

CHAPTER VIII

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

WORK OF OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

During 1961, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to benefit from the interest generated in refugee problems through World Refugee Year.¹

The two main features of the period were the progress achieved towards the completion of major aid projects for refugees benefiting from the "regular programmes" of the High Commissioner, and the increasing number of new refugee situations which the High Commissioner's Office was called upon to deal with under the terms of the "good offices" resolutions of the General Assembly. (The "good offices" procedure has gradually been elaborated by successive General Assembly resolutions in recent years. Under this procedure, when urgent material help is needed—as is the case with many new refugee problems—the Office of UNHCR can respond to appeals for help in cases considered to be of concern to the international community without first having to decide whether the refugees concerned come within its mandate, except in cases where actual problems of legal protection arise.)

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

One of the long-term effects of World Refugee Year has been to create more understanding of the legal and administrative problems of refugees. During 1961, this was reflected in improvements in the status of refugees in several countries. Thus, the number of parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees increased from 27 to 32, with the accession of Colombia and Argentina and with the notification by Cameroun, the Ivory Coast and Niger to the Secretary-General that they considered

themselves bound by the Convention. In addition, Turkey completed the constitutional procedure for ratifying the Convention. Also parties to the Convention as at the end of 1961 were: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Ecuador, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

The Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen was formally ratified by the Federal Republic of Germany and entered into force on 27 December 1961. Also parties to the Agreement as at the end of 1961 were: Belgium, Denmark, France, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The European Agreement for the Abolition of Visas for Refugees was ratified during 1961 by the Federal Republic of Germany and Luxembourg. France also extended the Agreement to include Algeria and the Department of Sahara. Also parties to the Agreement as at the end of 1961 were: Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

In view of the importance to refugees of acquiring the nationality of their country of residence, mention may be made of the 1961 United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, which, as at 31 December 1961, had been signed, but not yet ratified, by the Dominican Republic, France, Israel, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. (See p. 533 below.)

One of the resolutions adopted at the same

¹ See Y.U.N., 1960, pp. 356-61.

time as the text of the Convention recommended that persons who are stateless de facto should, as far as possible, be treated as stateless de jure, to enable them to acquire an effective nationality. It was expected that many refugees would be able to benefit from this provision in those countries which put it into effect.

The Council of Europe, in consultation with UNHCR, continued its efforts to promote improvements in the status of refugees within the framework of European integration. The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a general resolution to this effect in September 1961. The Committee of Ministers recommended that Governments of members of the Council of Europe should consider waiving, wherever possible, statutory rules applicable to refugee doctors and dentists to enable them to exercise their professions in the countries in which they lived.

Specific measures were also taken by individual Governments to improve the legal position of refugees, particularly with regard to the issue of travel documents, naturalisation facilities and the right to work.

By an agreement concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and UNHCR in October 1960, the High Commissioner's Office received 45 million Deutsche marks to indemnify those refugees not benefiting under the indemnification legislation of the Federal Republic of Germany and who were persecuted under the national socialist régime because of their nationality. As of 31 December 1961, the High Commissioner's Office had received 20,000 applications for indemnification under the fund; positive decisions had been taken involving payments to 750 beneficiaries.

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT

The Office of the High Commissioner continued to assist in the voluntary repatriation of refugees. In 84 cases, the cost of repatriation was met by the Office.

As a result of World Refugee Year, resettlement in other countries became possible for many categories of refugees, including, in particular, the aged and the physically and socially handicapped. The policy of admitting handicapped refugees was continued by most of the Governments concerned. Approximately 32,000

refugees were transported by the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to countries of immigration overseas. Of this number, 1,501 belonged to the handicapped categories.

In most European countries, refugees continued to be given the same resettlement facilities as in previous years, and a total of 1,588 were thus resettled in the course of 1961.

In order to give the largest possible number of refugees the possibility of benefiting from resettlement opportunities, special surveys were started in countries of emigration in order to ensure that all candidates who might be acceptable for immigration were duly considered.

