

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
 ASSEMBLY**

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

**THIRD COMMITTEE, 1004th  
 MEETING**

Thursday, 27 October 1960,  
 at 3.30 p.m.



**NEW YORK**

**CONTENTS**

	Page
<i>Agenda item 33:</i>	
<i>Assistance to refugees:</i>	
(a) <i>Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (concluded)</i>	
<i>Consideration of draft resolutions (concluded) . . . . .</i>	111
(b) <i>Report of the Secretary-General on the World Refugee Year (continued)</i>	
<i>Statement by the Secretary-General . . . . .</i>	114
<i>Statement by the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East . . . . .</i>	115
<i>Draft resolution on the World Refugee Year (continued) . . . . .</i>	116
<i>Organization of work . . . . .</i>	117

Chairman: Mr. Eduard MEZINCESCU (Romania).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 33**

**Assistance to refugees:**

- (a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/4378/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/4415, chapter V, section IV; A/C.3/L.860, A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.864) (concluded)

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS  
 (concluded)**

1. Mr. CHATTI (Tunisia), introducing the revised text of the draft resolution on refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1), pointed out that there was a change in the fifth paragraph of the preamble because, although the word "solution" had no political implication, some delegations had appeared to give it a different interpretation from the one the sponsors had intended. Other delegations had had reservations regarding the word "complete" in operative sub-paragraph (b): they had argued that recommending the assumption of complete responsibility for the refugees from Algeria by the Office of the High Commissioner might have the effect of causing voluntary agencies to cease their contributions. What the sponsors of the draft resolution had really had in mind was to ensure certain guarantees for the refugees from Algeria in case the League of Red Cross Societies or other organizations of the same kind discontinued their assistance. They felt, moreover, that as the United Nations had been unable to remedy the situation in Algeria, it should consider itself responsible for the victims of that situation. Nevertheless, they had decided to appeal to the

League of Red Cross Societies through the person who seemed best qualified to do so, and only if that failed would the High Commissioner's Office be expected to assume responsibility for the refugees from Algeria. Furthermore, it should be pointed out that the corresponding expenditure would be debited, not to the United Nations budget, but to that of the High Commissioner's Office, which drew some of its funds from the contributions of voluntary agencies. Even if the High Commissioner's Office assumed complete responsibility, those agencies could continue to give it their financial support. The sponsors had agreed, however, to delete the word "complete" in the hope that their text would be unanimously adopted.

2. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) felt that the original text of the draft resolution had been much more satisfactory than the revised text (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1). Nevertheless she would vote in favour of the revised text, which should be able to command unanimous support. By recommending the assumption of complete responsibility for the refugees from Algeria by the High Commissioner's Office, Tunisia and Morocco—which had already done so much for those refugees—had certainly not been trying to evade their responsibilities, but they were in an extremely difficult position: 160,000 refugees for Tunisia would be equivalent to over 4 million refugees suddenly entering the United States of America, and Tunisia's resources could scarcely be compared to those of the United States. The request made by Tunisia and Morocco was therefore perfectly fair and justified, and she could not but regret that the delegations which had made reservations regarding the assumption by the international community of complete responsibility for the refugees from Algeria should be the very ones which, in another of the General Assembly Committees, had taken positions which were certainly not conducive to an early solution of that painful problem. She paid a tribute to the moderation of the sponsors of the draft resolution: the text of the fifth preambular paragraph was, in her view, entirely free of political implications. She would have voted for it and she knew that, fortunately for France, hundreds of thousands of Frenchmen would vote for it also had they the opportunity.

3. She wished to express her deep gratitude to the League of Red Cross Societies and many other non-governmental organizations—with headquarters in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other European countries—which had often been more generous than Governments in their assistance to peoples in distress. The League would certainly wish to continue its work on behalf of the refugees from Algeria: its Committee had already decided that the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the League had the power to extend the operation if necessary.

4. Turning to the draft resolution on the High Commissioner's report (A/C.3/L.864), she welcomed the

fact that, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 1167 (XII) and 1388 (XIV), increasing attention was being paid by Governments and by non-governmental organizations to the problem of refugees who did not come within the immediate competence of the United Nations. Referring to operative sub-paragraph (b), she said that the most satisfactory permanent solution to refugee problems was voluntary repatriation of the refugees to their own country, to their own home. Last year she had again visited Arab refugee camps. It was a most tragic sight: twelve years after leaving their country the refugees, filled with ugly hatreds and broken by misery, had only two things left—the key of the home they had left behind (a key which now still hung on the wall of their mud hut) and the hope to return to that home.

5. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she would vote in favour of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1). The Government of the USSR had sent two million roubles' worth of clothing and food to the refugees from Algeria. Furthermore, the trade unions of the Soviet Union had invited 120 young people to take courses in vocational training schools and a number of orphans who needed rest would be received in a children's camp on the shores of the Black Sea. The situation in Algeria was very serious and it called for the utmost attention from the international community. It was to be hoped that the League of Red Cross Societies would respond to the appeal addressed to it; in any event, there could be no doubt that the High Commissioner should give assistance to the refugees from Algeria.

6. Mr. EDWARD (Ceylon), speaking as a sponsor of the draft resolution on the High Commissioner's report (A/C.3/L.864), expressed appreciation of the work done by the High Commissioner with regard to the international protection of refugees and in seeking permanent solutions. He noted with satisfaction that the camp clearance programme was well on its way to completion and that the number of non-settled refugees living outside camps in Europe had been considerably reduced. Lastly, it was encouraging that some countries had made their standards for admission more flexible. The problem which was now of particular concern was that of the refugees who did not come within the competence of the United Nations: that was why the sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the international community would concentrate its efforts on that problem and on that of the non-settled refugees.

7. He thanked Mr. Lindt for the purely humanitarian spirit and the great zeal and enthusiasm with which he had carried out his task. The delegation of Ceylon would vote in favour of the thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.860).

8. Mr. BAHNEV (Bulgaria) regretted that the question of discontinuing the activities of the High Commissioner's Office, which had been mentioned by a number of delegations, was not referred to in the draft resolution on the High Commissioner's report (A/C.3/L.864). Referring to the second paragraph of the preamble, he pointed out that there had been criticism of some aspects of the report of the High Commissioner: as the proposed text mentioned only the favourable aspects of the High Commissioner's work, the Bulgarian delegation could not support it. With regard to the fourth paragraph of the preamble,

he did not see why the problem of non-settled refugees could be solved only by a further concentration of efforts of the international community—the High Commissioner himself had stated that the programmes for the category of refugees and the camp clearance programme were already financially guaranteed. Moreover, the solution of the problem of the non-settled refugees would appear to be mainly the responsibility of the States in which they had found refuge. Lastly, with regard to operative sub-paragraph (a), many delegations had stressed that the refugees should be integrated with the population of the host country; yet the sponsors of the draft resolution seemed to imply that refugees would retain indefinitely a legal status different from that of the rest of the population. In reality, the question of legal status lay within the competence of the States concerned, and the High Commissioner should not be in a position to interfere in their internal legislation. The Bulgarian delegation would not be able to vote in favour of the draft resolution in question (A/C.3/L.864).

9. Mr. DE VILLIERS (Union of South Africa) said that he would vote in favour of the thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.860), which paid a well-merited tribute to the devotion and energy of the High Commissioner. He would also support the draft resolution on the High Commissioner's report (A/C.3/L.864), but he wished to draw attention to the role played by the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), which had helped to transport 35,000 refugees in 1959-1960. The activities of ICEM were not, of course, of equal importance to every country, which was why the South African delegation did not wish to submit an amendment on that point, but it felt that some reference should be made to the work being done by ICEM.

10. Mr. SCHWELB (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a question from the CHAIRMAN, stated that the additional activities contemplated under the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1) could, if the draft resolution was adopted, lead to operational expenses which would be met from the High Commissioner's voluntary funds. The adoption of the draft resolution would have no financial implications for the normal United Nations budget.

11. Begum Aziz AHMED (Pakistan) said that she was well aware that, however great their understanding and generosity, the Moroccan and Tunisian Governments could not deal with the serious problem of the refugees from Algeria by their own efforts. If the League of Red Cross Societies was to discontinue its assistance as from 1 July 1961, as it had announced, the situation of those refugees would be tragic. She therefore hoped that the League would reconsider its decision. If it did not, there could be no other solution than to ask the Office of the High Commissioner to draw up and execute a programme for the assumption by the Office of responsibility for those refugees. That was the meaning of operative sub-paragraph (b) of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1), for which her delegation would vote.

