

CHAPTER IX

REFUGEE QUESTIONS

THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

On 5 December 1958, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution (1285 (XIII))¹ calling for the co-operation of Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in promoting a World Refugee Year as a practical means of securing increased assistance for refugees throughout the world. Its aims were: (1) to focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from Governments, voluntary agencies and the general public for its solution; and (2) to encourage opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees.

The Assembly also urged States to co-operate, in accordance with the national wishes and needs of each country and from a humanitarian point of view, in promoting a World Refugee Year as a practical means of securing increased assistance for refugees throughout the world; in addition, it asked the Secretary-General to assist in its promotion.

It was thus clear from the resolution and the debates preceding its adoption that the World Refugee Year was to be primarily a series of national efforts, a purely humanitarian endeavour, and concerned with all refugees whether internationally recognized or not. The role of the United Nations was primarily to promote information on refugee problems and to assist in the co-ordination of national efforts.

ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

In conformity with the Assembly's resolution of 1958, the Secretary-General designated a

member of his Executive Office as his Special Representative for World Refugee Year. A small staff was chosen, mainly from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the United Nations Office of Public Information. The headquarters for this unit was established in the European Regional Office, Geneva, with a liaison office at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Although this small staff was operating on a very small budget, an extensive range of material was assembled and/or prepared and made available to those interested, for example, to Governments, national committees formed for the purpose of promoting the Year, and non-governmental organizations active in refugee work. This material included feature pamphlets, a continuing newsletter, still photographs and enlargements for exhibition purposes, films, and radio and television programmes. It dealt with the major refugee problems of direct concern to the United Nations such as the non-settled refugees in Europe, the Palestine refugees in the Near East, the European and Chinese refugees in Hong Kong and those in Tunisia and Morocco. At the request of the Governments concerned, information was also circulated on national refugees in the Federal Republic of Germany, Pakistan and Viet-Nam. There has also been extensive contact with Governments in their respective capitals and through their delegations to acquaint them more fully with the aims of the Year.

¹ For further information, see Y.U.N., 1958, pp. 235-244.

ACTION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

The Year began auspiciously in June 1959 with 52 countries participating—that is, these countries had indicated formally that they would take special action for refugees in the course of the Year. To mark the beginning of the Year, there were ceremonies in many countries, and proclamations by Heads of State in others. By 31 December 1959, the total of those participating in one way or another had risen to 72 countries and six territories. As noted above, in many countries special national committees had been formed—often under the patronage of the Head of State. A list of participating countries and territories as of 31 December 1959 follows. The asterisk indicates that a national committee had been or was being formed at that time.

Afghanistan	Lebanon
Argentina*	Liberia
Australia*	Libya
Austria*	Liechtenstein
Belgium*	Luxembourg
Bolivia*	Mexico*
Brazil*	Monaco
Burma	Morocco
Cambodia	Netherlands*
Canada*	New Zealand*
Ceylon	Nicaragua
Chile*	Norway*
China*	Pakistan*
Colombia*	Panama*
Costa Rica*	Paraguay
Cuba	Peru*
Denmark*	Philippines*
Dominican Republic	Portugal*
Ecuador*	Sudan
El Salvador	Sweden*
Federation of Malaya*	Switzerland*
Finland*	Thailand
France*	Tunisia
Germany, Fed. Rep. of*	Turkey*
Ghana*	Union of South Africa
Greece*	United Arab Republic
Guatemala*	United Kingdom*
Guinea	United States*
Haiti*	Uruguay*
Holy See	Venezuela
Honduras*	Viet-Nam*
Iceland*	Yugoslavia
Iran*	
Ireland*	
Israel*	British Honduras
Italy*	Gambia
Japan	Hong Kong*
Jordan	St. Lucia (West Indies)
Korea, Rep. of*	Sierra Leone*
Laos	Uganda*

Action on behalf of refugees in the participating countries and territories varied from country to country, but it can be said that one of the objectives of World Refugee Year had been achieved by 31 December 1959: increased public attention was being focused on the problems of refugees.

Other types of action taken or prepared included increased contributions by Governments for refugee purposes; special facilities for the immigration of refugees, particularly tubercular cases and the aged and disabled; special fund-raising campaigns to collect larger contributions than usual from the public; measures to integrate larger number of refugees than usual in the host countries; steps to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; and agreement by Governments to issue special stamps for World Refugee Year.

The results of these special efforts could not, however, be assessed until after the end of the Year, that is, 30 June 1960.

