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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikolai N. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: report of the High Commissioner" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 11 of the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (resolution 428 (V), annex).

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

3. The Committee considered the item at its 42nd to 48th meetings, from 12 to 16 November. The summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/34/SR.42-48) contain the views expressed by the representatives of Member States on this item.

4. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at Geneva, on 20 and 21 July 1979, and subsequent developments" (A/34/627 and Corr.1);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/34/12) and Supplement No. 12 A (A/34/12/Add.1).

(c) Note verbale dated 30 December 1978 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea addressed to the Secretariat (A/34/58);

(d) Letter dated 24 July 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/385);

(e) Letter dated 27 July 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations, transmitting the text of the final communiqué and resolutions of the Tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Fez from 8 to 12 May 1979 (A/34/389 and Corr.1);

(f) Letter dated 30 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/34/7);

(g) Note verbale dated 24 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/34/8).

5. At the 42nd meeting, on 12 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees introduced the item (see A/C.3/34/SR.42, paras. 1-13). The Secretary-General introduced his report on the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia (see A/C.3/34/SR.42, paras. 14-19).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.35

6. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Denmark introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/34/L.35) entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Sweden, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Zaire, subsequently joined by Egypt, Ethiopia, France, the Ivory Coast, Jordan, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, Spain, the Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark orally revised the text on behalf of the sponsors.

8. At its 47th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.36

9. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of November, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/34/L.36) entitled "Situation of

African refugees" on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the African Group, which was subsequently joined by Jordan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

10. At its 47th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.37

11. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Thailand introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/34/L.37) entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the Geneva Meeting", sponsored by Argentina, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Jordan, Lesotho and Liberia.

12. At the 47th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Thailand orally revised the text on behalf of the sponsors.

13. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as revised, was adopted without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution III).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office, 2/ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on its thirtieth session, 3/ and having heard the High Commissioner's statement, 4/

Recalling its resolution 33/26 of 29 November 1978,

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/34/12).

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 12 A (A/34/12/Add.1).

4/ A/C.3/34/SR.42, paras. 1-13.

/...

Reaffirming the eminently humanitarian character of the activities of the High Commissioner for the benefit of an increasing number of refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office,

Noting with deep concern the continued gravity of the problems of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the world,

Commending Governments for their humanitarian approach to refugee problems, for the spirit in which they have received refugees and for their generous support to the work of the High Commissioner,

Emphasizing the continuing need to ensure the basic human rights, protection and safety of refugees, including the accession to and more effective implementation of relevant international instruments,

Noting that increased financial and other support from Governments is urgently needed to assist the High Commissioner in his efforts to provide vital humanitarian assistance, especially through voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement,

Welcoming the conclusions and achievements of the Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 7 to 17 May 1979, and further welcoming the request to translate the principle of "burden-sharing" into action,

Noting with satisfaction the practical results in terms of additional resettlement places and financial contributions so far achieved as a consequence of the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, convened by the Secretary-General and held at Geneva on 20 and 21 July 1979,

1. Commends the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the efficient manner in which they continue to discharge their many responsibilities in assisting refugees and displaced persons;
2. Requests the High Commissioner to continue to promote, in close co-operation with Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, durable and speedy solutions to problems of refugees and displaced persons wherever they occur;
3. Urges Governments to intensify their support for the humanitarian activities of the High Commissioner, among other things by:
 - (a) Facilitating the accomplishment of his tasks in the field of international protection, in particular by granting asylum to those seeking refuge and by scrupulously observing the principle of non-refoulement;

(b) Considering accession to relevant international instruments, notably the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 5/ and the 1967 Protocol 6/ relating to the Status of Refugees;

(c) Facilitating his efforts to promote durable solutions through voluntary repatriation or return and assistance in the rehabilitation of returnees, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries;

4. Further urges Governments:

(a) To strengthen their support to the High Commissioner's efforts on behalf of refugees and displaced persons;

