad to be able to report that during the past year governments had shown increased interest in receiving refugees. In 1955, ICEM had transported 19,919 refugees, and would move even more in 1956. In fact, it had already moved 14,100 refugees in the first six months of that year and hoped to move 29,000 during the whole year. The impact of the United States Refugee Relief Act was now being felt, and a number of other countries had shown increased interest as a result of the UNREF programme. In his report to the twentieth session of the Council and to the General Assembly (A/2902 and Add.1), the High Commissioner had described the plans made in the Netherlands and Sweden, the object of which was to get refugees out of the camps. The example of the Swedish Government had been followed by the Belgian Government, which had specially arranged to take 500 refugee families into Belgium during 1956 and 1957. There were also indications

that the French Government would draw up a similar plan.

18. The year 1955 had been the first year of the UNREF programme. For that year, a target of \$4,200,000 had been fixed, but contributions had unfortunately amounted only to \$2,654,000. In addition to the funds contributed by governments in 1955, \$1,000,000 had been made available by private sources in the Netherlands. But the High Commissioner had not considered those figures satisfactory. In his opinion, governments had committed themselves to a four-year programme, which ought to have first call on the financial resources of the world. It should, however, be acknowledged that, in addition to the direct contributions made to UNREF in 1955, matching contributions had been made to UNREF's work within the countries in which the refugees resided. Those contributions had amounted to nearly \$4,000,000, and had been made in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 832 (IX). They had helped projects in the UNREF programme to be carried out, and had brought the resources for 1955 up to \$6,000,000, and the value of the projects carried out for the relief of difficult cases up to \$1,500,000, or about \$7,500,000 altogether. He wanted to pay a tribute to the readiness of the countries in which the refugees resided to co-operate in the UNREF programme; two of those countries, Austria and Italy, had become Members of the United Nations during the year under review.

19. He wished to draw attention to one of the greatest difficulties in implementing the UNREF programme—namely, that it was necessary to negotiate supporting contributions at the beginning of the year, and, because of the slow rate at which contributions came in, projects were sometimes planned which could not always be implemented. Thus funds pledged were at times unusable for months, and that made it increasingly difficult to persuade those concerned to earmark funds for UNREF projects for the following years. The High Commissioner had found that particularly disheartening. According to the pledges and promises so far received, it was expected that governments' contributions to UNREF would amount to about \$2,500,000 in 1956—a shortfall of approximately \$3,000,000. In the first year, optimism might have been justified, since it took time for the machinery to get into motion; but now, twelve months later, it looked as though total contributions threatened to be as low as in the first year of the programme.

20. Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had been convinced that the refugee problem for which he was responsible could be solved within a given period of time. To him, it had seemed a scandal that ten years after the end of the war there should still be 200 refugee camps in Europe, especially as the States Members of the United Nations had agreed among themselves upon a programme, which, if carried out, would in fact solve the problem. Only money was lacking. Some countries, of course, believed that they had already played their part in solving the refugee problem; others had contributed too little to UNREF on the ground that not all States Members of the United Nations were willing to support the programme. Nevertheless, he believed and hoped that ways and means would be found of replenishing UNREF,

to ensure that a programme so carefully planned and carefully negotiated with the governments and voluntary agencies concerned was in fact fully implemented. He had faith that the task to which Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had dedicated himself would eventually be completed.

21. Mr. SCHÜRMAN (Netherlands) said that in discussing the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees an air of loneliness and unreality was given to the proceedings through the absence of the High Commissioner himself, whose voice would be heard no more. To the Council he had sounded the tones of duty and conscience, and to the refugees he had given compassion, his unbounded energy and finally his life, for there was no doubt that his untimely death had been caused by the strain of his work and his task. He therefore wished to pay a respectful tribute to Dr. van Heuven Goedhart.

22. The refugee problem was eleven years old: it was a sad story, and the manner in which the community of nations had handled it was also sad. He wanted to mention a few cold, hard facts which spoke for themselves. At the end of the war, the total number of refugees and disabled persons had been estimated at seven million. The task of providing them with food and shelter and of repatriating or re-settling them had first been entrusted to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and later to IRO. In 1950, IRO had succeeded in re-settling one million refugees overseas, but another million, about half of whom had not been firmly established in the countries in which they were living at the time when IRO was wound up, had been left. The problem had persisted, and the United Nations had been obliged to deal with the matter by other means. A High Commissioner had been appointed to provide international protection and seek permanent solutions, but had been denied authority to appeal direct to governments for funds. A year later he was given that authority, but only to provide emergency aid.

