

## ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to provide protection and assistance to refugees during 1970 and to seek to achieve, in co-operation with other members of the United Nations system, a speedy and satisfactory solution to refugee problems.

## ACTIVITIES IN 1970

## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The number of parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees rose from 59 to 60 in 1970, and the number of parties to the 1967 Protocol rose from 40 to 43. (This Protocol extended the scope of the 1951 Convention and made it applicable to new groups of refugees.)

The questions of asylum and of non-refoulement continued to receive the close attention of UNHCR. As these principles have gained wider recognition among States, there has been a decrease in the number of cases in which persons likely to qualify as refugees were declared prohibited immigrants, and of those in which refugees were expelled without due process of law and without being given a reasonable opportunity to find a country of asylum.

The Office continued its efforts to help refugees acquire the nationality of their country of residence. A number of Governments have adopted favourable legal and administrative measures in this respect. The number of refugees naturalized in European countries for which statistical data were available amounted to some 10,000 by the end of 1970. The Office also

continued its efforts to promote accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

The question of access to employment received increasing attention, particularly in Africa, where a growing number of individual refugees were seeking urban employment.

The Office of the High Commissioner continued to administer indemnification funds made available by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the benefit of refugees who suffered persecution under the national socialist regime by reason of their nationality. Also, the Office helped to implement certain terms of an Agreement of October 1960 by which the Federal Republic authorities indemnified refugees who suffered persecution by reason of their nationality and who incurred damage to body and health.

As at 31 December 1970, payments out of three funds had been made by UNHCR in the amount of some US\$15,280,000 to 14,615 qualified applicants, while under the Agreement of October 1960 the Federal Republic of Germany had paid out the equivalent of US\$37,700,000.

## MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

In 1970, some 270,000 refugees received material assistance under the UNHCR programme. The great majority of these were in Africa, but refugees in a number of countries in Asia, Europe and Latin America also received aid.

A total of \$5,340,236 was committed under the UNHCR programme for 1970, and \$532,160 under the UNHCR Emergency Fund. In addition,

special trust funds totalling \$1,498,684 were donated for the implementation of special projects, including \$644,352 for local settlement, \$361,536 for education and \$285,258 to facilitate voluntary repatriation.

Supporting contributions, valued at some \$3,480,000, as well as land and public services, were provided by the countries of reception. The World Food Programme continued to make available food supplies, and bilateral aid provided by Governments indirectly benefited refugees in certain countries.

The Office continued to facilitate the repatriation of refugees who expressed the wish to return to their own country. Approximately 9,000 refugees, mainly Congolese, Rwandese, Sudanese and Zambians, returned to their homelands during 1970. Of these, some 1,000 received financial assistance from UNHCR, mainly towards travel costs. The Office also used its good offices to facilitate the return of some 4,500 Nigerian children from Gabon and the Ivory Coast to their homes in Nigeria.

In co-operation with Governments, the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration and non-governmental organizations, UNHCR assisted some 10,180 refugees—most of them in Europe and Latin America—in their resettlement in 1970. In Africa, UNHCR maintained close contact with the Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees of the Organization of African Unity.

#### ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA

The number of refugees benefiting from UNHCR assistance in Africa decreased from some 250,000 in 1969 to some 241,600 at the end of 1970, as an increasing number of refugees already in settlements became self-supporting. However, it was necessary to distribute food rations to a larger number of refugees as a result of the influx of some 55,000 new refugees into several countries—particularly into Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania—and the severe droughts which affected several areas.

Of the refugees in Africa being assisted by UNHCR towards rural settlement, some 200,000 were establishing themselves on the land in organized settlements while others were settling among the local population. The main rural

settlement projects were in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

During 1970, further measures were taken to improve the infrastructure in the rural settlements, including the establishment of water supplies, the building of roads and the improvement of methods of agriculture. Health and education facilities were also expanded.

A serious problem was developing with regard to the growing number of individual refugees in the larger cities in Africa, many of whom could not find employment. Most of these refugees were of urban background and could not easily establish themselves in the agricultural settlements. Various measures, including counselling, were being taken to help them.

#### ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN ASIA AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In Asia, UNHCR continued to assist Tibetan refugees in India and Nepal, where \$300,000 and \$44,000 respectively, were committed under the UNHCR programme, mainly for the consolidation of settlements, vocational training and the provision of medical facilities. Special assistance was also provided to refugees living in scattered groups in northern Nepal.

Assistance was also given to refugees in Macao, mainly through the provision of housing, the care and rehabilitation of handicapped refugees and the promotion of vocational training.

