

CHAPTER XI

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

During 1964, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was called upon to deal with a series of requests for assistance in a growing number of geographical areas.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The international protection of refugees was continued and extended as the geographical scope of the activities of the High Commissioner's Office expanded. The Office was called upon in particular to increase its protection activities in various African countries.

Another five Governments became parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, namely, Gabon, Jamaica, Liberia, Peru and the United Republic of Tanzania, thus bringing the total number of parties to 47.¹ The Office of the High Commissioner was invited by the secretariat of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) to co-operate in the drawing up of a convention relating to the status of refugees in Africa.

Switzerland signed an agreement with the Benelux countries extending the exemption from the requirement of visas for short-term travel to refugees.

The Office continued to seek the extension to refugees of rights similar to those of the nationals of their country of residence and further progress was achieved with regard to access to employment, exercise of the medical profession, naturalization and facilitation of travel for refugees. There was also progress in extending the benefits of regional legal instruments to refugees.

By 31 December 1964, there were 11,781 victims of Nazi persecution who had been indemnified under the terms of the agreement of October 1960 between UNHCR and the Federal Republic of Germany;² the major part of the fund administered by the High Commissioner, amounting to \$12,281,680, had been disbursed to them. The High Commissioner continued to co-operate with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany on the application of the

Agreement to those refugees victims of persecution who had suffered permanent damage to health. The Office of the High Commissioner also maintained contact with the Government of the Federal Republic in order to safeguard the interests of refugees in the final indemnification legislation.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

During 1964, the main programmes of the Office were the "major aid" programme for "old" European refugees and the 1964 "current" programme for assistance to new groups of refugees, which was designed to enable the High Commissioner to adapt the work of international assistance for refugees to the requirements of the new problems of refugees which emerged in different parts of the world.

A total amount of \$5 million was committed or spent in 1964 under these two programmes. A sum of \$225,000 was also spent from the Emergency Fund. The catalytic effect was such as to attract: (i) supporting contributions in an amount of \$2.5 million from within the countries where projects were put into effect; and (ii) contributions in an amount of some \$1,366,000 for operations outside the programme which, in turn, attracted additional supporting contributions amounting to \$2.2 million.

Out of several thousand refugees who opted for voluntary repatriation, 184 were, at their request, assisted under the UNHCR programme in returning to their country of origin. Several thousand more were resettled through migra-

¹ Also parties to the Convention at the end of 1964 were: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burundi, Brazil, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Ecuador, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, the Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, **Yugoslavia.**

² See Y.U.N., 1960, p. 362.

tion to other countries, but the great majority were assisted in their local integration.

"MAJOR AID" PROGRAMMES

Of the original number of about 270,000 refugees qualifying for assistance under the "major aid" programmes for non-settled "old" European refugees, there were 20,000, it was estimated, who, at the beginning of 1964, were still in need of assistance. New cases came to light, particularly in the Federal Republic of Germany, bringing this figure to over 30,000. In France, the additional number of non-settled refugees requiring assistance proved larger than had been originally anticipated. During 1964, a total of some 28,000 refugees were assisted under the "major aid" programmes.

Among important developments in 1964 were: the decision of the Federal Republic of Germany to provide housing for a substantial number of refugees living outside camps; and the solutions achieved for several hundred very difficult cases, some of whom benefited from special rehabilitation projects in their countries of asylum. Others were resettled.

Over 480 refugees of European origin in the Far East were resettled in other countries via Hong Kong during 1964, leaving a further 1,440 refugees of European origin in the Far East who were covered by resettlement projects which could be put into effect as soon as the refugees reached Hong Kong from the mainland of China.

There remained a certain number of "old" non-settled European refugees in Greece, Latin America and North Africa for whom solutions were still needed. In Greece, efforts were being made to complete local integration projects. In Latin America it was hoped, in co-operative projects with local voluntary agencies, to assist the refugees to consolidate their often precarious position. Several hundred European refugees in North Africa asked to be resettled because of increasing difficulties in finding gainful employment there.

ASSISTANCE UNDER "CURRENT" PROGRAMME

A financial target of \$3,050,080 was set by the Executive Committee for the 1964 "current" programme.

