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President : Mr. Daniel COSÍO VILLEGAS (Mexico)

Present :

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Observers for the following Member States: Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Japan.

Observers for the following non-member States: Holy See, Switzerland.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(E/3263 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) (*continued*)

1. Mr. TATTENBACH IGLESIAS (Costa Rica) congratulated the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on his report (E/3263 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) and on the statement he had made to the Council (1083rd meeting). The refugee problem could not be in better hands than those of the High Commissioner. The United Nations and the refugees themselves were particularly fortunate that Mr. Lindt had agreed to carry the heavy burden of his office for a further term.

2. He expressed great satisfaction with the results so far achieved by the World Refugee Year. In Costa Rica, a national committee of distinguished persons had been established to organize the fund-raising campaign throughout the country and had already achieved considerable success in collecting money for the World Refugee Year. He regretted that the Government of Costa Rica was unable, because of its limited resources, to contribute in any other way to the World Refugee Year.

3. He added that the Pope's message to the United Nations on the occasion of the inauguration of the World Refugee Year (c.f. E/3263/Add.1, para. 67) would

serve as an inspiration and help to ensure the success of the venture.

4. Miss LUNSINGH MEIJER (Netherlands) said that, in spite of the Council's many efforts over the years, the High Commissioner had never received sufficient funds to solve the refugee problem. That unhappy situation was in part the result of the somewhat untimely termination of the International Refugee Organization's activities. That body had operated from 1947 to 1950 on a yearly budget of \$100 million to \$120 million and had succeeded in settling, mainly through emigration, over a million refugees and, if it had been continued a little longer, could probably have made a final effort to help the relatively small number of refugees remaining at that time. Its successor, the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF) had, in the four years of its existence, not even succeeded in collecting the \$16 million required — hardly an edifying result or a credit to the Members of the United Nations.

5. Queen Juliana had pleaded for the essential world-wide action in 1951 and 1953. Unfortunately, the world had only belatedly realized the gravity of the refugee problem and recognized the need for other measures than those concerned with legal protection. While many of the "old" refugees were still waiting for help, new groups of refugees had come into existence. There was a danger that, whereas it should be a temporary and abnormal phenomenon, the refugee problem would come to be regarded as permanent and normal. No effort must be spared to help all those who had preferred an uncertain future in freedom to the certainty of enslavement.

6. The World Refugee Year, organized on the initiative of the United Kingdom Government, offered some grounds for guarded optimism. She was very glad to note that so many countries were participating in the programme. In the Netherlands, under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, a national committee had been formed which represented all shades of opinion and would organize a wide variety of activities both on the national and the regional level. There were to be two large nation-wide collections and a multitude of other fund-raising activities. The people of the Netherlands were taking a compassionate interest in the fate of refugees. The Netherlands national committee intended to ask the special representative of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner's Office to indicate special groups of refugees whom contributors could feel a direct and personal interest in helping.

7. In the light of past experience, it seemed unlikely that World Refugee Year would solve the entire refugee problem, at a single stroke. It was designed to help

refugees all over the world and not merely those within the High Commissioner's mandate. Since it had proved impossible in a period of fourteen years to resettle the latter category, one World Refugee Year could hardly be expected to solve the total problem. Nevertheless, public interest in the High Commissioner's task could be expected to increase and to lead to larger contributions for the benefit of the refugees within his mandate. The problems of Such refugees could best be solved either by emigration or by integration into the country of asylum. She had noted with particular satisfaction the readiness of a number of non-European countries to accept even "hard-core" or handicapped refugees. She welcomed in particular the generous gesture of New Zealand (E/3263, para. 38). Some of the money collected during the World Refugee Year would have to be used to assist integration into the country of asylum and to provide for housing, vocational training and counselling.

8. Although the World Refugee Year would not influence the High Commissioner's programme for 1959, the programme for 1960 and, possibly, following years would no doubt benefit from its results. The target of \$12 million for 1960 adopted by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme (E/3263/Add.1, para. 51) seemed to be a realistic one, and extra contributions might be expected not only from private sources, but also from governments. In addition to the contribution by the people of the Netherlands, the government proposed to contribute one million guilders to the World Refugee Year — a sum twice as large as its normal contribution for the current year. She noted from the report on the first special session of the Executive Committee (*ibid.*, para. 46) that the 1960 financial target was to be divided into two parts, one of which would be similar to that for the 1959 programmes, the other being a special target for World Refugee Year contributions to the High Commissioner's programmes. Her delegation supported that decision. In making special

mention of the regular target, she wished to place beyond doubt the fact that the normal effort would have to be continued in 1961 and following years.

9. She hoped that the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany would give high priority to the closing of Camp Valka (E/3263, annex I, para. 18). The efforts made by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to help the refugees under the High Commissioner's mandate were well known.

10. The Netherlands Government would shortly ratify the agreement relating to Refugee Seamen (*ibid.*, annex 1, para. 8).

11. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt a resolution in the usual form, taking note of the High Commissioner's report.

It was so agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 14

International control of narcotic drugs

REFERENCE TO THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL ADOPTED BY THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

12. The PRESIDENT announced that he had received a communication from the Chairman of the Social Committee requesting the Council to refer to the Technical Assistance Committee a draft resolution (E/AC.7/L.331) on technical assistance for narcotics control which had been adopted unanimously by the Social Committee at its 399th meeting. He suggested that the resolution be so referred.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.