"REGULAR PROGRAMME"

The two main objectives of the "regular programme" of the High Commissioner's Office during 1961 were to carry on the clearance of camps, for which the necessary funds had become available, and at the same time to settle as many as possible of the physically or socially handicapped refugees among the non-settled refugee population living outside camps.

One of the main difficulties of the camp clearance programme has been the increasing proportion of handicapped cases with special problems. To help them become self-supporting as far as possible, some special projects—in addition to the conventional types of assistance—were drawn up, including, in particular, arrangements for: (a) rehabilitation centres where the refugees could receive appropriate re-training as well as medical care if necessary; and (b) protected workshops and settlements where refugees could be housed, receive such individual care as they might require and be given an opportunity to do productive work, thereby contributing to their own subsistence.

From the beginning of 1955 until 31 December 1961, 103,735 refugees, including 58,306 who became firmly settled, had benefited from the former United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF) programme (started in 1955) and from the "regular programmes" of the High Commissioner's Office. In 1961, supplementary aid was granted to 5,699 refugees.

In 1961, a total of 4,745 refugees received legal advice or free legal aid in court proceedings under the legal assistance programme put into effect in European countries, Latin Amer-

ica and in a few countries of North Africa and the Middle East.

Since 1955, a total of 77,000 refugees had been able to leave camps, including 6,650 in the course of 1961. During that year, 20 camps were closed, including 8 in Austria, 6 in the Federal Republic of Germany, 2 in Greece and 4 in Italy. As of 1 January 1962, there remained a total of 8,550 refugees, of whom 5,725 qualified for assistance under the camp clearance scheme. The others were provided for under other programmes.

From 1955 until the end of 1961, a total of 59,611 non-settled refugees living outside camps had been assisted under programmes of the High Commissioner's Office, including 25,947 in the course of 1961. These figures include refugees of European origin in the Far East.

Under the Far Eastern programme, which also constitutes one of the priority tasks of the Office, 2,204 refugees of European origin were resettled from China via Hong Kong in other countries during 1961. On 31 December, there remained 321 refugees awaiting resettlement in Hong Kong and approximately 3,850 on the mainland of China, of whom 1,405 still required visas.

Since the inception of the special programme for Hungarian refugees in October 1956, 173,300 of these refugees had either emigrated from Austria or had been repatriated, and as of 31 December 1961 there remained in Austria 7,900 new Hungarian refugees.

Of the \$6 million target which had been set for the "regular programmes" of the High Commissioner's Office for 1961, contributions of over \$4 million had been announced by the end of 1961. At its fifth session in May 1961, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme set a target of \$5 million for contributions to the "regular programmes" in 1962. At the end of 1961, contributions towards this target amounted to nearly \$3 million.

SPECIAL REFUGEE SITUATIONS

REFUGEES FROM ALGERIA IN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

The joint relief programme carried out by the High Commissioner's Office and the League of Red Cross Societies to assist refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia was continued

during 1961 in co-operation with the Governments of Morocco and Tunisia. Up to 300,000 refugees were receiving essential care and maintenance.

Under the basic programme, food rations, each providing 1,540 calories per day, were issued to the refugees. Clothing, blankets and tents were also distributed.

Under a supplementary programme, 100 milk stations had been set up in Tunisia and 64 in Morocco, attended daily by some 90,000 children. Additional food was also distributed from multi-purpose centres and from soup stations. Medical care was being provided through dispensaries and mobile and static clinics established to supplement the medical facilities made available by the Governments of Morocco and Tunisia. The state of health of the refugees remained on the whole satisfactory.

In 1961, the High Commissioner appealed for funds to meet the cash requirements of the joint operation. The total amount contributed to the joint operation as of 31 December 1961 was \$2,318,387, of which \$52,021 were contributions in kind.

During 1961, the High Commissioner dealt with several other special refugee problems, in accordance with previous "good offices" resolutions of the General Assembly.