23. During the first three years of his mandate, the High Commissioner and his staff had been able, albeit with the greatest difficulty, to assist refugees of European origin in China and to give some emergency aid to small groups of refugees in Greece, Italy and the Middle East. However, the generous grant made by the Ford Foundation had enabled him to finance a number of projects which showed that permanent solutions to the problem of refugees could be found.

24. In 1954, a final programme had been drafted and accepted by the Council and the General Assembly. For a total expenditure of \$16,000,000, all the remaining unassimilated refugees, numbering about 350,000, were to have been made into normal citizens. Unlike the majority of United Nations undertakings, that was not a continuing one, and its size and extent were known. It had been designed to do away once and for all with the remaining problem and all its attendant miseries.

25. The High Commissioner and his helpers had had the twofold task of soliciting contributions and carrying out projects. Their success had earned them two great distinctions: in November 1955, Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had been awarded the Wateler Peace Prize by the Carnegie Foundation, and his Office had received

the Nobel Peace Prize. The proceeds of the latter had been given by the High Commissioner and his staff to promote the winding up of the refugee camp on the island of Tinos in Greece, and he could now disclose the fact that the High Commissioner had himself distributed the Wateler Peace Prize in the form of anonymous gifts to various refugee causes.

26. Although the High Commissioner's work had been recognized in that way, governments had failed to place at the disposal of the High Commissioner's Office more than \$2,653,697 of the \$4,200,000 which should have been made available during the year 1955. Despite the fact that another \$1,000,000 had been raised from non-governmental sources, it had been impossible to carry out many of the projects planned for 1955. For 1956, a target had been set of \$4,400,000, so that, if the deficit carried over was to be made up, a total of \$5,946,303 was necessary in that year. Nevertheless, the High Commissioner's forecast was that not more than \$2,769,592 could be expected. In other words, by the end of 1956, instead of \$8,600,000, only \$5,400,000 would have been collected. The solution of the refugee problem would therefore take not four years, but eight, or even longer. Quite apart from the distress which that must bring to the refugees, it placed an intolerable burden on the governments in whose countries the refugee camps were situated. The amount still needed was by no means large. Compared to some other projects, the figure was small. He hoped that the unpaid-up balance could be collected, and collected in time. He felt that to ensure that was the Council's duty to the refugees, and also a duty to the man whom they would always remember as their spokesman.

27. Mr. BAKER (United States of America), in a tribute to the memory of the late Dr. van Heuven Goedhart, said that his death was a serious blow not only to the cause of refugees, but also to the forces of good that were striving for a better world. His life had been an inspiration to all who had come under the influence of his devotion, courage, warmth of heart and singleness of purpose, and his death imposed an obligation upon all to re-dedicate themselves to the work for which he had given his life. That was the thought that had inspired the draft resolution submitted jointly by his delegation and that of Norway (E/L.729).

28. The report of the High Commissioner indicated, despite a chronic shortage of funds, substantial progress. At the beginning of 1955, it had been estimated that some 300,000 refugees within the mandate had needed assistance, of whom more than 84,000 had been in camps. That number had been reduced to 250,000 and the number in camps to about 70,000. Such an achievement called for a tribute to the work done by the High Commissioner and his staff. In the field of international protection, three further ratifications to the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees had transpired, bringing the total up to 18. Progress had also been made in securing for refugees the right to work, the benefits of education, and public assistance. Such concessions helped not only the unsettled refugees, but the large number of those who had established themselves in new homes throughout the free world.

29. The High Commissioner had been especially active in dealing with the problem of the unsettled refugees, and in particular those still living in camps and the difficult cases covered by the UNREF programme. There would be general agreement that that programme had in a very short time stimulated a general awareness of, and concern for, refugees and their problems. It was significant that in addition to contributions from governments and private sources—in particular that of the Netherlands national campaign—the governments of the countries of residence had been increasingly active in measures involving the expenditure of nearly \$4,000,000 in matching contributions to the 1955 programme.

30. The establishment of a programme for the integration of refugees in their countries of residence had been one of the late High Commissioner's major accomplishments, and in that connexion the resolution adopted at the third session of the UNREF Executive Committee on the systematic closure of camps marked a notable step forward. These private contributions were of importance, and the Camp Adoption Scheme, originated and co-ordinated by the High Commissioner, had resulted in the adoption by various private groups of a large number of camps. Many countries had also made a valuable contribution to the solution of the problem by receiving difficult cases. The splendid efforts made by other agencies, in particular the great voluntary agencies, on behalf of refugees should not be overlooked, and he must also mention the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1955 to the High Commissioner and his Office.