EUROPEAN REFUGEES

Within the UNHCR "current" programme for 1964, an amount close to \$1.2 million was allocated to deal with the current problems of European refugees. The number of new European refugees recognized as being within the High Commissioner's mandate was approximately 10,000 in 1964. Nearly 5,000, including some 100 handicapped cases, were able to migrate for permanent settlement in another country, with the assistance of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). Most of the other new refugees were on the way to establishing themselves in their country of first asylum. Integration projects were put into effect to meet the newly emerging needs of some 3,500 refugees in Greece, Austria, Germany, Latin America and France, most of whom benefited from housing, establishment assistance or professional training and rehabilitation.

In addition some 2,300 refugees, mainly in Greece and Italy, received supplementary aid, pending a permanent solution to their problems, while individual legal assistance was given to some 7,500 refugees, mostly in Germany and Latin America.

CUBAN REFUGEES

Cuban refugees continued to arrive in Spain at a steadily increasing rate exceeding that of their migration to other countries. By the end of 1964, UNHCR had made arrangements with voluntary agencies for projects totalling some \$155,000, providing counselling, assistance towards integration, educational facilities and temporary accommodation for 10,000 Cuban refugees in Spain. Efforts were also made to promote their resettlement in other countries and their admission as workers to other European countries.

REFUGEES IN SENEGAL

At the request of the Government of Senegal, the High Commissioner acted to assist some 30,000 refugees from Portuguese Guinea, at present in the Casamance region of Senegal. An emergency operation was launched by the Government with the aid of \$60,000 from the High Commissioner's Emergency Fund, pending more permanent measures.

REFUGEES FROM RWANDA

The problem of refugees from Rwanda remained a crucial one in scope and complexity. Under the 1964 programme, over \$1 million was committed by the High Commissioner's Office for assistance to refugees from Rwanda; this amount included \$190,000 for refugees in Burundi; \$230,000 for those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, \$240,000 for those in the United Republic of Tanzania and \$407,000 for those in Uganda.

At the beginning of 1964, there were 75,000 Rwandese refugees (out of a total of 130,000) who continued to need assistance in order to become self-supporting. During 1964, the number increased to 94,000, with 10,000-13,000 new arrivals in Burundi and some 7,000 in Uganda. Following an offer from the United Republic of Tanzania, a plan was made to settle some 10,000 Rwandese refugees living in Burundi in the Mwesi Highlands of the United Republic of Tanzania. The refugees, however, decided not to avail themselves of this opportunity, and assistance had to be continued for a number of them. Meanwhile, a regional development plan to benefit the refugee and local population alike was put into effect under the auspices of the International Labour Office (ILO), with the participation of the High Commissioner's Office and various specialized agencies of the United Nations.

In the Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the work of assistance to Rwandese refugees was hampered by the troubles which broke out in mid-1964. It was not possible, consequently, to put the regional development plan into effect in this area and further financial allocations were required to assist refugees in this area in the second part of 1964.

Over 1,300 of the refugees in the Kivu Province were able to take advantage of the offer of resettlement in the United Republic of Tanzania which had originally been made to 10,000 Rwandese refugees in Burundi. By 31 December 1964, 1,312 of the refugees had been moved by air from the Kivu Province to the Mwesi Highlands of the United Republic of Tanzania, where they were settled in agriculture under projects put into effect by the authorities of the host country and the Lutheran World

Federation, with financial support from the High Commissioner's Office.

In the meantime, local settlement projects initiated in 1963 for the refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania made good progress, most of them being completed in the course of 1964.

The work of assistance was continued, but rendered more difficult in Uganda as a result of the influx in 1964 of Sudanese refugees, of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of an additional 7,000 Rwandese refugees.

REFUGEES FROM THE SUDAN

During 1964, several thousand refugees from Sudan arrived in the Central African Republic and Uganda. The sum of \$9,000 was allocated under the UNHCR programme towards the local settlement of several hundred Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic.

In order to assist the Uganda Government in a programme for the permanent settlement of 12,000 Sudanese refugees who arrived in the country in the course of 1964, \$234,080 was allocated under the 1964 programme, in addition to \$100,000 from the Emergency Fund.

CHINESE REFUGEES

IN MACAO

Integration projects in an amount of \$45,000 were put into effect to assist a limited number of refugees among the total of some 75,000 Chinese refugees in Macao. These projects included the provision of fishing boats and the expansion of a social rehabilitation centre.