ACTION BY
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS

International non-governmental organizations, representing many religious faiths and humanitarian interests around the world, organized in Geneva an International World Refugee Year Committee of non-governmental organizations to co-ordinate and strengthen the support of their constituent organizations in the national efforts of participating countries. Seventy-seven international non-governmental organizations became members of this committee, the largest number ever to support a single effort on behalf of refugees on an international level.

ACTION BY GENERAL
ASSEMBLY IN 1959

On 6 October 1959, at the conclusion of the general debate held in the opening phases of the Assembly's fourteenth session, the President of the Assembly warned the Assembly that, despite a good beginning, the success of World Refugee Year was by no means assured. He urged all Members to give careful consideration to the contributions they would make to the two United Nations refugee organizations—the Office of the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). "In launching the World Refugee Year," he added, "we, the General Assembly, gave a new hope to millions of refugees around the world. It is our task to fulfil that promise."

The World Refugee Year was discussed in the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee in the course of its consideration of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Introducing his report, the High Commissioner stated that the World Refugee Year had already begun to make a stimulating and most useful impact which had facilitated and helped to accelerate the work of his Office. Thus encouraged, he had prepared, with the approval of his Executive Committee, his regular programme of international assistance for 1960 on the basis of a global target of \$12 million as against \$4.7 million for 1959. Due to the Year, the over-all population in refugee camps in Europe had considerably declined. This, the High Commissioner concluded, had created an atmosphere which made possible the realization of projects which otherwise would have had to wait for years.

The Secretary-General reported on the progress of the Year, noting that, although for the first time the High Commissioner had been able to speak with hope, the greatest part of the effort was yet to be made. He reminded the Committee of the words of the President of the General Assembly quoted above.

In the Assembly's Special Political Committee, during discussion of the work of UNRWA, the Director of UNRWA stated that he planned to use any funds received through the World Refugee Year for an expanded programme of vocational training, university scholarships and individual assistance. It was hoped these would total at least \$4 million.

During the Third Committee's discussion of the High Commissioner's report, many representatives made statements concerning World Refugee Year and the action being taken within their countries in support of its objectives. The USSR representative regretted that, notwithstanding the provisions of the General Assembly resolution of 5 December 1958, setting up World Refugee Year, voluntary repatriation

was not, in his Government's view, one of its principal aims.

In the resolution finally adopted by the Assembly on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on the recommendation of its Third Committee (resolution 1388(XIV)), two references were made to World Refugee Year. By one operative paragraph, the Assembly invited Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies "to devote, on the occasion of the World Refugee Year, special attention to the problems of refugees coming within the competence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees." By another operative paragraph, the Assembly authorized the High Commissioner, "in respect of refugees who do not come within the competence of the United Nations, to use his good offices in the transmission of contributions designed to provide assistance to these refugees."

A separate resolution on World Refugee Year was also submitted in the Third Committee by Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States. It was approved by the Third Committee on 6 November 1959 by 51 votes to 9, with 10 abstentions, and then adopted at a plenary meeting of the Assembly on 20 November by 63 votes to 9, with 5 abstentions, as resolution 1390(XIV).

The Assembly thereby noted with appreciation the support already given to World Refugee Year by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the general public. It urged Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to continue to focus interest on the refugee problem, to endeavour to make additional financial contributions available and to encourage additional opportunities for permanent solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees. The Assembly also asked the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to assist in the promotion of the World Refugee Year.

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

On 10 December 1959, the General Assembly met as an ad hoc Committee of the Whole to receive pledges of contributions to the two

United Nations refugee programmes. Fifty-four Governments were represented. In addition to announcing contributions to UNHCR and UNRWA, the representatives described, as appropriate, the extra efforts being made in their respective countries in support of World Refugee Year by their Governments and/or the general public. Some Governments also were able to announce additional contributions or pledges for the World Refugee Year. These amounted to some \$7 million, of which about \$2 million was designated for one or the other of the two United Nations refugee programmes with the remainder going to related programmes or still to be definitely allocated. Targets for the fund-raising efforts of some national committees were also cited.

The Secretary-General addressed the meet-

ing and described the position of the Year at the half-way mark: "If the various undertakings in progress or being considered are actually fulfilled, many refugees will find their problems solved and others will have been very greatly helped. Secondly, there are no grounds for complacency: if the World Refugee Year is really to be remembered as a helpful endeavour, it must be seen as a first, and not a last, effort pointing to a more effective and humane approach to refugee problems everywhere."