31. Despite the substantial progress made, there was another and alarming side to the picture. Only about one-half of the amount due under the four-year programme of \$16,000,000 in government contributions had been received, which meant that only about half of the permanent solutions projects scheduled for 1956 could be implemented during that year. That serious situation had drawn attention to the fact that the majority of governments which had supported the adoption of General Assembly resolution 832 (IX) were not among the contributors to UNREF. The United States Government believed that special voluntary programmes under the auspices of the United Nations should command and receive general international support; he must add that the lack of such support created difficulties in respect of its own participation. He was, however, pleased to report that the President of the United States had asked Congress to appropriate \$1,500,000 for the 1956 programme and, in order to enable the United States contribution to be made early in the year, \$800,000 had been requested for the first half of 1957. Final action had not yet been taken by Congress, and the actual payment of the contribution would be related to the receipt of contributions from other governments.

32. In conclusion, he would stress the point that further progress in the liquidation of the refugee problem would be seriously jeopardized unless prompt action were undertaken to implement the full UNREF programme. The amount needed, as the Netherlands representative had pointed out, was only \$11,500,000, spread over two and a half years, a comparatively small sum for such a great need, that could surely be raised without further delay. He hoped that all delegations would support the

draft resolution. The cause to which the High Commissioner had dedicated his life must be carried on with increased vigour both by governments which had already contributed and by governments whose contributions were expected.

33. Miss AASLAND (Norway) said that the discussion on the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had opened in an atmosphere overshadowed by the tragic loss which had coincided with the opening of the Council's present session. The fact that the late Dr. van Heuven Goedhart was no longer there to plead the cause of the refugees, whose lot he had done so much to improve, only aggravated the deep sense of personal loss. During the past year the late High Commissioner had many times expressed his disappointment that the States Members of the United Nations, which had created his Office, had failed to give him the modest means required to carry through his programme as he had planned.

34. In the opinion of her delegation, the report presented by the Deputy High Commissioner confirmed the realism of the High Commissioner's four-year plan. Given the interest evidenced by the countries of present residence, there was good reason to believe that, if the High Commissioner's Office had at its disposal the necessary funds, the aims laid down in 1954 and, in particular, the liquidation of the refugee camps in Europe, would be substantially achieved in 1958. At the time of his death, however, the late High Commissioner had not been convinced that he would be given those funds.

35. The major part of the cost of the High Commissioner's programme had been met by a relatively small number of nations, and the programme could not be completed without a further influx of contributions over and above those at present being made by that same group. For its part, the Norwegian Government was willing to join in a common intensified effort to bring the programme to a successful conclusion in 1958. As the head of her delegation, the President of the Council, had said at the opening of the session, the problem, in terms of the number of people involved and the funds required, was so limited that a final solution should be obtainable within the foreseeable future.

36. Turning to specific points in the report, she was particularly appreciative of the reduction in 1955 by almost 14,000 of the number of refugees still in camps in Europe. The High Commissioner had rightly stressed the importance of the problem of the camps. She further welcomed the thorough treatment in the report of the question of difficult cases, in which connexion she would mention that during the past year Norway had received for permanent settlement a group of 148 refugees consisting of handicapped persons and their families, for 59 of whom employment had already been found. She might add that her Government's direct expenditure on that operation exceeded its cash contribution to UNREF. She was aware that similar and larger projects of the same kind had been carried through in Sweden and elsewhere, and had noted with interest that the report showed appreciation of such contributions to the settlement of difficult cases.

37. With regard to repatriation, the Norwegian Government approved the action taken by the High Commissioner, referred to in paragraph 144 of the report, and in conclusion she would express her delegation's appreciation of the treatment in chapter III of the legal aspects of international protection, to which the Norwegian Government attached great importance.

38. Her delegation considered it a great privilege to be associated with the United States delegation in sponsoring the draft resolution, and confidently hoped that it would command unanimous support.

39. Mr. ALEEM (Pakistan), expressing his delegation's sorrow at the untimely death of Dr. van Heuven Goedhart, said that the human cause which he had served with great vigour and utter sincerity had benefited very considerably by his efforts. The Netherlands had lost an outstanding personality and the refugees an extremely valued friend.

40. He had noted the great interest aroused by the UNREF programme in the various countries of residence, and the increased effort put forth by the governments of those countries. Despite the small numbers concerned, the human aspects of such a programme of refugee settlement could not be exaggerated. He had also noted with interest the close relations maintained by the High Commissioner with the competent specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies.

