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**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 33rd  
MEETING**

Friday, 22 February 1957,  
at 11.20 a.m.

New York

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*Chairman:* Mr. Selim SARPER (Turkey).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Sudjarwo  
(Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 23**

**Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/3212, A/3212/Add.1, A/3498, A/SPC/9, A/SPC/L.13) (*continued*)**

1. Mrs. LORD (United States of America) introduced a joint draft resolution (A/SPC/L.13) sponsored jointly by Argentina, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. In the preamble, an attempt had been made to set forth the facts about the Arab refugee problem: the inadequacy of contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the failure to implement General Assembly resolution 194 (III) on repatriation and compensation, and the inadequacy of the co-operation shown the Agency by some host Governments. In operative paragraph 1, the request that the Director of the Agency, after consultation with the host Governments, prepare for submission to the twelfth General Assembly specific suggestions for future implementation of the various responsibilities and tasks with which the Agency was now charged, deserved special attention. The purpose of that request was to plan ahead in order to ensure the future welfare of the refugees without prejudice to their rights, or to any solution of the problem which might be found before the Agency's mandate expired in 1960.

2. The United States fully appreciated the difficulties of the host Governments and was prepared to assist in overcoming them. Advance planning was essential if the Agency, together with those Governments, were to carry out their responsibilities towards the refugees effectively. It was likewise in the interests both of the refugees and of the Governments of the area, to plan and carry out projects capable of supporting substantial numbers of refugees, as requested in operative paragraph 4. Finally, the draft resolution, in paragraph 6, sought to make a further constructive contribution to the solution of the refugee problem by broadening the authority of the Director of UNRWA to use the rehabilitation fund for general economic development

projects in the host countries. He was to make such arrangements subject to agreement by any such Government that within a fixed period of time they would assume financial responsibility for an agreed number of refugees.

3. In the view of her delegation, the draft resolution enumerated the steps which should be taken urgently if the Agency was to be enabled to carry out its mandate. Her delegation hoped that its adoption would give new vitality to the efforts of all Member States to help settle the refugee problem. Failure to take such affirmative action would further jeopardize the lives and future of the refugees.

4. Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan), speaking on a point of order, pointed out that his delegation needed time to study the draft resolution, to seek further clarification on some points from the sponsors, and to contact its Government for instructions. Accordingly, he requested that discussion of the draft resolution should be adjourned until the following morning.

5. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) had no objection to adjourning further discussion in view of the great importance of the draft resolution for all Member States. However, since the Special Political Committee had very little time in which to complete consideration of its agenda, he hoped it might start debating the last item of its agenda at a meeting to be held that afternoon.

6. Mrs. LORD (United States of America) had some doubts regarding the advisability of starting discussion of the last item before completing work on the refugee question. Moreover, the United States representative who was to deal with that last item could not be available until the following day, and the Committee would note that the United States was directly concerned in that question.

7. Mr. JAMALI (Iraq) pointed out that it would be preferable to postpone the discussion of the draft resolution until the following morning (Saturday) rather than until Monday, 25 February, owing to the plenary meeting of the General Assembly scheduled for that date.

8. The CHAIRMAN stated there were two proposals before the Committee, that of the representative of Jordan to postpone further discussion until the following morning; and that of the representative of the USSR to start discussion of the new item that afternoon. Both proposals were in order. The representative of the United States, on the other hand, preferred not to begin the new discussion then. Accordingly, the Chairman would propose the postponement of the discussion of the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.13) until the following morning.

*It was so agreed.*

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.