12. Mr. BUSIEAU (Belgium) said that, as the representative of a country that was a friend and neighbour of France, he wished to draw the French delegation's attention to the fact that the revised text of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1) was

extremely moderate in both wording and substance. The wording of the fifth preambular paragraph was sufficient evidence of the authors' desire not to discuss the causes of the situation and to avoid any reference of a political character. If such had not been the case, there would inevitably have been a division in the voting, but since the situation as such was being considered, in an objective manner and without reference to its possible causes, all delegations must regret that that situation continued. The Belgian delegation, in casting its vote, would be prompted by humanitarian and social considerations; it hoped that the French delegation, in keeping with its tradition, would be guided by the same considerations and would subscribe, partially at any rate, to the ideas expressed in the four-Power draft resolution.

13. He felt that it would be more correct to say, in the fifth preambular paragraph, that the situation continued. He suggested the following wording to the co-sponsors: "Regretting that the situation which is the cause of this problem continues".

14. Mr. CHATTI (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1), accepted the change proposed by the representative of Belgium.<sup>1/</sup>

*Mr. Mezincescu (Romania) took the Chair.*

15. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) inquired why, in the eleven-Power draft resolution on the High Commissioner's report (A/C.3/L.864), the third preambular paragraph mentioned General Assembly resolution 1388 (XIV) but not resolution 1389 (XIV).

16. Mr. PERERA (Ceylon), speaking for himself alone, observed that the procedure was logical, since the eleven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.864) dealt with the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as did resolution 1388 (XIV). On the other hand, reference was made to resolution 1389 (XIV) on refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia in the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1), which dealt with the same question.

17. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that in view of the alterations which had been made in the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1) and of the Belgian representative's appeal, he would abstain from voting on that draft. He would explain his abstention after the vote had taken place.

18. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee vote first on the four-Power and eleven-Power draft resolutions (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.864), and then adopt the thirteen-Power draft (A/C.3/L.860) without a formal vote, in view of its character.

*It was so decided.*

19. Mrs. STEEN (Canada) requested that operative paragraph (b) of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1) be voted on separately.

20. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) pointed out that, in the revision of the four-Power text (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1), operative paragraph (b) had been altered to take account of suggestions made to the co-sponsors. Moreover, a separate vote could only weaken the resolution.

21. Mrs. STEEN (Canada) withdrew her request.

<sup>1/</sup> The revised text of preambular paragraph 5 was subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1/Corr.1.

22. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the four-Power revised draft resolution on refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1), as amended.

*At the request of the Ceylonese representative, a vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Afghanistan, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma; Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

*Against:* None.

*Abstaining:* France.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 76 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

23. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the eleven-Power draft resolution on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/C.3/L.864).

*The draft resolution was adopted by 65 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.*

24. Mrs. MANTZOULINOS (Greece) stated on behalf of the co-sponsors that operative paragraph 1 of the thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.860) had been revised to read: "Expresses its thanks to Dr. Auguste Lindt and its admiration for the brilliant and important work he has performed ...", the rest remaining unchanged.

*The thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.860), as revised, was adopted.*

25. Mr. BOUQUIN (France), recalling his Government's position on the problem which had led to the adoption of the four-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.861/Rev.1), said that France claimed the right to provide its nationals who had been obliged to leave their homes under the pressure of events with all the assistance they needed. However, as it was anxious that humanitarian considerations should come before legal considerations, it had made three payments each of NF 1,250,000 to the High Commissioner's Office.

26. The French Government earnestly desired to see an impartial procedure set up to enable all those who wished to do so to return freely to their country. There were welfare services ready to give them all the assistance they needed, and the cost would be met by the French Government.

27. Mr. CHATTI (Tunisia) regretted that after the Committee's unanimous vote, the French representa-

tive should have made a statement which amounted to bringing the problem into the political sphere by treating the refugees from Algeria as French. Algeria was Algerian; the French Government itself had admitted as much when it recognized the principle of self-determination and agreed to the Melun negotiations. The Tunisian delegation simply expressed the hope that France would one day hear the voice of reason and agree to settle the question by means of a referendum organized under United Nations supervision.

28. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said he did not wish to start a debate on the subject, which would be inappropriate in the Third Committee; he would merely point out that he had limited himself to legal matters and had not raised political issues.

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Refugee Year (A/4546, A/C.3/L.863) (continued)

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

29. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the World Refugee Year had been instituted under General Assembly resolution 1285 (XIII) as a practical means of securing increased assistance for refugees throughout the world. It was to consist first and foremost of a series of national efforts. The Secretary-General was requested to take such steps as he might think fit to promote and co-ordinate the activities of World Refugee Year.

30. On several occasions, especially at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly, he had had the opportunity to keep delegations informed of the progress made. Likewise during the same session the General Assembly, by its resolution 1390 (XIV), had reaffirmed its support for World Refugee Year.

31. The report before the Committee (A/4546) contained a brief summary of the measures taken by the Secretariat to promote and co-ordinate the activities undertaken during the Year.

32. It was hardly necessary to go over the background to World Refugee Year, the origins and objectives of which were well known to members of the Committee. The sponsors of resolution 1285 (XIII) had realized that the endeavours of one year could not solve all the problems related to refugees. They had hoped, however, that the project would enable certain problems whose solution depended only on additional efforts to be finally cleared up. As for those refugees for whom a solution was not yet in sight, it had been hoped that their plight could be improved.

33. The report laid before the Committee was based on information sent in by participating countries up to 30 September 1960. It showed the extent of the activities undertaken on a multi-national scale and the results that had been achieved. Those were not final, as some countries had decided to continue the campaigns organized in connexion with World Refugee Year.

34. The fifty-nine countries which had voted in favour of resolution 1285 (XIII) had participated, in one way or another, in World Refugee Year, and thirty-eight other countries and territories had also co-operated. Thus, ninety-seven countries and territories, representing a large part of the world, had taken part in the campaign.

35. Thirty-nine National Committees had been established in the participating countries, often under the patronage of the Head of State. Likewise, seventy-four of the most important non-governmental organizations had established an International Committee for the World Refugee Year. One particularly outstanding fact was that all religious faiths had united in supporting that humanitarian undertaking.

36. The first aim of resolution 1285 (XIII) had been to focus interest on the refugee problem. In that connexion, he noted that in all the participating countries, the World Refugee Year had been given far more publicity than refugee questions had ever enjoyed before. It could be said that henceforward those problems would be more widely understood by international opinion.

37. Another purpose of the World Refugee Year had been to encourage additional financial contributions from Governments, voluntary agencies and the general public. According to reports received up to 30 September 1960, the total sum raised in World Refugee Year or pledged subject to legislative approval, in addition to the regular annual contributions of Governments and voluntary agencies, was more than \$US80 million. Of that sum, more than \$23 million came from Governments and some \$57 million from the public. Campaigns in Austria, Belgium, Canada, France and Switzerland since 30 September had raised an additional \$3 million. In addition, the sale of stamps and first-day covers under the stamp plan sponsored jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) would bring in a sum estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$1 million. It should also be noted that a number of countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Sweden, the Union of South Africa and the United States of America had not yet concluded their campaigns and that some of them had not yet given even preliminary indications of the results obtained so far. Lastly, the results announced by certain countries in which the campaign had officially closed would have to be revised because the National Committees were still receiving contributions.

38. On 20 October 1960, the sum of \$22,673,646 had been contributed, pledged or raised on behalf of refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate, not counting refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco. Of that sum, more than \$8 million had been handed directly to the High Commissioner in response to his request for \$7.3 million to finance the special World Refugee Year programme on behalf of refugees within his mandate. Thanks to the efforts made, available sums would make it possible to finance the High Commissioner's camp clearance programme in Europe completely, which meant that the 32,000 refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate still living in European camps would all be either integrated in their countries of first asylum or resettled elsewhere. In addition, a considerable number of refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate living outside camps in Europe would also be helped towards integration or resettlement with the assistance of the supplementary World Refugee Year funds. The \$22,673,646 referred to previously included a sum of \$1,210,724 exclusively for refugee transportation (mainly by ICEM) and \$13,404,047 for other pro-

grammes also benefiting refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate, but in most cases not administered by him.