41. In Pakistan, the refugee problem had been chronic since 1947. Despite the rehabilitation of some eight million refugees, they continued to pour into the country. The Government of Pakistan, therefore, while sympathizing with the refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate in their plight, was unfortunately unable to make a contribution on account of its heavy domestic commitments for similar purposes. He would, however, wish the UNREF programme every success, and his delegation would be happy to support the draft resolution submitted jointly by the Netherlands and United States delegations.

42. Mr. CARDIN (Canada) associated himself with previous speakers in expressing his delegation's deep regret at the death of Dr. van Heuven Goedhart. The Canadian authorities had always had the highest respect for the late High Commissioner's professional capacities and he (Mr. Cardin) himself had had the greatest admiration for his outstanding personal qualities.

43. He believed that the best way of honouring the memory of Dr. van Heuven Goedhart would be to make the discussion of his report as useful and as practical as possible. The High Commissioner's Office had already set a notable example by allocating to a special project designed to liquidate a specific refugee camp the proceeds of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to it in 1955.

44. His delegation shared the deep concern expressed in the report concerning the future development of the UNREF projects, for there was a serious danger that it would prove impossible to complete the programme approved by the United Nations. He would recall the fact that the four-year programme authorized by the General Assembly by resolution 832 (IX) had been

designed to provide a permanent solution to the refugee problem. The resolution had been supported by 44 delegations, including that of Canada, only a relatively small number of which, however, had made any financial contribution to UNREF. The financial resources made available by governments in 1955 amounted to only \$2,600,000 against a target of \$4,200,000. He would note with special appreciation the contribution made by the Netherlands Committee for Aid to Refugees in 1955, which had enabled approximately 70 per cent of that year's programme to be carried out. The other major contributors, too, deserved commendation for their support, which would, he hoped, be continued. The situation for 1956 was difficult in the extreme, since the total amount available from voluntary government contributions was still far short of the target figure and would be further aggravated by any further shortfall in 1956. In that connexion, he would support the decision of the UNREF Executive Committee (A/AC.79/41, paragraph 93) that the General Assembly should be informed at its forthcoming eleventh session of the state of the UNREF programme and of the adverse effect of the failure of government contributions on the programmes for reducing the numbers of refugees still in camps. He would also urge on other delegations the necessity for a more universal response to the needs of the refugees.

45. The High Commissioner's programme was one of the most important in which the non-governmental organizations had an opportunity of supporting the aims of the United Nations. The wholehearted support of those non-governmental organizations which had consultative status with the Council and of other private humanitarian groups could well mark the turning-point in the four-year programme for permanent solutions.

46. However, it would be a mistake not to recognize that, despite the budgetary difficulties, considerable success had been achieved by the High Commissioner's Office in carrying out the large and important programme described in the report. The late Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had been a realist in his use of the funds available, and it was clear that there had been much constructive adaptation to the enforced limitations. In that connexion, he would draw attention to paragraph 14 of the report, where the sums allocated to the various projects were stated; such a record was to be commended.

47. The main burden of determining the priorities to be followed fell on the UNREF Executive Committee, which, he was sure, had borne in mind the necessity for effectively co-ordinating the large number of projects in the many countries concerned.

48. A further encouraging feature of the development of the refugee programme was the increasing co-operation between the various United Nations agencies, the national organizations and the voluntary private agencies, all of which were working in the same field. All had the same goal, that of improving the distressing condition of the refugees created by the Second World War. The High Commissioner's Office had initiated or participated in an important series of meetings designed to improve the development of refugee programmes, and the Cana-

dian delegation would stress the necessity for the fullest co-operation between all those concerned with refugee problems.

49. It would be clear from the report, in particular from paragraphs 151 to 154 thereof, that the Canadian Government had consistently supported the important work undertaken by the High Commissioner in the re-settlement of refugees. His country had been represented by an observer at the several sessions of the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee and the UNREF Executive Committee, and had made a contribution of \$125,000 both in 1955 and 1956. He was also authorized to inform the Council that, should other members of the Council so desire it, Canada would be very willing, if a vacancy occurred, to serve on the Executive Committee.

50. It was easy, in dealing with refugee programmes, in which words such as "integration", "resettlement" and "emigration" frequently occurred, to lose sight of the human suffering concealed behind each of those words. Realization that there were still in Europe some 200 refugee camps containing 70,000 persons, in which many people had been living since the Second World War, could not fail to inspire universal sympathy for the UNREF programme which, with substantial success to its credit, could, given greater support, achieve the aims to which all the Members of the United Nations subscribed.