(For further information, see also: below, section on WORK OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES; and above, POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, CHAPTER IV, section on AID TO PALESTINE REFUGEES.)

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—14TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 943, 946-948.
Plenary Meeting 841.

A/C.3/L.782. Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, United States: draft resolution, adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1959, meeting 948, by 51 votes to 9, with 10 abstentions.

A/4278. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 1390(xiv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/4278, adopted by Assembly on 20 November 1959, meeting 841, by 63 votes to 9, with 5 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 1285(XIII) of 5 December 1958 on the World Refugee Year,

"Noting with appreciation the support that has already been given to the World Refugee Year by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the general public, as well as the efforts of the Secretary-General in this endeavour,

"Believing that the success of the World Refugee Year will be largely dependent on concrete responses yet to be made in many countries,

"1. Urges States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, in accordance

with the national wishes and needs of each country and in the humanitarian spirit of the World Refugee Year:

"(a) To continue to focus interest on the refugee problem;

"(b) To endeavour to make additional financial contributions for international assistance to refugees and to encourage in their territory increasing contributions from non-governmental organizations and the general public;

"(c) To encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration, on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to assist in the promotion of the World Refugee Year."

A/AC.99. Ad Hoc Committee of Whole Assembly Pledging Conference for Extra-Budgetary Funds, including statement by Secretary-General, 10 December 1959.

(For further documentation, see also DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES for section below on WORK OF OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, and above, POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, CHAPTER IV, section on AID TO PALESTINE REFUGEES.)

WORK OF OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

In 1959, the main event in the field of international assistance to refugees was the launching of World Refugee Year in June. By the end of 1959, the Year had already yielded considerable results both in regard to financial contributions and to an increase in resettle-

ment opportunities being offered to refugees. It had also helped to increase public knowledge and appreciation of the plight of refugees. (For further details, see above, section on WORLD REFUGEE YEAR.)

Although local integration remained an es-

sential means of achieving permanent solutions for the problems of refugees, there was during 1959 an increase in the number of refugees benefiting from resettlement opportunities, particularly since several Governments had liberalized their admission criteria.

The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, replacing the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF) Executive Committee as of 1 January 1959, approved a minimum target—for voluntary contributions from governmental and private sources—of \$4,700,000 for 1959 and adopted a \$12,000,000 target for 1960 on the occasion of World Refugee Year. This target included \$2,900,000 for completion of the camp clearance programme and \$550,000 to bring the joint Far Eastern Operation of the High Commissioner and the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM) nearer to a solution.

By the end of 1959, it seemed that the emphasis of the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would soon have to be shifted to the problems of the approximately 100,000 non-settled refugees living outside camps, one-third of whom come within the category of handicapped refugees.

A joint relief programme was undertaken in February 1959 with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to bring assistance to the refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

1951 CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES

By the end of 1959, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees was in force in the following 23 States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

To mark the World Refugee Year, Yugoslavia acceded to and Greece approved ratification of the Convention. Further accessions to, or ratifications of, the Convention were expected to materialize during the World Refugee Year.

CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF STATELESS PERSONS

The Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons was ratified by Israel on 23 December 1958, by Yugoslavia on 9 April 1959 and by the United Kingdom on 16 April 1959. Ratification by France was authorized. Denmark and Norway were already parties to the Convention, which by the end of 1959 required six ratifications for its entry into force.

RIGHT TO WORK

Further progress was made during 1959 with regard to the right of refugees to work. On 21 February 1959, the Ministry of Social Administration in Austria authorized the issue up to 31 December 1959 of labour permits for those Hungarian refugees receiving training under the programme financed by the Scandinavian Red Cross Societies. In Italy, the Government continued to issue residence and work permits of unlimited duration in accordance with its declaration of July 1957. A total of 170 work permits had been issued from the time the declaration was made until the end of 1959.

NATURALIZATION

The Office of the High Commissioner continued its efforts to facilitate the naturalization of refugees. From information received, it appeared that the number of refugees who acquired a new nationality under current naturalization legislation was higher in 1959 than in 1958.

FACILITATION OF TRAVEL

Further progress was made in facilitating the travel of refugees. The European Agreement on the abolition of visas for refugees was approved and opened for signature by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 20 April 1959. Belgium and France ratified the Agreement; the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed it, subject to ratification.