(b) To provide increased opportunities for durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons, in particular those who are in Africa, Asia and Latin America;

5. Calls upon Governments to continue to contribute generously towards the financing of the High Commissioner's activities in order to attain the objectives of his humanitarian programmes.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Situation of African refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office, 7/

Taking note with satisfaction of the conclusions of the Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 7 to 17 May 1979,

Taking note of resolution CM/Res.727 (XXXIII) on the situation of refugees in Africa and on perspective solutions to their problems in the 1980s, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Monrovia from 6 to 20 July 1979, and endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at their sixteenth ordinary session at Monrovia from 17 to 20 July 1979, 8/

5/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

6/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/34/12) and Supplement 12 A (A/34/12/Add.1).

8/ See A/34/552.

Deeply concerned about the constant deteriorating living conditions and the ever-increasing number of African refugees,

Expressing its appreciation of the hospitality and assistance to the large number of refugees on the continent of Africa,

Noting with deep regret the inadequacy of the assistance provided to the growing number of African refugees,

Stressing the evident necessity to allocate assistance proportional to their number and needs,

Emphasizing the need for increased financial support from the international community to provide adequate care for the large number of refugees in Africa,

1. Fully endorses the recommendations adopted by the Arusha Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the work they have done in the care of African refugees;
3. Calls attention to the urgent need for increased resources to care for the ever-growing number of African refugees which to date is about 4 million;
4. Appeals to all Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to intensify their activities and programmes in support of African refugees;
5. Stresses the urgent necessity for consideration by the international community of ways and means by which a constant flow of resources to the Office of the High Commissioner can be secured for the implementation of long-term programmes;
6. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to assist the High Commissioner in giving the widest possible dissemination of information on the plight of the African refugees;
7. Requests the High Commissioner to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the contributions made by his Office towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Arusha Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa;
8. Further requests the High Commissioner to make every effort to mobilize additional resources for African refugees in collaboration with the United Nations specialized agencies concerned and non-governmental organizations and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Report of the Secretary-General on the Geneva Meeting

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia, held at Geneva, on 20 and 21 July 1979, 9/ under his chairmanship, and having heard his statement, 10/

Taking note of the progress mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, indicating a decrease in the number of boat cases arriving in other South-East Asian countries since August 1979,

Expressing its deep concern with the serious plight of the refugees and displaced persons in South-East Asia, and the severe burden that the problem causes for many countries and territories, particularly the developing countries of South-East Asia,

Noting that further action is required to deal adequately with the land cases,

Gravely concerned with the recent large number of refugees in the region, and their urgent need of prompt and effective international assistance,

Noting the results of the Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea, held at United Nations Headquarters, on 5 November 1979, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General,

1. Commends the Secretary-General for his initiative in convening and for his chairmanship of the Geneva Meeting and the Pledging Conference;
2. Commends also the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office as the competent organ in the United Nations system for their active role;
3. Further commends Governments, and international relief organizations, for their assistance and pledges to increase such assistance, in cash and kind, for the immediate relief of the refugees in South-East Asia;
4. Urges all Governments concerned to continue to co-operate with the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and other United Nations agencies, in humanitarian activities, to deal with this problem, while avoiding any action that may cause human suffering and while ensuring safe and orderly departures; such humanitarian activities should serve the needs of civilian refugees and displaced persons and not any other purpose;

9/ A/34/627 and Corr.1.

10/ A/C.3/34/SR.42, paras. 14-19.

5. Also further urges the resettlement countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to increase the number and speed of their intake of Indo-China refugees and displaced persons, with due priority given to those already in camps in South-East Asia and adjacent territories, for resettlement in their countries;

6. Requests United Nations specialized agencies and bodies concerned to give priority, without prejudice to assistance provided to refugees and country programmes in other regions, to their participation in rendering assistance to alleviate the problem, and to co-operate closely with Governments to find durable solutions to the problem;

7. Requests also the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to follow the situation closely and to submit a report to the Member States if the situation so requires.