PROBLEM OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN THE CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE)

A detailed account of action taken on the problem of the Angolan refugees in the Congo (Leopoldville), which concerned nearly 150,000 refugees, may be found on pp. 340-41 below. By the end of 1961, the influx of Angolan refugees had practically ceased, and there seemed to be favourable prospects for many of them to be settled on the land and become self-supporting in the course of 1962.

REFUGEES IN TOGO

At the end of 1961, there were an estimated 6,000 refugees in Togo; the influx of new refugees was regarded as very limited. Arrangements for relief were being made by the Government, the local authorities and the League of Red Cross Societies. Plans for a long-term solution, which would largely consist in local settlement, were being considered by the Togolese Government in consultation and co-operation

tion with the High Commissioner's Office, the United Nations Technical Assistance Board and some of the specialized agencies.

REFUGEES FROM RWANDA IN TANGANYIKA,
UGANDA, BURUNDI AND IN KIVU
PROVINCE OF CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE)

Towards the end of 1961, there were approximately 120,000 refugees from Rwanda in neighbouring countries, of whom approximately 3,500 were in Tanganyika, 25,000 in Uganda, 35,000 in Burundi and 60,000 in the Kivu Province of the Congo (Leopoldville).

In Tanganyika and Uganda, arrangements were made by the Government and local authorities to ensure the care and maintenance of the refugees and to provide them with medical assistance. Programmes for the local settlement of refugees wishing to remain in these two countries had been put into effect. Measures of assistance were also taken in Burundi, where plans were being worked out for the local settlement of a limited number of the refugees.

At the request of the Government of Tanganyika, a UNHCR representative went to that country to investigate the problem; he also had an opportunity of visiting Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. Although several Governments and voluntary agencies contributed to programmes put into effect for these refugees, the situation at the end of 1961 was such that further funds were needed from the international community to enable the necessary measures to be taken for the relief and settlement of the refugees concerned. The High Commissioner decided at that stage to send a chargé de mission to the area in order to assist the authorities concerned in working out permanent solutions. (See also p. 336 below.)

Because of the precarious economic conditions prevailing in the Kivu Province of the Congo (Leopoldville), the provision of relief supplies for some 60,000 refugees there proved particularly difficult. In accordance with the wishes of the Congolese authorities, the High Commissioner's representative in Leopoldville investigated the situation and the measures of assistance required. A relief programme was being set up by the League of Red Cross Societies, similar to that put into effect for Angolan refugees in the Congo, including imme-

diately relief and local settlement on the land. Although considerable quantities of supplies were made available by the United Nations Operation in the Congo, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the League of Red Cross Societies and various other voluntary agencies, UNHCR had, at the end of 1961, to earmark a substantial amount for assistance to these refugees.

REFUGEES FROM TIBET IN NEPAL

The International Committee of the Red Cross has actively concerned itself with the problem of Tibetan refugees in Nepal since June 1960. At its request, the High Commissioner's Office made available its good offices to facilitate assistance to these refugees. From July 1960 to December 1961, contributions totalling \$131,493 were channelled through the High Commissioner's Office for assistance, including an amount of \$103,343 for the year 1961.

REFUGEES IN CAMBODIA

At the request of the Cambodian Government, the High Commissioner's Office investigated the problem of the estimated 10,000 refugees who had come to Cambodia from neighbouring countries and provided \$10,000 towards the Government's emergency programme for these refugees.

REFUGEES FROM CUBA IN SPAIN

The High Commissioner's Office was informed in October 1961 that the Spanish Government would appreciate its advice and assistance in dealing with the problem of over 5,000 refugees from Cuba in Spain. The Office has since then concerned itself with the problem of these refugees.

CONSIDERATION BY ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its thirty-second session in mid-1961, the Economic and Social Council considered the annual report of the High Commissioner for Refugees covering the period from 1 May 1960 to 31 March 1961.

In a statement to the Council, the High Commissioner called attention to the spirit of international solidarity which had been reflected

in the success of World Refugee Year and in the growing humanitarian interest which the international community was taking in all refugee problems. He stressed that World Refugee Year had not been expected to solve all refugee problems; it had, however, had a marked effect on international protection, on the achievement of permanent solutions—particularly for the camp population—and on the resettlement of the handicapped through the liberalization of admission criteria. It had also made it possible to continue the relief programme for refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia and to alleviate the plight of other groups of refugees who did not come within the immediate competence of the United Nations.

