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President : Sir Ronald WALKER (Australia)

Present :

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Iraq, Japan, Luxembourg, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Representatives of the following States, additional members of the sessional Committees: Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Mexico, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Observers for the following Member States: Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Ireland, Israel, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland.

Representative of the following specialized agency: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 32

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(E/3935 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) (*concluded*)

1. Mr. KOPCOK (Yugoslavia) noted with satisfaction that the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees during the period covered by the report under consideration (E/3935 and Add. 1 and Add. 1/Corr. 1) had had very satisfactory results. His delegation was glad to learn that the question of the "old" European refugees was likely to be settled by the end of 1965. The solution of the problem would, however, require great efforts on the part of the international community during the coming period. The Yugoslav delegation also welcomed the statement in paragraph 79 of the report about camp clearance. Although well aware of the difficulties, it considered that the rate at which the refugees were being resettled should be speeded up.

2. Another important problem was that of the refugees in Africa, whose number was continually increasing; the African countries in which they sought refuge were not always able, despite their efforts, to give them effective aid. Yugoslavia therefore fully supported UNHCR's action in that connexion and believed that it should be continued. It particularly welcomed UNHCR's assistance to Algeria, in collaboration with other international organizations and with the Algerian Government, in helping the refugees to become integrated into the country's economic life.

3. In the course of a humanitarian activity such as the resettlement of refugees, refugees should not be allowed to take advantage of what UNHCR was doing for them to abuse the right of asylum by engaging in criminal or subversive activities that constituted a source of tension between States.

4. During the period under consideration Yugoslavia had made fresh efforts to solve the problem of the refugees within its territory, and had managed to achieve some success through its collaboration with the High Commissioner's Office.

5. Mr. NADIM (Iran) said that his delegation had studied the High Commissioner's annual report with great attention and would thank the High Commissioner for the very useful information he had supplied in his statement (1344th meeting). There were very few refugees in Iran, and most cases had been settled, as was shown

in annex II to the report. Iran attached very great importance, however, to UNHCR's work and was doing what it could to contribute. Despite its limited resources, the High Commissioner's Office had not only continued to carry out current programmes but had also tackled the problems which had arisen in regions — particularly Africa — in which it had not previously been called upon to intervene. It was encouraging to note that the African countries had done much to collaborate with it, despite very serious economic and social problems of their own.

6. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) was happy to note that the question of the "old" European refugees was approaching a solution. His Government had always considered camp clearance to have the highest priority, and was gratified at the progress made. However, there were still between 10,000 and 12,000 new refugees a year in Europe, and that problem showed no signs of diminishing.

7. With regard to the problem of refugees in Africa, and in particular the projects for settling refugees from Rwanda in Uganda, Burundi, the Kivu province of the Congo (Leopoldville) and Tanganyika, the promptness and efficiency of the assistance given by UNHCR, despite difficult political circumstances, was remarkable. His Government fully supported the new projects authorized by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, and more particularly the project providing for the settlement of 20,000 refugees from Rwanda. The High Commissioner could perhaps indicate when, in view of the current political instability in the Kivu Province of the Congo, he expected the ILO regional development project to get under way.

8. By mobilizing all necessary aid, UNHCR had contributed decisively to the finding of speedy solutions to the most pressing problems. But no matter how effective the help given, the main burden rested with the countries of asylum. In that connexion, a particular tribute should be paid to those African Governments which had received large numbers of refugees from neighbouring countries.

9. His delegation would like the High Commissioner to appeal for wider financial support, as suggested at the eleventh session of the Executive Committee. It also attached importance to the primary function of UNHCR — the protection of the rights of refugees — and therefore welcomed the accession of a forty-third State to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the accession of Ireland to the 1957 Agreement relating to refugee seamen, which showed the widespread importance of these instruments. His delegation also welcomed the appointment of five additional members to the Executive Committee, who had made a substantial contribution to the deliberations of the eleventh session, particularly in regard to the refugee problem in Africa.

10. Mr. WEBER (Luxembourg) noted with satisfaction that a great step had been taken towards a solution of the problem of the "old" European refugees. New problems, however, remained to be settled on the European continent, where the arrival of 10,000 to 12,000 new refugees every year was creating considerable difficulties

for the countries of first asylum. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the fruitful collaboration which had been initiated with the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration and the voluntary agencies and also the liberal immigration policy practised by a great many European countries.