TIBETAN REFUGEES

At the request of Nepal, the High Commissioner participated in the assistance work of the Swiss Red Cross for Tibetan refugees, some 12,000 of whom were in Nepal; a sum of \$31,370 was allocated from the Emergency Fund towards the cost of providing medical assistance, food and clothing for some 1,300 of these refugees.

In India, approximately \$100,000 was contributed from the proceeds of the sale of the Office's recording, "All-Star Festival," to help integration projects for Tibetan refugees of whom there were an estimated 35,000 in India. These projects primarily concerned agricultural development.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

329

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE PROGRAMME

In addition to the sum of approximately \$1,365,000 made available through UNHCR for projects additional to and outside the current programme, large-scale assistance was provided on a bilateral basis to several countries of asylum.

DECISIONS BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

On 11 August 1964, the Economic and Social Council unanimously adopted a resolution (1022 (XXXVII)) taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees prepared for transmission to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

In the special circumstances prevailing during the first part of the General Assembly's nineteenth session, the High Commissioner's report was not discussed. However, the President noted that those items which were included in the provisional agenda of the nineteenth session in pursuance of specific Assembly resolutions or decisions and which the Assembly might not be able to consider fully at its nineteenth session, when it was reconvened, would be included in the provisional agenda of the twentieth session.

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

As at 17 February 1965, 37 Governments had paid, pledged or promised the equivalent of \$2,631,092 to finance the programmes of the High Commissioner's Office during 1965. (For details, see table below.)

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED OR PROMISED TO PROGRAMMES OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR 1965

(As at 17 February 1965; in U.S. Dollar Equivalents)

GOVERNMENTS	1965		Total
	Programme	Other Programmes	
Austria	30,000	—	30,000
Belgium	150,000	50,000	200,000
Canada	268,519	—	268,519
Chile	10,000	—	10,000
China	5,000	—	5,000
Cyprus	500	—	500
Denmark	72,390	57,912	130,302
France	129,621	—	129,621
Gabon	1,000	—	1,000
Germany, Federal Republic of	301,887	—	301,887
Ghana	3,000	—	3,000
Holy See	1,000	—	1,000
Iceland	5,750	—	5,750
Iran	2,000	—	2,000
Ireland	5,000	—	5,000
Israel	5,000	—	5,000
Italy	3,000	—	3,000
Kuwait	5,000	—	5,000
Lebanon	1,000	—	1,000
Liberia	5,000	—	5,000
Madagascar	612	—	612
Malaysia	1,000	—	1,000
Morocco	9,960	—	9,960
Nigeria	5,000	—	5,000
Netherlands	146,944	—	146,944
Norway	112,000	—	112,000
Peru	1,000	—	1,000
Philippines	1,250	—	1,250
Sweden	200,000	—	200,000
Switzerland	115,740	—	115,740
Togo	2,040	—	2,040
Tunisia	2,000	—	2,000
Turkey	2,667	—	2,667
United Kingdom	310,800	—	310,800
United States	600,000	—	600,000
Viet-Nam, Republic of	2,500	—	2,500
Yugoslavia	5,000	—	5,000
Total	2,523,180	107,912	2,631,092

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—37TH SESSION
Plenary Meetings 1344, 1345.

E/3935 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1. Annual report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including reports of second special and eleventh sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

RESOLUTION 1022 (XXXVII), as proposed by Council President, adopted unanimously by Council on 11 August 1964, meeting 1345.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the annexed reports of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on its second special session and of the eleventh session,

"Takes note with appreciation of the report pre-

pared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session."

E/3991. Thirtieth report of Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—**19TH** SESSION

Plenary Meeting 1330.

A/5803. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter X, Section I.

A/5811/Rev.1 and Add.1/Rev.1. Report of UNHCR, including reports of second special, eleventh and twelfth sessions of Executive Committee of United Nations High Commissioner's Programme.

A/5884. Note by President of General Assembly on status of agenda of 19th session, para. 6.

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—**19TH** SESSION

Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole Assembly, 17 February 1965.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/AC.96/224, 251 and 272. Lists of documents issued at 2nd special, 11th and 12th sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.