Most of the representatives who spoke commended the High Commissioner on his work and on the results achieved. Several expressed satisfaction at the progress made as a consequence of World Refugee Year, particularly with regard to the clearance of refugee camps, and they hoped it would now be possible to solve the problems of non-settled refugees living outside camps, and in particular the problems of the handicapped, many of whom lived under precarious conditions.

Two representatives were of the opinion that, as the refugee problem had been largely solved and as the remaining refugees were essentially the responsibility of the Governments of their countries of residence, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees might be discontinued.

Reference was made to the usefulness of the "good offices" resolutions of the General Assembly, which enabled the High Commissioner to assist groups of refugees not coming within the competence of the United Nations and made the services of an experienced agency available to interested Governments. Support was expressed for the High Commissioner's approach to these problems.

On 24 July 1961, the Council adopted a resolution (824(XXXII)), taking note of the High Commissioner's report for transmission to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session later in 1961.

On 21 December 1961, at its resumed thirty-second session, the Council adopted a resolu-

tion (862(XXXII)) in which, among other things, it noted that the present mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees would expire on 31 December 1963 and that the General Assembly had decided to review, not later than at its seventeenth (1962) session, the arrangements for the Office with a view to determining whether the Office should be further continued beyond 31 December 1963. It decided to continue the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme until the Assembly had taken action on the future of the Office, but not later than 31 December 1963.

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At the Assembly's sixteenth session, the High Commissioner's report was considered by the Assembly's Third (Social, Cultural and Humanitarian) Committee.

In a statement to the Third Committee, supplementing his written report, the High Commissioner drew attention to the considerable progress made in the traditional spheres of action of his Office largely as a result of World Refugee Year in the granting of assistance to new groups of refugees outside Europe within the framework of the Assembly's "good offices" resolutions.

The High Commissioner, among other things, recalled the basic tasks of his Office, which were to ensure international protection of refugees within its mandate and to seek permanent solutions to their problems. In order to reach its objective, international protection sometimes needed to be accompanied by material assistance, taking into account, however, that the responsibility for assistance to refugees was primarily incumbent on the Government of their country of residence.

With regard to permanent solutions, he said, the High Commissioner's Office continued to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of individual refugees.

Further progress had been made in the integration of refugees in countries of asylum, he noted, particularly as a result of favourable economic conditions in Europe. Furthermore, the exceptional financial contributions received on the occasion of World Refugee Year had

made it possible for the special target of \$12 million for material assistance programmes to be reached, so that the financing of the Camp Clearance Programme could be completed. A substantial effort, however, still had to be made for the physically and socially handicapped non-settled refugees living outside camps.

The High Commissioner said he intended to present to the early 1962 session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme a comprehensive plan to complete the major aid programmes for refugees in Europe.

With regard to special refugee situations, the High Commissioner described the activities under the joint relief programme undertaken by his Office and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia.

The High Commissioner also referred to the problems of other new groups of refugees on which the Office had taken action, such as: (a) the problem of Angolan refugees in the Congo (Leopoldville), an account of which is given on pp. 340-41 below; (b) the problem of several thousands of refugees who had been admitted to Togo; and (c) the problem of refugees from Rwanda in Tanganyika and Uganda.

The new groups of refugees, in the view of the High Commissioner, gave rise, essentially, to problems of material rather than of legal assistance. He did not consider it justified to draw a parallel between the appearance of new groups of refugees in parts of the world where his Office had had no reason to intervene previously and the recent evolution characterized by the adoption of the Assembly's "good offices" resolutions. One development had not necessarily influenced the other. Nor was there necessarily a link between the mandate of the Office and the "old" refugees, on the one hand, and the "good offices" resolutions and the "new" refugees on the other. If problems of legal protection arose in any of the new situations, he would not hesitate to examine them in the light of his mandate.