11. The UNHCR had found itself compelled to expand its activities in recent years. The refugees in Africa were raising serious problems, and he noted with satisfaction that in that matter UNHCR would co-operate with ILO in the execution of projects prepared for Burundi and the Kivu province of the Congo. He regretted, however, that many refugees would not be able to benefit from the High Commissioner's action owing to the cut-off date laid down in the 1951 Convention. He hoped that a means would be found to facilitate the accession of certain African and Asian countries to the Convention.

12. Mr. HILL (Australia) said that his delegation had been impressed with the efforts of UNHCR to settle the problem of the "old" European refugees. He noted the importance which the Office attached to the new problems that had arisen, and hoped that it would be possible to find a speedy solution, particularly with regard to the African refugees. Australia had been associated with UNHCR's work for many years and would continue to give it its full support.

13. Mr. WILLIAMS (United States of America) congratulated the High Commissioner on his statement and on the report he had submitted to the Council. On reading the report, one could not but reflect on the human tragedy behind the statistics, on the unhappy story of thousands of human beings who had been driven from their homeland because of their race, religion or nationality; but one thought, too, of the nobility and courage of those who faced want rather than give up a cause they held dear or submit to the oppression of a regime they abhorred.

14. The history of the United States was in a sense bound up with refugee movements, from the Pilgrims of 1620, the exiles of 1848 and the victims of the pogroms of eastern and central Europe down to those who were still seeking asylum there. That mixture of races, nationalities and cultures had given the society of the United States some of its outstanding characteristics.

15. As long as human rights were violated and men were persecuted or subjected to discrimination because of race, religion, nationality or political belief, there would always be a refugee problem. It was therefore fitting that the international community should assume two obligations towards refugees, that of securing legal and political protection for them and that of easing their financial problems. His Government attached particular importance to the first of those obligations. In its view, part of the High Commissioner's task in that respect was to help to ensure liberal asylum policies and practices so that no refugee was returned against his will to a country in which he feared persecution, and the High Commissioner was to be commended for the statement contained in paragraph 41 of his report.

16. His delegation noted with satisfaction that all the necessary funds had been obtained to finance the programme designed to resolve the problem of the "old" European refugees by the end of 1965. It welcomed the operational progress which was reported by the High Commissioner and which would make it possible to meet the target date for the liquidation of the problem, and commended the speed and dedication shown by his Office in carrying out that task.

17. Another problem of equal importance and urgency was that of the refugees in Africa. His delegation congratulated the High Commissioner on the very constructive contribution he had made to the solution of the difficulties in that matter.

18. His Government had contributed substantially to financial assistance for refugees. In that connexion, he referred to the bilateral programmes, food aid and the sum of \$900,000 contributed to the High Commissioner's Office during the period under review. He deplored the fact that, according to the figures in annex VI to the High Commissioner's report, only forty contributors had seen fit to support that vital humanitarian task. It was difficult to understand such an attitude in view of the mission of the High Commissioner's Office.

19. All States should not only recognize their obligations towards the victims of political, religious and racial persecution, but should also deal with the root of the evil and redouble their efforts to prevent new refugee problems from arising. That would not be achieved until all nations and peoples scrupulously respected human rights throughout the world.

20. Mr. CISS (Senegal) said that his delegation would give its views on the High Commissioner's report in the General Assembly. He wished, however, to congratulate the High Commissioner on the outstanding work he had accomplished and on his very encouraging statement. The causes of the refugee problem were known and there was no need to dwell on the political aspect of that problem. In his view, the Council should concentrate on the humanitarian aspect. Senegal, which had a common frontier with a Portuguese colony, had been glad to grant asylum to 12,000 refugees. His Government appreciated the assistance provided by the High Commissioner and hoped that the efforts made on behalf of refugees would be crowned with success.

21. Mr. RUPIA (United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar) congratulated the High Commissioner on the humanitarian work he was undertaking with such persistence and devotion. He associated himself with the views expressed by the Algerian representative (1334th meeting) on the work UNHCR had accomplished in collaboration with various specialized agencies and international organizations, such as FAO, UNICEF, the Organization for African Unity, the League of Red Cross Societies, and others.