In the Middle East, where there were some 10,000 refugees within the competence of UNHCR, \$135,879 was committed in 1970 for the promotion of resettlement by emigration, local settlement and supplementary aid.

#### ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN EUROPE

The majority of the approximately 650,000 refugees within the mandate of UNHCR in Europe have become economically and socially integrated into their countries of asylum. The assistance provided in 1970, at a cost of some \$530,000 was therefore intended primarily to supplement the aid made available to the refugees by the countries concerned.

Some 6,700 refugees in Europe were resettled in other countries, mainly Australia, Can-

ada, New Zealand and the United States. Special schemes for the admission of handicapped refugees were continued by a number of countries, notably Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries.

#### ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN LATIN AMERICA

During 1970, some 400 refugees in Latin America, mostly aged or handicapped, were assisted by UNHCR, which found living quarters for them in homes and institutions and provided vocational training facilities. This programme was carried out in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela, at a cost to UNHCR of \$327,000.

In addition, some 2,000 refugees from the Caribbean area were assisted while in transit in Latin America, pending their resettlement.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY AID

As in previous years, supplementary aid was provided to individual refugees to enable them to obtain basic necessities pending their settlement. A total of \$186,654 was committed for this purpose and benefited some 25,000 refugees. In addition, legal aid was provided to some 3,600 individuals, at a cost of \$64,500.

Educational assistance again played an important role, especially in Africa. Under the UNHCR education account, about 2,500 refugees received aid for secondary education and vocational training in various countries in Africa, as well as in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, at a cost of \$390,000. Close co-operation was also continued with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

#### DECISIONS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its mid-1970 session. On 31 July, the Council decided, without debate or adoption of a resolution, to transmit the report to the General Assembly at its 1970 session.

#### DECISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its twenty-fifth session in 1970.

With regard to the report, on 30 November the Assembly: (a) noted with appreciation the results obtained by the High Commissioner in the accomplishment of his humanitarian task and the constant efforts being made by him in co-operation with United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies to promote the voluntary repatriation, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement of refugees who were his concern, whose problems were causing increasing concern, especially in Africa; (b) commended the encouraging progress obtained in the field of inter-agency co-operation, which was essential in order to achieve durable solutions that were closely linked with the economic and social development of the countries concerned; (c) noted with satisfaction the increasing number of Governments contributing to the High Commissioner's assistance programme and the substantial increase in some of these contributions; and (d) expressed its appreciation of the growing number of accessions to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 and expressed the hope that this trend would continue.

The Assembly then: (1) requested the High Commissioner to continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees who were his concern, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions—in particular those relating to the new groups of refugees in Africa—and with the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme; (2) requested the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to achieve—in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the specialized agencies and other members of the United Nations system—speedy and satisfactory solutions to the problems of refugees; and (3) urged Governments to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian task by facilitating his efforts in the field of international protection, by continuing to co-operate in the promotion of per-

manent solutions for refugees, including in particular individual cases in Africa, and by providing the necessary means to enable the financial targets to be reached.

These decisions were embodied in resolution 2650 (XXV), adopted unanimously on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee. The Committee approved the text by acclamation on 17 November 1970.

The text was based on a proposal by Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Zambia. (For text of resolution, See DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Other aspects of the refugee situation on which the Assembly acted at its 1970 session included a request to specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations to increase the scope of their assistance to refugees from colonial territories.

This request was contained in resolution 2704 (XXV), adopted on 14 December 1970. (For text, see pp. 711-13.)

Also on 14 December with the adoption of resolution 2706 (XXV), the Assembly provided funds for 1971 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, with which UNHCR co-operated. This action was taken pending the receipt of voluntary contributions. (For text of resolution, see p. 715.)

## CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

Pledges towards the 1971 programme of UNHCR were announced at a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, held on 20 November 1970.

These pledges, as well as pledges made subsequent to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, are shown in the table below.