The High Commissioner also stressed the importance of the Emergency Fund, which made it possible for his Office to meet promptly im-

mediate needs of a limited character and which could also be used as a guarantee pending the receipt of financial contributions required for specific problems.

The High Commissioner affirmed that he could on no account engage in any large-scale operations without first consulting the international community through its competent organs. Since his Office had not been provided with the administrative machinery which would enable it to direct and take full charge of assistance operations of any magnitude, it was necessary for him to remain to a certain extent behind the scenes and simply to act as intermediary between the international community and other public or private agencies equipped with the requisite machinery for undertaking operational tasks.

Three draft resolutions were submitted in the Third Committee during the debate on the High Commissioner's report. The first of these dealt with the problem raised by the situation of Angolan refugees in the Congo (for details, see pp. 340-41 below), the second referred to refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia, and the third had to do with the report of the High Commissioner.

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES FROM ALGERIA IN TUNISIA AND MOROCCO

The draft resolution on aid to refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco was co-sponsored in the Third Committee by Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

By the operative part of this text, the Assembly would recommend that the High Commissioner should: (a) continue his present action jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies until the refugees return to their homes; (b) consider the possibility of carrying out a programme which would facilitate the orderly repatriation and resettlement of the refugees as soon as circumstance permitted; and (c) persist in his efforts to secure the resources which would enable him to complete this task.

The sponsors subsequently revised the second operative paragraph so that the High Commissioner should use the means at his disposal to assist in the orderly return of these refugees to their homes and consider the possibility, when necessary, of facilitating their resettlement in their homeland as soon as circumstances permitted.

Many delegations—supporting the draft resolution—expressed concern over the problem, in view of the fact that more than half of the 300,000 persons involved were children. Assistance already given in Morocco and Tunisia by the High Commissioner's Office and the League of Red Cross Societies, it was felt, should be continued without interruption. It was also pointed out that the problem of repatriation and resettlement would soon arise and would require increased international assistance.

On 28 November 1961, the Third Committee adopted the 19-power revised draft resolution as a whole by a vote of 74 to 0, with 2 abstentions. It was approved at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 18 December 1961 by 78 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, as resolution 1672 (XVI).

RESOLUTION ON REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

A draft resolution on the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees was put forward in the Third Committee by Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

By this text, the Assembly would ask that the High Commissioner pursue his activities on behalf of the refugees within his mandate or those for whom he extended his good offices and continue to report to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme and to abide by directions which that Committee might give him with regard to refugee situations. The Assembly would also invite Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to continue to lend their support to the alleviation of refugee problems still awaiting solution: (a) by improving the legal status of refugees residing within their territory; (b) by facilitating the voluntary repatriation, the resettlement or the local integra-

tion of refugees; and (c) by continuing to provide the High Commissioner with the necessary financial means for the accomplishment of the tasks incumbent upon him and by enabling him in particular to reach the financial targets established with the approval of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme.

By the preamble to this text, the General Assembly would, among other things, recognize that, with due consideration being given to the rights and duties inherent in the sovereignty of States, recourse to assistance by the international community might become necessary when the burden of assisting refugees clearly exceeded the capacity of countries of asylum.

Some Members of the Third Committee could not support this paragraph as, in their opinion, it would place on States giving asylum to refugees a financial burden which they had not asked for and which they were not in a position to carry. The sponsors subsequently withdrew the paragraph.

Bulgaria asked for a separate vote on the first operative paragraph of the draft resolution (requesting the High Commissioner to pursue his activities and to report to, and abide by the directions of, the Executive Committee). It did so on the ground that the paragraph set no time-limit on the High Commissioner's mandate. In the opinion of the Bulgarian delegation, the necessary conditions existed for terminating the work of the Office of the High Commissioner.

On 28 November 1961, the Third Committee adopted the first operative paragraph by a vote of 57 to 10, with 7 abstentions. The draft resolution as a whole, as revised, was adopted by 61 votes to 0, with 14 abstentions. It was approved in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 18 December 1961 by a vote of 69 to 0, with 14 abstentions, as resolution 1673(XVI).