22. His Government had never hesitated to come to the aid of refugees who sought asylum in its territory, but it needed help from the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, since the refugees

not only had to be housed and fed, but many of them were also in need of medical care. Furthermore, as the High Commissioner had said, the refugee should be placed wherever possible on an equal footing with the nationals of his country of residence.

23. The refugee problem was one of world-wide dimensions, and its solution required the co-operation of all countries, which should seek not only to assist the refugees but to eliminate the causes of the problem, one of which was certainly colonialism.

24. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria) associated himself with the congratulations addressed to the High Commissioner. His Government had already expressed its views on the refugee problem in the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. He would therefore merely add that he agreed with the High Commissioner on the need to apportion assistance to refugees judiciously among the various parts of the world.

25. Mr. SCHNYDER (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) thanked the members of the Council for their co-operation; he was gratified by their interest in the refugee problem. He welcomed the fact that some representatives had stressed the need to provide greater financial support for the High Commissioner's Programme.

26. In reply to the question from the United Kingdom representative, he said that 60,000 refugees from Rwanda had found asylum in the Kivu province of the Congo (Leopoldville). His Office was following developments in the Congo very closely, since the settlement of the refugees depended to a large extent on the security they could be given. The ILO had to proceed cautiously in carrying out the regional development programme which it had drawn up in consultation with his Office and at the request of the Government concerned. At present, only some projects of minor importance were being undertaken. It was hoped, however, that the programme, which affected not only the refugees, but the region as a whole, could be resumed in September 1964.

27. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council adopt a resolution, in the usual terms, taking note of the report prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for transmission to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session.

28. Mr. de CHALVRON (France) suggested that the words "with appreciation" should be added.

It was so decided.

The resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 22

Social development (E/3915, E/3920, E/3945)

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/3964)

29. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the two recommendations contained in paragraph 6 of the Social Committee's report (E/3964).

A. WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND REPORT ON SOCIAL ALLOCATIONS

Recommendation A was adopted unanimously.

B. SOCIAL DEFENCE

Recommendation B was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 23

Report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning

(resumed from the 1339th meeting and concluded)

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/3962)

30. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolutions A, B and C contained in paragraph 33 of the Social Committee's report (E/3962).

A. HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING IN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Draft resolution A was adopted unanimously.

B. THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF BUILDING

Draft resolution B was adopted unanimously.

C. CO-ORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMMES IN HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

Draft resolution C was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 34

International control of narcotic drugs (E/3893; E/OB/19)

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/3968)

31. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolutions I, II and III contained in paragraph 4 of the Social Committee's report (E/3868).

I. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND REPORT OF THE PERMANENT CENTRAL OPIUM BOARD FOR 1963

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

II. THE QUESTION OF KHAT

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

III. SURVEY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE OPIUM-PRODUCING REGIONS IN THAILAND

The draft resolution was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 8

**Economic and social consequences of disarmament
Conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by
disarmament (E/3898 and Add.1 to 4; E/L.1059/Rev.1)**

(resumed from the 1334th meeting and concluded)

32. Mr. WILLIAMS (United States of America), on behalf of the four co-sponsors, introduced the revised text of the joint draft resolution (E/L. 1059/Rev. 1). He paid tribute to the spirit of co-operation and mutual respect which had prevailed during the consultations between the delegations of Colombia, Czechoslovakia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, and which had made it possible to submit a single draft resolution on the matter.

33. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the General Assembly and the Council had for some time been taking specific decisions concerning the economic and social consequences of disarmament. His delegation was gratified by the concerted efforts made in that field, and particularly by the steps taken by the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies. It was no less gratifying that the problem had engaged the attention of all members during the present session. Like the United States representative, he expressed satisfaction that Colombia, Czechoslovakia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America had jointly submitted the same draft resolution, but the draft did not represent the views of those four countries only. At the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, many countries had participated in the discussion of and had sponsored draft resolutions on the same subject.

34. The question was one of capital importance. Although its military aspect should certainly be given precedence, its economic and social aspects were extremely important for all countries of the world. Any progress made in that field, even if the basis for agreement was modest, was of historical importance. It was encouraging to note that all countries were in agreement on that point, that their aims were the same, and that they were making joint efforts. That was because they were all convinced that, by facing the needs of the hour, they were working for the cause of peace and friendship between peoples.

The revised joint draft resolution (E/L. 1059/Rev. 1) was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.