51. Mr. SCOTT FOX (United Kingdom) said that the sudden and untimely death of Dr. van Heuven Goedhart had robbed the Netherlands and the world of a truly great citizen, and the United Nations of a most distinguished servant. Many of those present must feel that they had lost a good friend whose selfless integrity had been clear for all to see. As the President had said at the opening meeting of the session, the refugees too had lost a friend, who had valiantly championed their cause without fear or favour. There could be no more fitting tribute to his memory than to speed to its conclusion the task to which he had dedicated himself. He would extend to the late High Commissioner's family and to his staff his delegation's condolences on their loss.

52. Bearing in mind the great difficulties that had so far beset it, the UNREF programme had begun well. At the time of drafting the report, 8,700 refugees were believed to have benefited by the programme, and it was estimated that a further 11,000 were likely to benefit in the near future. That was encouraging evidence of careful planning and execution by all concerned, and it was his Government's confident hope that the governments of the four countries of residence mainly concerned would assume increasing responsibility for the refugees in their territory. Still more encouraging was the reduction of the camp population from 84,000 to 70,000—that was, by some 16 per cent. To empty all the camps was the most important task, which should continue to receive the priority it merited. In that connexion, he would repeat the special plea made by the United Kingdom delegation in the UNREF Executive Committee for speedy action to close the camps in Greece, a task which, given favourable circumstances, should be completed before the end of 1957. His delegation would wholeheartedly support any plans to that end. He would

also pay tribute to the late High Commissioner's action in making over his well-earned Nobel Peace Prize to the provision of permanent solutions for the camp inmates on the island of Tinos.

53. There were no grounds for complacency. The financial situation of UNREF remained precarious, and unless further contributions were soon forthcoming there was little prospect of the programme being completed within the allotted span. Contributions had been forthcoming from a comparatively small number of governments. The United Kingdom Government had made grants of £80,000 (\$224,000) for each of the years 1955 and 1956, with in each case the offer of a further £20,000 should the total of government contributions amount to the equivalent of \$3,250,000. His Government deeply regretted that its heavy commitments made it impossible for the time being for it to make a still larger contribution. Many governments represented on the UNREF Executive Committee had helped with other than financial measures, and he would pay a particularly warm tribute to those countries which, at their own expense, had admitted and re-settled a large number of difficult cases. The United Kingdom was glad to have been able to accept some such refugees under the "Two Thousand Scheme".

54. With regard to the section in the report dealing with public information (paragraphs 286 to 291), while recalling with admiration the splendid response made by the Netherlands people in 1955, he would mention that the United Kingdom United Nations Association was launching an appeal during 1956, the greater part of the proceeds from which would be given to UNREF. He noted too that a similar campaign would also be launched at the same time at the other end of the world, in New Zealand. The campaign in the United Kingdom would provide a further opportunity for the British people to show their active sympathy for the work done by the High Commissioner. Instances of the various types of contribution made by the United Kingdom were mentioned in the report. But he might mention in particular the number of private societies contributing to the Camp Adoption Scheme; the special scheme inaugurated in 1951 for bringing over children of refugees for schooling in the United Kingdom; and the arrangements for providing summer holidays in the United Kingdom for refugees. Such contributions might be small in volume, but from the point of view of the individual they were not insignificant.

55. The lack of funds to finance the UNREF programme as planned left scope for help by countries other than the relatively small number of contributors to the fund. He had every sympathy with those countries, such as Pakistan, that were manfully labouring to cope with vast refugee problems of their own, and appreciated that it was impossible for some of them to translate their moral support for UNREF into terms of hard cash. His delegation could not help suggesting, however, that there must be many nations which, once fully aware of the problem, should be able and willing to contribute their share to its solution. In terms of the human lives at stake, a pathetically small amount was required to rescue a refugee family from its squalid camp, to build a future for a refugee student, or to give an aged and

infirm refugee a home and some comfort during the last years of his life. Viewing the problem from that angle, it was distressing to read in the report of projects that had had to be abandoned for lack of funds. If finance for projects was not available, however, then wastage of time and money would be avoided by deferring their initiation.

56. The establishment of the UNREF Executive Committee had been a well-conceived act, and that body had served a most useful purpose. One important matter discussed at its last meeting had been the obviously essential need for the fullest co-operation between the High Commissioner's Office, governments and the

voluntary agencies working for refugees. The Committee was particularly concerned to ensure that those refugees with little or no chance of overseas resettlement should be found acceptable openings within the UNREF projects. In paying homage to the memory of the late Dr. van Heuven Goedhart, it was right that the Council should pledge itself to continuing its support of the programme which had been launched as a result of his vision, in order to bring to a successful conclusion the work that he had begun. The United Kingdom delegation would give its warm support to the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.