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

As of 31 December 1961, 31 Governments had paid, pledged or promised the equivalent of \$3,002,730 to finance programmes of the High Commissioner's Office during 1961. For details, see table below.

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PAID, PLEDGED OR PROMISED TO
PROGRAMMES OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES FOR 1962

(As of 31 December 1961; in Equivalent of U.S. Dollars)

Country	UNHCR Regular Programme for 1962	Programme for Refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia	Other Programmes	Total
Australia	112,000	—	—	112,000
Austria	6,000	—	—	6,000
Cambodia	571 ^a	—	—	571
Canada	290,000	—	—	290,000
China	5,000 ^a	—	—	5,000
Cyprus	280	—	—	280
Denmark	72,390	—	—	72,390
Federation of Malaya	1,000	—	—	1,000
France	259,240	—	—	259,240
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	220,000	—	—	220,000
Ghana	—	3,000 ^a	—	3,000
Greece	9,000	2,000	—	11,000
Holy See	2,000 ^b	—	—	2,000
Iceland	3,750	—	—	3,750
Ireland	5,000	—	—	5,000
Israel	5,000	—	—	5,000
Italy	3,000	—	—	3,000
Korea, Rep. of	1,000 ^c	—	—	1,000
Liberia	1,500	—	—	1,500
Luxembourg	3,000	—	—	3,000
Morocco	9,960	—	—	9,960
Netherlands	146,132	—	—	146,132
Norway	98,000 ^a	—	—	98,000
South Africa	12,500	—	12,500 ^d	25,000
Sweden	116,000	—	—	116,000
Switzerland	115,740 ^c	—	—	115,740
Tunisia	2,000 ^a	—	—	2,000
Turkey	2,667	—	—	2,667
United Kingdom	280,000	—	—	280,000
United States	1,200,000 ^{ac}	—	—	1,200,000
Viet-Nam	2,500 ^a	—	—	2,500
Total	2,985,230	5,000	12,500	3,002,730

^a Pledged

^b Of which \$1,000 paid.

^c Paid.

^d To be transferred to Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM).

^e Distribution by Programme to be determined

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

CONSIDERATION BY ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF
HIGH COMMISSIONER

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—32ND SESSION
Plenary Meeting 1173.

E/3506 and Corr.1 and Add.1. Annual report of
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
including report on fifth session of Executive Com-
mittee of High Commissioner's Programme.

RESOLUTION 824(xxxii), adopted by Council on 24
July 1961, meeting 1173, without formal vote.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the report of the United Na-
tions High Commissioner for Refugees with the an-
nexed report of the Executive Committee of the High
Commissioner's Programme on its fifth session,

"Takes note of the report prepared by the High
Commissioner for transmission to the General Assem-
bly at its sixteenth session."

MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMMEECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—32ND SESSION
(RESUMED)

Plenary Meeting 1183.

E/L.980. Note by Secretary-General.

E/L.928. Italy, United States, Venezuela: draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 862(xxxii), as submitted by 3 powers, E/L.928, adopted by Council on 21 December 1961, meeting 1183, by 15 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolutions 672(XXV) of 30 April 1958 and 682(XXVI) of 21 July 1958 which relate to the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

"Noting that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1165(XII) of 26 November 1957 the present mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will expire on 31 December 1963,

"Noting further that the General Assembly has decided to review, not later than at its seventeenth session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be further continued beyond 31 December 1963,

"Decides to continue the membership of the present Executive Committee until the General Assembly has taken action on the future of the Office of the High Commissioner, but not later than 31 December 1963."

CONSIDERATION BY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—16TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1112-1117.

Fifth Committee, meetings 863, 864, 868.

Plenary Meeting 1018.

A/4771/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1. Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees including reports of fifth and sixth sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

A/4820. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter VI, Section IV.

