



Twelfth session  
Agenda item 43

REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS

ADDENDUM

1. Since the report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds (A/3668) was issued on 18 September 1957, an ad hoc Committee of the whole Assembly was convened on 4 October 1957 for the announcement of pledges of contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations Refugee Fund.

2. The new procedure of holding a special pledging conference for the two refugee programmes was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 1091 A (XI), of 27 February 1957, and in the preamble to this resolution the Assembly recognized:

(a) The importance of determining the financial resources for activities and programmes to be financed by voluntary contributions before the reports on such activities and programmes are considered and acted upon by the General Assembly;

(b) The need to change the existing procedure for obtaining financial support for those programmes of the United Nations financed by voluntary contributions for which those contributions fall considerably short of the financial targets set for them.

3. The Negotiating Committee has reviewed the results of the meetings of the ad hoc Committee of the whole Assembly, and the conclusions reached in consultation with the Director of UNRWA and the High Commissioner for Refugees are recorded in the following paragraphs.

4. With regard to the attendance at the meetings, the Committee noted that, of the eighty-seven Governments invited to attend (eighty-two Member States and five non-Member States), approximately sixty-five were represented. This marked a significant improvement over the attendance at any of the general meetings held in the past by the Negotiating Committee with representatives of Member and non-Member States to obtain pledges of contributions to the two refugee programmes. The new procedure has therefore proved valuable in the sense that it has brought the problem of refugees and the financial requirements of the agencies to the attention of a far greater audience than before. If it should be decided to maintain the new procedure of a special pledging conference, the Committee would suggest that even greater attendance might be achieved through increased advance publicity and by scheduling the meetings at a time when no other meetings were held.

5. At the meeting of the ad hoc Committee dealing with UNRWA, contributions totalling approximately \$25.5 million were pledged by twenty-one Governments. Taking into account the contributions announced, the Director of UNRWA estimated that, on the assumption that those Governments which have regularly contributed to the Agency's programme will make payments in 1958 at the same rate as in the past years, there would still be a deficit of about \$2 million against the relief budget and about \$3 million against a reduced rehabilitation programme limited mainly to general education. The activities of UNRWA are at present being discussed in the Special Political Committee and during the discussions further contributions have been announced, notably an additional pledge of \$1.5 million by the United States of America, of which \$500,000 would be made available for relief and \$1 million for rehabilitation.

6. At the meeting dealing with UNREF, contributions totalling approximately \$3.3 million were pledged by twelve Governments. Since the meeting, the General Assembly has adopted a resolution (1166 (XII)), which inter alia requests the High Commissioner for Refugees to intensify the UNREF programme and to appeal to Governments for the purpose of raising the additional funds needed for closing the refugee camps. In the light of the contributions pledged, the High Commissioner estimates that the funds still required to carry out the approved UNREF programme - including the intensification of the programme - will

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be \$7.5 million. The High Commissioner considers it essential that the entire sum of \$7.5 million be pledged in 1958, in order to negotiate with Governments and to draw up plans for the systematic closure of all camps, even though payments in fulfilment of the pledges might continue through 1959 and 1960. In addition, under the terms of resolution 1166 (XII) funds might also be required in order to help to solve specific refugee problems remaining unsolved after 31 December 1958 or arising after that date, for the provision of supplemental temporary care and maintenance and for the financing of permanent solutions for refugees coming within the High Commissioner's mandate and otherwise not provided for.

7. As indicated in the preceeding paragraphs, the results of the meetings of the ad hoc Committee, in terms of contributions pledged to the two refugee programmes, were insufficient to meet the target figures. The total contributions announced, as well as the individual pledges, did not reflect any marked improvement as compared with the financial support obtained in previous years and, in order to meet the needs of the programmes, it will still be necessary to raise substantial amounts of additional contributions. It is to be hoped however that, through the greater publicity given to the global requirements of the two refugee programmes, additional financial support may be forthcoming. The Negotiating Committee believes that the meetings may thus have a delayed effect which cannot yet be fully estimated. If the pattern of holding a special pledging conference shortly after the opening of the General Assembly is repeated each year, it may be hoped that Governments will be able to secure in time the necessary authority for the announcement of their contributions at the conference.

8. In the light of the above, the Negotiating Committee is of the opinion that it would be of value to maintain the new procedure and to convene again next year a special pledging conference for UNRWA and UNREF along the same lines as this year. It therefore recommends:

- (a) That the General Assembly convene, during the thirteenth session, an ad hoc Committee of the whole, under the chairmanship of the President of the session, where pledges of voluntary contributions for the two refugee programmes for the following financial year would be announced, separate meetings being dedicated to each programme.

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(b) That States not Members of the United Nations, but members of one or more of the specialized agencies, be invited to attend the meetings of the ad hoc Committee.

(c) That, in order to ensure maximum attendance, as great advance publicity as possible be given to the meetings of the ad hoc Committee which should be so scheduled that no other meetings are held at the same time.

9. The Negotiating Committee, in paragraph 18 of its report (A/3668), suggested that the General Assembly might wish to consider, in the light of the outcome of the meetings of the ad hoc Committee, the question whether the Negotiating Committee's present term of office, which expires at the end of the twelfth session of the General Assembly, should be extended.

10. As indicated in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, substantial amounts of contributions will still be required to carry out the approved programmes of the High Commissioner for Refugees and to meet the minimum requirements of the UNRWA relief and rehabilitation programmes for 1958. It would therefore appear desirable to make arrangements so that the work of consulting with Governments with a view to raising the additional funds required be continued throughout the year. For this purpose, the General Assembly may wish to re-appoint the Negotiating Committee or a similar committee to serve until the close of the thirteenth session.

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