

## CHAPTER X

# ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

During the year 1965, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) made steady progress in providing protection and assistance to refugees in many different parts of the world. Although during the year there was an expansion of international co-operation in the cause of aid to refugees, at end of the year, the High Commissioner's Office still faced a deficit of nearly \$500,000 in its financial target of \$3.5 million for the 1965 programme.

At its twentieth session, on 3 December 1965, the General Assembly by acclamation elected Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as High Commissioner for a three-year period from 1 January 1966, in succession to Felix Schnyder whose term of office was due to expire on 31 December 1965. Prince Sadruddin had been Deputy High Commissioner since 1961.

### ACTIVITIES IN 1965

#### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

International protection of refugees was char-

acterized in 1965 by a growing interest in the legal problems of refugees, and their solution through inter-governmental legal instruments of benefit to refugees. The number of parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees—the main international instrument for the protection of refugees—increased to 49 during 1965, with the accession of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the declaration by Guinea that it considered itself bound by the provisions of the Convention.<sup>1</sup>

Also parties to the Convention at the end of 1965 were: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burundi, Brazil, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Congo (Brazzaville), Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Gabon, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, the Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Portugal, Peru, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia.

In other action, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation calling upon States to adopt liberal asylum policies in respect to refugees. Measures favourably affecting the position of refugees in respect to questions of asylum and deportation were also taken or were under consideration in a number of countries. Improvements were also introduced in national legislation affecting refugees, on such matters as nationality and aliens control.

In addition to the Council of Europe, other regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, and more recently the Organization of American States, continued to show their interest in the legal aspects of the problems of refugees, particularly the status of refugees and the right of asylum.

The UNHCR Indemnification Fund, consisting of funds placed at the disposal of the High Commissioner in accordance with the terms of the agreement concluded with the Federal Republic of Germany in 1960, was closed on 30 September 1964. By 31 December 1965, a total of \$12,860,000 had been paid to claimants, and further claims amounting to \$17,780 had been approved and were in process of being paid.

#### ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

In 1965, the High Commissioner's Office put into effect, and partly completed, material assistance programmes to the value of over \$7 million. This was in addition to final "major aid"<sup>2</sup> programmes still being carried out for "old" European refugees, that is, persons who had been recognized as refugees before 1961.

Of the \$7 million total, assistance valued at \$3.5 million was contributed under the "current"<sup>2</sup> programmes of the Office and its Emergency Fund. The remaining half was provided from within the countries of residence of the refugees, and from other sources, particularly the World Food Programme. In addition, a number of projects were financed from special trust funds earmarked for operations outside the current programme, and substantial bilateral aid was provided by Governments, especially food supplied by the United States.

The current projects benefited over 222,000 refugees, the majority of whom (some 210,000) were in Africa. Approximately 30,000 refugees

requested voluntary repatriation, most of them in Africa. Of these, 1,271 requested and received repatriation assistance from the High Commissioner's Office at a cost of over \$21,000. Several thousand refugees were assisted to migrate. However, as in previous years, the great majority of the refugees required assistance in their local integration, the aim being to help them become self-supporting as rapidly as possible.

In most European countries, in Latin America, in the Middle East, in Macao and, to some extent, in Nepal, assistance towards local integration under the programme mainly entailed provision of housing, care in institutions for the handicapped and establishments in crafts or trades. Most of the refugees in Africa had an agricultural background and, in the main, were assisted towards their rural settlement; educational assistance for these refugees also became increasingly important. A number of refugees received emergency or supplementary aid while a permanent solution to their problems was sought. Medical assistance, including the establishment, on a limited scale, of dispensaries, mobile clinics and hospitals, was also necessary, mostly in Africa. Legal assistance again proved a constructive factor in facilitating the integration of refugees in certain areas.

#### ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN REFUGEES

Rwandese Refugees. The over-all number of Rwandese refugees, which amounted to approximately 140,000 at the beginning of 1965, rose to 162,000 in the course of the year.