REFUGEES FROM ALGERIA IN
MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

A/C.3/L.961 and Rev.1. Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia: draft resolution and revision adopted by Third Committee on 28 November 1961, meeting 1117, by 74 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

A/5018. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 1672(xvi), as recommended by Third

Committee, A/5018, adopted by Assembly on 18 December 1961, meeting 1018, by 78 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

"The General Assembly,

"Having examined the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

"Recalling its resolutions 1389(XIV) of 20 November 1959 and 1500(XV) of 5 December 1960,

"Considering the action taken by the High Commissioner and the encouraging results achieved during the World Refugee Year,

"Noting with appreciation the progress made on behalf of refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia,

"Observing with regret that the problem which is the cause of this situation has not yet been solved,

"Recognizing that the living conditions of those refugees, and in particular those of the children, remain precarious and require constant improvement,

"Considering the temporary nature of the situation of those refugees,

"Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to:

"(a) Continue his present action jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies until those refugees return to their homes;

"(b) Use the means at his disposal to assist in the orderly return of those refugees to their homes and consider the possibility, when necessary, of facilitating their resettlement in their homeland as soon as circumstances permit;

"(c) Persist in his efforts to secure the resources which will enable him to complete this task."

REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

A/C.3/593. Note by Secretary-General circulating text of letter of 25 October 1961 from Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Togo.

A/C.3/L.962 and Corr.1. Denmark, Norway, Sweden: draft resolution, as revised, adopted by Third Committee on 28 November 1961, meeting 1117, by 61 votes to 0, with 14 abstentions.

A/5018. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 1673(xvi), as recommended by Third Committee, A/5018, adopted by Assembly on 18 December 1961, meeting 1018, by 69 votes to 0, with 14 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and having heard his statement before the Third Committee,

"Taking note of the progress achieved in respect of the international protection of refugees and in seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems through voluntary repatriation, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries,

"Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made by the High Commissioner to complete in the near future the major aid programmes for "old" refugees in Europe,

"Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the

High Commissioner in his various fields of activity for groups of refugees for whom he lends his good offices,

"Noting further with satisfaction the assistance he can give those refugees in handling the contributions designed to provide for their assistance and in utilizing the emergency fund established under General Assembly resolution 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957,

"1. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to pursue his activities on behalf of the refugees within his mandate or those for whom he extends his good offices, and to continue to report to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme and to abide by directions which that Committee might give him in regard to situations concerning refugees;

"2. Invites States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to continue to lend their support to the alleviation of refugee problems still awaiting solution:

"(a) By improving the legal status of refugees residing in their territory;

"(b) By facilitating the voluntary repatriation, resettlement or local integration of refugees;

"(c) By providing the High Commissioner with the necessary financial means for the accomplishment of the tasks incumbent upon him and, in particular, by enabling him to reach the financial targets established with the approval of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme."

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—16TH SESSION

Ad Hoc Committee of Whole Assembly, meeting 2.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/AC.96/130, A/AC.96/149. List of documents issued at fifth and sixth sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

(See also DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES p. 341 below.)

THE PROBLEM RAISED BY SITUATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN THE CONGO

The problem raised by the situation of Angolan refugees in the Congo (Leopoldville) was discussed in 1961 at the General Assembly's sixteenth (1961) session, at the request of the Congo (Leopoldville).

The item was referred to the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, which decided to examine it together with the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The High Commissioner informed the Third Committee that, thanks to the co-operation of all concerned, material assistance was being provided for the refugees from Angola until the end of 1961. Thereafter, he said, it was expected that they would be self-supporting and the general relief programme would be discontinued. To meet special circumstances, however, an amount of \$100,000 had been set aside from the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the action of the League of Red Cross Societies. The fact that the majority of the assisted refugees were children raised special problems of care, nutrition and education; these had been brought to the attention of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), agencies which were already making their services avail-

able to the Congolese population.

The High Commissioner also reported that, after consultation with the Congolese Government and authorities of the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC), he had sent a chargé de mission to Leopoldville to stay in permanent contact with all those dealing with the refugees from Angola. In that way, his Office would be able to play a useful role by offering its experience of refugee problems and by helping to co-ordinate and stimulate the required efforts. However, he pointed out, his Office in no way intended to take the place of the existing infra-structure, which alone could ensure in an effective manner, and within the more general framework of the assistance provided to the Congolese population, the relief work undertaken on behalf of the refugees.