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PAID, PLEDGED OR CONDITIONALLY PLEDGED  
TOWARDS THE FINANCING OF THE UNHCR PROGRAMME FOR 1971

(As at 31 August 1971, in U.S. dollars)

GOVERNMENT	CONTRIBUTION	GOVERNMENT	CONTRIBUTION	GOVERNMENT	CONTRIBUTION
Argentina	20,000	India	13,333	Norway	344,393
Australia	196,000	Iran	8,000	Pakistan	2,500
Austria	30,000			Panama	500
Belgium	200,000	Iraq	9,857	People's Rep. of the Congo	1,000
Botswana	1,000	Ireland	15,000	Saudi Arabia	8,000
		Israel	7,500		
Burundi	1,143	Italy	20,000	Senegal	3,597
Canada	392,156	Ivory Coast	2,698	Sierra Leone	9,600
China	10,000			Sweden	600,000
Colombia	2,000	Japan	30,000	Switzerland	231,481
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	3,000	Jamaica	600	Togo	2,629
		Kuwait	3,000		
Cyprus	600	Liberia	5,000	Trinidad and Tobago	1,500
Dahomey	500	Liechtenstein	4,630	Tunisia	2,500
Denmark	306,667			Turkey	5,000
Dominican Republic	1,000	Luxembourg	4,000	Uganda	5,000
Dubai	3,000	Madagascar	899	United Arab Rep.	6,900
		Malawi	360		
Ecuador	2,000	Malaysia	1,500	United Kingdom	359,971
Fed. Rep. of Germany	491,458	Malta	1,000	United States	1,000,000
Finland	75,000			Uruguay	523
France	450,000	Mauritius	1,000	Venezuela	4,000
Gabon	1,216	Monaco	180	Yugoslavia	10,000
		Morocco	10,000	Zambia	5,000
Greece	14,000	Netherlands	195,798		
Holy See	12,500	Nigeria		Total	5,163,039
Iceland	5,750				

## DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

DECISIONS OF ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—49TH SESSION  
Plenary Meeting 1722.

- E/4869. Annual report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (A/8012).  
E/4904. Resolutions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its 49th session, 6-31 July 1970.  
Other decisions, p. 27.

DECISIONS OF  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION  
Third Committee, meetings 1740, 1789-1791.  
Plenary Meeting 1915.

- A/8001. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1969-15 June 1970, Part Three, Chapter VIII A.  
A/8003 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council, 9 August 1969-31 July 1970, Chapter XI K.  
A/8012 and Add.1. Report of UNHCR, and addendum (containing report of 21st session of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme, Geneva, Switzerland, 28 September-6 October 1970).  
A/C.3/L.1810. Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia: draft resolution, orally co-sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Liberia, Madagascar, Netherlands, Senegal, Sudan and Zambia, approved by acclamation by Third Committee on 17 November 1970. meeting 1791.  
A/8177. Report of Third Committee.

RESOLUTION 2650(xxv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/8177, adopted unanimously by Assembly on 30 November 1970, meeting 1915.

The General Assembly,

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

Noting with appreciation the results obtained by the High Commissioner in the accomplishment of his humanitarian task of providing international protection to refugees within his mandate and promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

Noting the constant efforts being made to this end by the High Commissioner, in co-operation with United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote the voluntary repatriation, the integration in countries of asylum or the resettlement in other countries of refugees who are his concern—whether groups of refugees or individual refugees—whose problems are causing increasing concern, especially in Africa,

Commending the encouraging progress obtained in

the field of interagency co-operation, which, particularly as far as the rural settlement of refugees in developing countries is concerned, is essential in order to achieve durable solutions that are closely linked with the economic and social development of these countries,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing number of Governments contributing to the High Commissioner's assistance programme and the substantial increase in some of these contributions,

Expressing its appreciation of the growing number of accessions to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967, and expressing the hope that this trend will continue,

1. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees who are his concern, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular those relating to the new groups of refugees in Africa, and with the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

2. Requests the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to achieve, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the specialized agencies and other members of the United Nations system, speedy and satisfactory solutions to the problems of refugees;

3. Urges Governments to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian and constructive task by:

(a) Facilitating his efforts in the field of international protection;

(b) Continuing to co-operate in the promotion of permanent solutions for refugees, including in particular individual cases in Africa;

(c) Providing the necessary means to enable the financial targets, established with the approval of the Executive Committee, to be reached.

## CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—25TH SESSION  
Ad Hoc Committee of General Assembly for Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to Programme of UNHCR, meeting of 20 November 1970 (A/AC.148/SR.1).

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

HCR Bulletin. Quarterly record of activities. Published by UNHCR, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. No. 9 (January, February, March 1970); No. 10 (April, May, June 1970); No. 11 (3rd quarter, 1970); No. 12 (4th quarter, 1970).  
A/AC.96/428 and Corr.1-3. Report on UNHCR current operations in 1969.

A/AC.96/429 and Add.1. UNHCR assistance programme for 1971.

A/AC.96/446. List of documents issued at 21st session of Executive Committee for High Commissioner's Programme, Geneva, 28 September-6 October 1970.