



## Eleventh session

ELECTION OF A UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
REFUGEES TO FILL THE VACANCY CAUSED BY THE DEATH OF  
DR. G.J. VAN HEUVEN GOEDHARTNote by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 13 (g) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, has the honour to propose the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the eleventh regular session of the General Assembly of the following item:

Election of a United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees to fill the vacancy caused by the death of  
Dr. G.J. Van Heuven Goedhart.

2. Chapter III, paragraph 13, of the Statute<sup>1/</sup> of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provides that the High Commissioner shall be elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General. Such nomination will be made in due course, in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

3. Under the Statute, the appointment of a High Commissioner was made for a period of three years from 1 January 1951. By resolution 727 (VIII) of 23 October 1953, the General Assembly decided to continue the Office of the High Commissioner for a period of five years from 1 January 1954 and that the High Commissioner should be elected for this period. The late Dr. G.J. Van Heuven Goedhart who was the High Commissioner for the first period of three years was elected in accordance with this resolution for the second period of five years expiring on 31 December 1958. In the same resolution the General Assembly also

<sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/1775), res. 428 (V), Annex.

decided to review, not later than at the twelfth regular session of the Assembly, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1958.

4. The Statute and resolution 727 (VIII) provided that a Deputy High Commissioner of a nationality other than that of the High Commissioner should be appointed. Pending action to be taken by the General Assembly in respect of the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. G.J. Van Heuven Goedhart (Netherlands), Mr. James M. Reed (United States of America), Deputy High Commissioner appointed in accordance with these provisions, is exercising the functions and discharging the duties of the High Commissioner.

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