Of the approximately 52,000 Rwandese refugees in Burundi, 25,000 moved into the new centre at Mugeru, and 21,000 in the centres of Kayongozi, Kigamba and Muramba were assisted in consolidating their position through the regional integration project of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Under this project, which entailed a very considerable allocation from the High Commissioner's programme, the refugees settled in 62 new villages and received two hectares of land per family.

<sup>2</sup> The High Commissioner's Office provides "major aid" programmes for persons who have been refugees since World War II or before and "current" programmes for new groups of refugees.

It was necessary, at the same time, to provide the refugees with food and basic necessities, pending their settlement. The World Food Programme made a major contribution by pledging some 7,000 tons of food.

The number of Rwandese refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo decreased to some 25,000 in 1965 as a result of voluntary repatriation and the resettlement of a further 1,700 in the Mwesi highlands in Tanzania. Further progress was made in the local settlement of some 12,000. Pending a formal rescinding of the governmental expulsion and sequestration decrees the ILO/FAO Zonal-Development Project, aimed at the integration of these refugees, was continued as a holding operation.

At the end of 1965, there were some 15,000 refugees from Rwanda in United Republic of Tanzania, including 3,000 resettled in Mwesi through an Office airlift from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Progress was made in the settlement of this latter group, and measures were also taken for the consolidation of earlier settlements.

During 1965, the number of Rwandese refugees in Uganda rose from 48,000 to 70,000. Some 30,000 of these received aid under Office projects for their settlement in agriculture. However, the continuing influx of new refugees adversely affected the implementation of projects in 1965. Of the 70,000 Rwandese refugees in Uganda, some 32,000 were offered settlement opportunities by friends and relatives, and about 37,000 others were settling in agriculture with assistance from the Uganda Government and the Office of the High Commissioner.

**Sudanese Refugees.** In 1965, 18,000 Sudanese refugees, mostly farmers, arrived in the Central African Republic. A concerted international effort was made to help these refugees settle on the land. In another development, the number of Sudanese refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo rose to approximately 20,000.

In Uganda, further assistance was given to some 12,000 Sudanese who had arrived before 1965, with a view to their rural settlement. A further 28,000 arrived during 1965. Plans for their rural settlement were to be put into effect as soon as a reappraisal of their

position had been completed by the Uganda Government.

**Other Groups of African Refugees.** Some of the more than 200,000 Angolans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to benefit from Office assistance in settling on the land.

The number of refugees from Portuguese Guinea in Senegal, about 30,000 at the end of 1964, rose to approximately 50,000 during 1965. The programme of the Senegal Government for the rural settlement of these refugees continued during 1965, further support being provided by France and the United States, by the High Commissioner's Office and by other interested organizations. The programme was implemented by a National Committee for Refugees, together with the local authorities and a number of voluntary agencies. Over 3,200 tons of food were donated by the United States to assist the refugees pending their settlement.

Progress continued to be made in carrying out a project for the settlement of some 10,000 refugees from Mozambique at Rutamba in the United Republic of Tanzania, where a good crop was expected from the newly cultivated land.

While additional Congolese refugees arrived in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda in 1965, their number decreased later to approximately 48,000, largely as a result of voluntary repatriation. The High Commissioner's Office provided some assistance to these groups at the request of the Governments concerned.

#### ASSISTANCE TO EUROPEAN REFUGEES

Out of 18,000 "old" European refugees assisted under the major aid programmes during 1965, a total of 6,750 became firmly settled with the help of the Office and another 1,750 through other means.

Some 1,140 were resettled with the help of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), including more than 700 (of European origin) who came from the mainland of China via Hong Kong. The majority were assisted in their local integration through the provision of adequate accommodation. Nearly 1,200 handicapped refugees benefited from ar-

rangements for permanent care or rehabilitation.

Over 10,000 new European refugees were recognized as such in the course of 1965. The arrival of newcomers created a problem particularly in Austria and Italy. With the co-operation of the immigration countries, additional resettlement opportunities were provided, thus avoiding a new accumulation of refugees in camps.