39. Particularly encouraging results had been obtained in the case of handicapped and difficult-to-resettle refugees. The High Commissioner estimated that thanks to the liberalization of immigration criteria by various countries during the World Refugee Year, some 4,000 handicapped refugees and their dependants, making about 7,000 persons in all, would be resettled outside their countries of first asylum. That figure should be compared with the 4,665 handicapped refugees and their families resettled in the seven years from 1952-1958.

40. The various appeals on behalf of the refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco had produced contributions amounting to \$5,360,122, of which more than \$2.7 million had been directed to the High Commissioner's Office. The sum of \$4,514,694 had been contributed or pledged, up to 20 October 1960, on behalf of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. Of that sum, approximately \$2.5 million would go towards the Hong Kong Government's goal for its World Refugee Year projects. Up to 20 October 1960, \$7,875,967 had been contributed or pledged for the Arab refugees from Palestine within the mandate of UNRWA. Of that sum, more than \$2 million had been contributed or pledged for the Agency's programmes, and it had received promises of a further \$1 million in contributions towards the \$4 million minimum target set by its Director for the special programme at the beginning of the World Refugee Year. Other refugees would benefit to the extent of \$17,914,112 raised for them so far. They included refugees in Europe not within the mandate of the High Commissioner and various groups of refugees in Asia. It should be noted that of the total of \$83 million, more than \$20 million appeared to be still unallocated to any specific programme. It should also be noted that only \$14 million had been directly allocated to the two United Nations agencies dealing with refugees—the High Commissioner's Office and UNRWA—and used to finance the transportation of refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner.

41. Resolution 1285 (XIII) had had a third objective, namely to encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions by voluntary repatriation resettlement and integration, on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves. He indicated that according to the most recent figures, more than 3,000 refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner had been repatriated at their own request. Resettlement had been considerably facilitated by the fact that a number of Governments had taken steps to liberalize their immigration criteria, particularly with respect to aged, sick or handicapped refugees. Such action would make it possible to resettle 4,000 handicapped refugees, or a total of 7,000 persons if dependents were included. Moreover, the money raised during the World Refugee Year would make it possible to integrate a large number of refugees living in Europe, both inside and outside camps, in their country of first asylum. Considerable progress had been recorded in regard to several aspects of the question of legal protection for refugees. Six countries had approved ratification of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, or had deposited their instruments of ratification.

42. Thus, the General Assembly's appeal had been heard. Some of the problems relating to refugees would be solved completely, and the lot of many other refugees had been or would be improved. Owing to the goodwill of Governments and the understanding spirit of the National Committee, World Refugee Year had succeeded in adhering closely to the purely humanitarian objective expressed in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly. While the success achieved by World Refugee Year was obviously due to the participating countries, the sense of responsibility evidenced by Governments and the generosity of the public, there could be no doubt that its appeal had been strengthened by its high purpose and by United Nations sponsorship. The World Refugee Year had given many people, young people in particular, an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the humanitarian activities of the United Nations, and had thus helped to make the Organization's aims better known. The figures showed that the high hopes centred on the World Refugee Year had not been misplaced. Not the least of its merits was that it had drawn attention to problems that were still unsolved and had enabled millions of human beings to realize the amplitude of the task still to be accomplished. World Refugee Year had made it possible to view the refugee problem from another angle.

43. Europe and the American continent had not only sought to provide a partial solution for the problem of the refugees in Europe but had also aided refugees in the Near East, North Africa and Asia. More than \$20 million contributed, pledged or raised, would go to the refugees of Asia and Africa. Perhaps one of the outstanding characteristics of World Refugee Year was that even the economically less-privileged countries of Asia and Africa, sometimes burdened with refugee problems of their own, had made their modest but generous contribution to reduce the burdens of others.

44. A number of organizations specially set up for World Refugee Year had decided to continue their work on behalf of refugees permanently. Thus, although it was officially concluded, the World Refugee Year could be regarded not as the end of an effort, but as a beginning.

#### STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

45. Mr. DAVIS (Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) said he would like first of all to express profound appreciation to Governments, National Committees, voluntary agencies and private individuals who had contributed, financially and otherwise, to the work of UNRWA. He also expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and his staff for their assistance.