During the Third Committee's debate, many delegations expressed appreciation for what was being done by all concerned to make this group of refugees self-supporting. They urged that the emergency assistance be provided as long as it was necessary.

On 22 November 1961, the Congo (Leopoldville), later joined by the Congo (Brazzaville) and Togo, submitted a draft resolution, by the operative part of which the General Assembly would (1) recommend that ONUC, in close liaison with the High Commissioner, the League of Red Cross Societies and other voluntary or-

ganizations, continue to provide emergency relief as long as was necessary and enable the refugees to become self-supporting as soon as possible; (2) ask the High Commissioner to continue to lend his good offices in seeking appropriate solutions to the problems arising from the presence of Angolan refugees in the Congo—among other things, by facilitating their voluntary repatriation, in close collaboration with the authorities and organizations directly concerned; and (3) urge the Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to make the necessary means available to the competent United Nations organs.

The representative of the Congo (Leopoldville) said his Government in no way intended to confuse the question of the Angolan refugees with the fate of Angola itself. It wished the refugee problem to be considered from a strictly humanitarian and social angle. Since the beginning of the year, the Congo had accepted nearly 150,000 refugees from Angola. Despite the great generosity of the people of the frontier area, his Government had soon realized that it could not meet the refugees' needs unaided. It was aware of the limits imposed upon the activities of the High Commissioner's Office and the need

for not interfering with the material assistance already organized under United Nations auspices. In his opinion, the relief work undertaken on behalf of the Angolan refugees should remain part of the larger operation being conducted by the Organization. This was why the draft resolution stressed the importance of the United Nations Operation in the Congo.

The Portuguese representative said the problem was of a purely social and humanitarian nature and had rightly been allocated to the Third Committee. The Portuguese Government, he said, would—through various organizations—continue to give assistance to the refugees and later help them resume their normal lives in their homeland. The situation in Angola, he went on, had returned to normal and its inhabitants could therefore return without fear, except for those few who had committed criminal acts rendering them liable to prosecution.

On 28 November 1961, the three-power draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee by a vote of 64 to 0, with 11 abstentions. It was approved at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 18 December 1961 by 67 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions, as resolution 1671 (XVI).

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—16TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1112-1117.
Plenary Meeting 1081.

A/4846 and Add.1, 2. Letter of 14 August 1961 from Congo (Leopoldville) proposing item entitled "Problem raised by the situation of Angolan refugees in the Congo" for inclusion in agenda of 16th Assembly session.

A/C.3/L.960 and Add.1, 2. Congo (Leopoldville), Congo (Brazzaville), Togo: draft resolution, adopted by Third Committee on 28 November 1961, meeting 1117, by 64 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions.
A/5018. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 1671 (XVI), as recommended by Third Committee, A/5018, adopted by Assembly on 18 December 1961, meeting 1081, by 67 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Having been apprised of the situation of the refugees from Angola in the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville),

"Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville), in co-operation with the United Nations in the

Congo, the League of Red Cross Societies and other voluntary organizations, to provide those refugees with immediate assistance and to help them to become self-supporting until they can return to their own homes,

"Recognizing that it is desirable to maintain unity of action in the further provision of assistance in an area where the needs of the refugees cannot, in practice, be separated from those of the local population,

"1. Recommends that the United Nations in the Congo, in close liaison with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the organizations mentioned above, should continue to provide emergency assistance for as long as is necessary and enable the refugees to become self-supporting as soon as possible;

"2. Requests the High Commissioner to continue to lend his good offices in seeking appropriate solutions to the problem arising from the presence of Angolan refugees in the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville), inter alia, by facilitating, in close collaboration with the authorities and organizations directly concerned, the voluntary repatriation of those refugees;

"3. Urges States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to make available to the competent organs of the United Nations the means required for the measures of assistance mentioned above."