The majority of newcomers, young and able-bodied, benefited from current resettlement possibilities provided through ICEM, and a number were able to establish themselves in the country of first asylum. More than 4,500 required assistance under the current programme. The resettlement of over 1,150 was promoted, financed or co-financed under the current programme of the Office for 1965. Over 3,400 received assistance towards their integration in several countries in Europe and in Latin America.

#### ASSISTANCE TO OTHER GROUPS OF REFUGEES

**Chinese Refugees.** The number of Chinese refugees in Macao, approximately 75,000 at the beginning of 1965, had risen to some 80,000 at the end of that year. The local authorities and voluntary agencies continued to provide relief for new arrivals. Increasing efforts were made to help the refugees to become self-supporting as speedily as possible.

**Cuban Refugees.** Of the 20,000 to 30,000 Cuban refugees in Latin America, nearly 1,000 were assisted towards their resettlement or local integration under the High Commissioner's Programme. Nearly 5,000 arrived in Spain in 1965. Some 3,000 of these were able to migrate, but at the end of 1965 there still remained 12,000 Cubans in Spain. Assistance continued to be provided to these through governmental and voluntary services with the participation of the Office. It was mainly in the form of promotion of resettlement, assistance towards integration, and supplementary aid for the newly-arrived.

**Tibetan Refugees.** Of the estimated 7,000 to 8,000 Tibetan refugees in Nepal, some 2,500 received assistance in settlement in 1965. Land was offered by the authorities for the construction of housing for the refugees. The Swiss As-

sociation for Technical Assistance, the High Commissioner's Office and various voluntary agencies co-operated in a programme which gave the refugees an opportunity to become self-supporting.

An increasing proportion of the 45,000 to 50,000 Tibetan refugees in India were finding employment in agriculture or on road construction. Assistance continued to be provided by the Government and some 20 voluntary agencies under the aegis of a Central Relief Committee. The High Commissioner's Office participated in this assistance through funds derived from non-governmental sources for operations outside its current programme.

#### DECISIONS BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its thirty-ninth session (mid-1965) the Economic and Social Council considered the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, covering the period from 1 April 1964 to 31 March 1965.

By resolution 1071 (XXXIX), as proposed by the Council President and adopted unanimously on 21 July 1965, the Council took note with appreciation of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly at its twentieth session, later in 1965.

#### DECISIONS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Owing to the special circumstances prevailing at the nineteenth (1964) session of the General Assembly, the annual report of the High Commissioner was not discussed but was put over to the twentieth session, when the Assembly considered it together with the 1965 report.<sup>3</sup>

The reports were referred to the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee. During the debate in the Committee, four draft resolutions were submitted dealing respectively, with: dedication of United Nations Day 1966 to the cause of refugees; assistance to refugees in Africa; and an expression of appreciation to the retiring High Commissioner.

<sup>3</sup> See Y.U.N., 1964, pp. 326-29, for 1964 report.

DEDICATION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY  
TO CAUSE OF REFUGEES

The draft resolution containing this proposal was sponsored jointly by Austria, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania. By this text, the Assembly would: (1) express its satisfaction with the action taken by a group of voluntary agencies to promote a fund-raising campaign from 24 to 31 October 1966 to benefit refugees mainly in Africa and Asia, and with the selection of United Nations Day—24 October—as the launching date for the campaign; and (2) decide that in 1966 United Nations Day would be dedicated to the cause of refugees. The Committee approved the eight-power draft on 6 December 1965, by a vote of 67 to 0, with 10 abstentions. At a plenary meeting on 7 December 1965, the Assembly adopted it by 89 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions, as resolution 2038(XX). (For full text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER

The draft resolution on this subject was submitted by 13 nations: Algeria, Canada, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Greece, Iran, Mauritania, Norway, Senegal, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela. By the preambular paragraphs of this text, the Assembly would take note of the difficulties encountered by the High Commissioner in obtaining the necessary funds and would express the belief that a greater effort could and should be made by the international community to provide him with the financial means required by the tasks incumbent upon him. By the operative part of the draft resolution, the Assembly would: (1) request the High Commissioner to pursue his efforts with a view to ensuring adequate international protection of refugees and to providing satisfactory permanent solutions to the problems affecting the various groups of refugees within his competence; and (2) invite the Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies: (a) to increase their support of the humanitarian action of the Office of the High Commissioner and to continue to co-operate with

him in this respect; and (b) to make available to him the financial means required to ensure the full implementation of his programmes. The text was approved by the Committee on 6 December 1965, by 69 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions. In the Assembly it was adopted at a plenary meeting on 7 December 1965, by 89 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions, as resolution 2039(XX). (For full text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA

Eighteen States put forward the draft resolution in the Third Committee on the question of assistance: Algeria, the Congo (Brazzaville), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Guinea, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Upper Volta. By this text, the Assembly would: (1) commend the High Commissioner's Office and the other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for their untiring efforts on behalf of refugees in Africa; and (2) invite the Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to devote special attention to the problems of refugees in Africa and to co-operate actively with the High Commissioner by placing the necessary means at his disposal, particularly in the form of increased financial contributions. The vote by which the Third Committee adopted this draft, on 6 December 1965, was 79 to 0, with 9 abstentions. In the Assembly, it was approved at a plenary meeting on 7 December 1965, by 89 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions, as resolution 2040(XX). (For full text, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION  
TO HIGH COMMISSIONER

Chile, Colombia, Iran and Zambia were the sponsors of a draft resolution by which the Third Committee would recommend that the Assembly take note of the decision of Felix Schnyder to relinquish his post as High Commissioner in the near future and express its thanks to him for his work. The Committee adopted the text by acclamation on 6 December 1965. The Assembly also approved it by ac-

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clamation, at a plenary meeting on 7 December 1965, as resolution 2041 (XX). (For full text, See DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED OR PROMISED TO PROGRAMMES OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR 1966

(As at 31 March 1966, in U.S. Dollar Equivalents)

GOVERNMENTS	Total
Australia	150,000
Austria	30,052
Belgium	150,000
Canada	324,074
China	5,000
Denmark	72,390
Finland	10,000
France	259,242
Ghana	3,000
Germany, Federal Republic of	300,000
Greece	10,000
Holy See	2,500

GOVERNMENTS	Total
Iceland	5,750
Iran	2,000
Ireland	5,000
Israel	5,000
Italy	3,000
Liberia	5,000
Libya	2,000
Luxembourg	3,000
Malagasy Republic	615
Malaysia	1,000
Morocco	9,960
Netherlands	146,945
Norway	125,919
South Africa	5,000
Sweden	200,000
Switzerland	115,740
Tunisia	2,500
Turkey	2,500
United Kingdom	339,600
United States	600,000
Yugoslavia	7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,904,287</b>

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—39TH SESSION  
Plenary Meeting 1389.

E/4058 and Add.1. Annual report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). RESOLUTION 1071(xxxix), as proposed by Council President, adopted by Council on 21 July 1965, meeting 1389.

"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 twelfth and thirteenth sessions,

"Takes note with appreciation of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly at its twentieth session."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—20TH SESSION  
Third Committee, meetings 1359-1361.  
Plenary Meeting 1390.

A/5811/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1. A/6011/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1. Reports of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to 19th and 20th Assembly sessions, including reports of second special and eleventh through fourteenth sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

A/5803. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly 19th session, Chapter X, Section I.

A/6003. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, 20th session, Chapter XIV, Section I.

DEDICATION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY, 1966,  
To CAUSE OF REFUGEES

A/C.3/L.1309. Austria, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Iran, adopted by Third Committee on 1 December 1965, meeting 1361, by 67 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

A/6140. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 2038(xx), as proposed by Third Committee, A/6140, adopted by Assembly on 7 December 1965, meeting 1390, by 89 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Considering the decision taken by a group of voluntary agencies to promote a fund-raising campaign from 24 to 31 October 1966, to benefit refugees mainly in Africa and Asia,

"Considering the support given to this initiative by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the wish expressed by that Committee that in 1966 United Nations Day, 24 October, be dedicated to the cause of refugees,

"1. Expresses its keen satisfaction for the action thus undertaken, as well as for the attachment shown by its promoters to the ideals and objectives of the

United Nations in choosing 24 October as the launching date for the campaign;

"2. Decides that, in 1966, United Nations Day will be dedicated to the cause of refugees."