46. At the beginning of 1960, UNRWA had set a target of some \$4 million in additional contributions as a result of World Refugee Year. Since then, it had drawn up for the remaining three years of its mandate, ending in 1963, a programme that would be considered by the Special Political Committee at the current session. He expressed the hope that the General Assembly would approve the programme, which should make it possible: (1) to maintain the UNRWA relief programme at the present per caput level; (2) to increase the number of vocational training

graduates from 300 to 2,500 per year; (3) to increase the number of university scholarships available to first-year students from 90 to 180 a year; (4) to continue the small loan and grants programme; and (5) to ensure a certain limited expansion in elementary and secondary education to meet the exploding demand in the Middle East and provide an appropriate base for the expanded vocational training activities.

47. The Agency estimated at present that its annual expenditure for the period 1960-1963 would be about \$35 million a year. The implementation of the five recommendations he had outlined would involve additional expenditure of a little over \$16 million for the three-year period. Part of the cost of the last four recommendations (\$12 million) would be covered by funds collected for UNRWA during World Refugee Year. The Agency had already received \$2.3 million and it hoped to reach its target of \$4 million. It was encouraging to learn from the Secretary-General that considerable sums from the contributions for World Refugee Year had not yet been allocated.

48. There seemed to be considerable pessimism regarding the problem which was UNRWA's responsibility. There was, of course, no magic or immediate solution for the problem, which merely underlined the importance of the Agency's role during the period of its mandate. In that connexion, he called attention to various points for the consideration of the Committee. First, the problem which it was UNRWA's mission to help to solve was more complex than was perhaps generally appreciated. Disregarding all political considerations, the fact was that jobs for unskilled workers and farmers which the refugees could do did not exist in sufficient number in the Middle East or indeed elsewhere. What had to be done, therefore, was to try to train the refugees so that they could live useful and productive lives. Secondly, the problem would be solved in time, not by UNRWA but by the broader forces which were shaping the future of the Middle East. Thirdly, every effort should be made to ensure that the solution was a peaceful and orderly one. The Agency would do everything in its power to ensure that that would be so. That was why it wished to give an increasing number of refugees a training which would enable them to lead a useful and constructive life whatever the country in which they might have to live. By its action, the Agency not only alleviated the suffering of the refugees but also contributed to the stability of that entire part of the world. It would seem, therefore, that its work was worthy of the interest and support of every country.

49. He was very grateful for the assistance given to UNRWA during the World Refugee Year, and he expressed the hope that the efforts made during the campaign would continue.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR (continued)

50. Lady TWEEDSMUIR (United Kingdom) recalled that her Government had endorsed the idea of a World Refugee Year as soon as it had been proposed and had warmly supported the development of the project. However, its great success in the United Kingdom was due to the conviction of tens of thousands of people that the refugee problem must be solved and that everyone must strive to find a solution.

51. She gave a brief outline of the activities organized in her country in connexion with World Refugee Year and described the efforts made by the United Kingdom Committee and the local committees throughout the country. Among other things, the United Kingdom Committee had published a magazine, *Onslaught*, of which more than 300,000 copies had been sold. There had also been a publicity campaign in the Press, over the radio and on television.

52. The United Kingdom Government had been able to give £400,000 to the Year, in addition to its annual contribution of \$100,000 to the High Commissioner. It had also relaxed its regulations for the admission of refugees so as to provide homes for a number of handicapped refugees, with their families; the number might eventually reach 1,000.

53. Although the United Kingdom Government's contribution to World Refugee Year had been large, that of private persons had been still larger. The total amount collected for the country by 30 August 1960 had been £8,234,840, of which £6 million had already been allocated as follows: 4 per cent to the High Commissioner's Far Eastern programme, 45 per cent to the refugees in Europe, 10 per cent to the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, 31 per cent to the refugees in the Middle East and 10 per cent to other refugees.

54. The overseas territories had also participated in World Refugee Year. The governments of eight of those territories had made a financial contribution totalling £4,500. Eight others had organized campaigns, some of which had not yet been completed. The local committee in Hong Kong had collected more than £50,000, and £10,000 had been collected in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Also, the Governments of British Guiana and British Honduras were considering the possibility of accepting a number of refugees for settlement. The Government of North Borneo had been admitting a limited number of Chinese refugees from Hong Kong since 1957. As they had urgent problems of their own, those Governments had made very meritorious efforts.