#### REPORTS OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

A/C.3/L.1310. Algeria, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Greece, Iran, Senegal, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1310/Rev.1. Revised draft resolution, submitted by 11 sponsors of A/C.3/L.1310, and in addition by Mauritania and Norway, adopted by Third Committee on 1 December 1965, meeting 1361, by 69 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

A/6140. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 2039(xx), as proposed by Third Committee, A/6140, adopted by Assembly on 7 December 1965, meeting 1390, by 89 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

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

"Noting the increasingly universal character of refugee problems,

"Taking note of the difficulties encountered by the High Commissioner in obtaining the funds required to finance his programmes,

"Considering that a greater effort could and should be made by the international community to provide the High Commissioner with the financial means required by the tasks incumbent upon him,

"1. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to pursue his efforts with a view to ensuring an adequate international protection of refugees and to providing satisfactory permanent solutions to the problems affecting the various groups of refugees within his competence

"2. Invites States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies:

"(a) To increase their support to the humanitarian action of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to continue to co-operate with the High Commissioner in this respect;

"(b) To make available to the High Commissioner the financial means required to ensure the full implementation of his programmes."

#### ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA

A/C.3/L.1311. Algeria, Congo (Brazzaville), Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1311/Rev.1. Revised draft resolution, submitted by 16 sponsors of A/C.3/L.1311, and in addition by Iran and Sudan, adopted by Third Committee on 1 December 1965, meeting 1361, by 71 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

A/6140. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 2040(xx), as proposed by Third Committee, A/6140, adopted by Assembly on 7 December 1965, meeting 1390, by 89 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Having taken note of the fact that major refugee problems continue to arise in various parts of Africa,

"Realizing that substantial resources must be mobilized in order to provide the refugees with immediate assistance and constructive aid so that they can support themselves in the host country until they can return to their country of origin,

"Noting with satisfaction that the African States are showing a continuing interest in the problems of refugees by generously receiving refugees in a truly humanitarian spirit and by acceding in increasing numbers to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,

"Having taken note with satisfaction of the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the specialized agencies and many non-governmental organizations to solve the problems of refugees in Africa,

"Having regard to the need to provide the means essential to uninterrupted continuation of the work of assisting refugees in Africa,

"1. Commends the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations for their untiring efforts on behalf of refugees in Africa;

"2. Invites States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to devote special attention to the problems of refugees in Africa and to co-operate actively with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by placing the necessary means at his disposal, particularly in the form of increased financial contributions to the programmes of the High Commissioner's Office."

#### EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

A/C.3/L.1312. Colombia (joined by Chile, Iran and Zambia orally) : draft resolution, adopted by Third Committee on 1 December 1965, meeting 1361, by acclamation.

A/6140. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution IV.

RESOLUTION 2041(xx), as proposed by Third Committee, A/6140, adopted by Assembly on 7 December 1965, meeting 1390, by acclamation.

"The General Assembly,

"Being informed that Mr. Felix Schnyder, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will relinquish his post in the near future,

"Expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr. Schnyder for his work during the years he has served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees."

## THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN S FUND

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### CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY—20TH SESSION

Ad hoc Committee of General Assembly for Announcement of Voluntary Pledges to Programmes of UNHCR, meeting 1 (A/AC.122/PV.1).

#### ELECTION OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY—20TH SESSION

Plenary Meeting 1388.

A/6117/Rev.1. Note by Secretary-General.

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/AC.96/293; A/AC.96/315. List of documents issued at 13th and 14th sessions of Executive Committee for High Commissioner's Programme.