55. Much progress had been achieved as a result of World Refugee Year, but what was even more important was that it had made world public opinion aware of the plight of millions of peoples who were without homes and often without hope.

56. That was what the sponsors of the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.3/L.863) had wished to emphasize. They also wished to express appreciation to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for efforts they had made to ensure the success of World Refugee Year. Another aim of the draft resolution was to propose ways by which Member States might continue the work already started in order to achieve a final solution of all the refugee problems.

57. The sponsors of the draft had agreed to amend the third paragraph of the preamble along the lines suggested by the representative of Saudi Arabia (1003rd meeting). In order to make the meaning of operative paragraph 2 (a) quite clear, they had decided to replace the words "with the United Nations programmes working towards solutions of the problems of refugees" by the words "with the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency

for Palestine Refugees". Lastly, they had made a slight drafting change to improve the English text.

58. She hoped that all members of the Committee would support the revised text of the draft resolution, thus proving that they were working for the refugees not only for economic, political or social reasons, but because they cared.

59. Mrs. STEEN (Canada) said that the Secretary-General's report on the World Refugee Year (A/4546), although still incomplete, gave ample evidence that the objectives had in great measure been achieved. Millions of people throughout the world had become aware of the sufferings and needs of refugees and had shown remarkable ingenuity in devising plans to help them.

60. Referring to the concrete achievements described in the Secretary-General's report, she said that the major contributors—the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Austria—deserved hearty congratulations. Significant progress had also been made with the resettlement of physically and socially handicapped refugees; her Government was happy to have made its contribution, which was just one more proof of its desire to help find permanent solutions for the refugee problems.

61. The Canadian Government had taken a number of special measures to help towards closing the refugee camps in Europe. To mark the official end of World Refugee Year, it had contributed one million dollars' worth of wheat flour to UNRWA, over and above the contribution of \$2 million in cash and in kind which it had made in recent years. The additional contribution would help the Agency to feed the refugees under its mandate, and with the money thus saved it could build, equip, staff and maintain for three years two vocational training centres which would be able to accept about 500 young Arab refugees each year.

62. The Federal Government of Canada had been active in publicizing the objectives of World Refugee Year, *inter alia* by authorizing post offices to use a special postal cancellation during May and June. The Governor-General and several members of the Government had made direct appeals to the public in order to interest them in the fate of the refugees.

63. The Canadian people had responded to the appeal on behalf of the refugees. The Canadian Committee for World Refugee Year, set up by forty-three voluntary and religious organizations, had carried out an intensive publicity campaign. The last week of April had been proclaimed "National Austerity Week" in all Canadian municipalities. The total sum—not yet

finally calculated—which had been collected by the private groups, including the thirty-five local committees for World Refugee Year, would be devoted to the programmes of the High Commissioner for Refugees and UNRWA. Some local committees would reserve part of the sums they received for closing the thirteen camps in Europe which they had adopted. The Canadian Committee also hoped to be able to allocate a substantial sum towards building and maintaining for several years a vocational training centre for young Arab refugees in Syria. Part of the funds would also be used to assist Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. With the \$150,000 collected by school children, it would be possible to send two physiotherapists and a school teacher to Hong Kong for two years, to provide drugs and clothing for children in Greece and Indonesia and milk and protein supplements for refugee children in Morocco and Tunisia.

64. In conclusion, she wished to convey her sincere gratitude to the High Commissioner, and to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, who had done so much to make World Refugee Year a success. She expressed the hope that the draft resolution sponsored by her delegation and those of nine other countries (A/C.3/L.863) would be adopted by the Committee.

#### Organization of work

65. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) suggested that the Committee might use the additional meeting it would have on 28 October to begin its consideration of the agenda item "Main trends of inquiry in the natural sciences, dissemination of scientific knowledge and application of such knowledge for peaceful ends".

66. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), supported by Mrs. CHERKASOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. REGO MONTEIRO (Brazil), emphasized that the Committee could not reverse its decision to take up the draft Covenants on Human Rights immediately after the item on assistance to refugees.

67. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) withdrew his suggestion. His only aim in making it had been to enable the Committee to get on faster with its work. His delegation would be the last to deny the importance of the draft Covenants.

68. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should meet on Friday 28 October at 3 p.m., and that it should take up the draft International Covenants on Human Rights on Monday 31 October.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.