OTHER PROBLEMS

The Office of the High Commissioner pursued its efforts for improving the situation of refugee seamen and it was hoped that, with the active support of the Consultative Assembly of the

Council of Europe and the International Labour Organisation, further Governments would accede to the Agreement Relating to Refugee Seamen, to which the following Governments were parties by the end of 1959: Denmark, France, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Further efforts were also made by the High Commissioner to reunite members of refugee families who had been separated, and in seeking indemnification for victims of persecution.

REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

In conformity with the provisions of its Statute, the Office of the High Commissioner continued its efforts to remove difficulties encountered by refugees expressing the desire to repatriate. Requests for repatriation were referred to the authorities of the country of origin of the refugees concerned. Representatives of the Office accompanied repatriation missions to refugees in Austria and Germany during 1959 to ensure that no undue pressure was exercised from any side on refugees wishing to repatriate. In certain exceptional cases, where the repatriation of a refugee constituted too high a charge for either his country of residence or his country of origin, the Office made appropriate arrangements to cover the cost of such travel. The Governments of certain countries of resettlement continued to cover the cost of repatriation of new Hungarian refugees wishing to return to Hungary.

RESETTLEMENT

The growing importance of resettlement as a solution to refugee problems became particularly apparent in the course of 1959.

During the first six months of 1959, approximately 25,000 refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate were resettled with the assistance of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). During the whole of 1959, it was estimated, 40,000 refugees would be resettled by ICEM as against 34,520 in 1958.

In October 1959, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme placed special emphasis on the resettlement of refugees as a solution to their problems and made several

recommendations for liberalizing immigration regulations and selection criteria.

During 1959, a number of schemes were established on the occasion of the World Refugee Year, at an increasing rate. These included the admission of physically handicapped refugees, particularly in such countries as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

The following programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner were put into effect in 1959: a camp clearance programme (\$2,900,000); a programme for non-settled refugees outside camps (\$700,000); a Far Eastern programme (\$550,000); and programmes for new refugees in Greece, for legal assistance, and for emergency aid to individual cases totalling \$220,000. These programmes were established on a yearly basis, with the exception of the camp-clearance programme, which was planned on a two-year basis, and the Far Eastern programme, which was set up on a three-year basis (1959-1961).

By the end of 1959, contributions totalling \$4,485,339 had been paid, pledged or promised for the 1959 programme, \$4,080,202 of which came from Governments and some \$405,137 from other sources, in addition to supporting contributions made by the countries in which the programmes were being carried out.

By the end of 1959, some 70,000 refugees had benefited from the former UNREF programme and from the High Commissioner's 1959 programmes; of these, nearly 39,000 were firmly settled. Of the total number of beneficiaries, 39,000 came from camps in Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy. Approximately 9,000 were refugees of European origin from the Far East.

As most of the physically and economically stronger refugees had already left the camps for resettlement or integration in the local economy, special attention was given to those refugees suffering from social or physical handicaps. Projects were being put into effect for aged refugees and for the physically handicapped, and special projects were being worked out by a mental health adviser to assist refugees suffering from difficult social handicaps.

During 1959, 1,519 refugees of European origin in the Far East were resettled in other

countries. About 7,800 refugees were on the mainland of China as of January 1, 1960.

SPECIAL REFUGEE PROBLEMS

HUNGARIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM

In the course of 1959, the number of Hungarian refugees remaining in Austria decreased still further, mainly as a result of emigration, from 15,000 to 9,600. Of these, 1,800 were still in refugee camps, 400 in institutions and 950 in homes run by voluntary agencies. According to a registration of the refugees remaining in Austria, over 1,450 wished to emigrate and the others wished to remain in Austria.

Since 1957, a programme for permanent solutions of the refugee problem (i.e., voluntary repatriation, assimilation in countries of asylum or resettlement overseas) had been put into effect for the integration of refugees belonging to the latter group. This programme included projects at a total cost of \$3,980,000 for providing housing and credit facilities for the establishment of the refugees in agriculture, for youth projects and for aid to university students and intellectuals. Out of 9,600 refugees remaining in Austria, 3,500 were being settled under approved projects of this programme and a further 3,000 refugees will require further assistance in order to become integrated in Austria.

REFUGEES FROM ALGERIA IN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

In accordance with a resolution (1389(XIV)) adopted by the General Assembly in 1959, the High Commissioner continued his efforts on behalf of refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia. As of 1 February 1959, a relief programme was put into effect by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in conjunction with the High Commissioner's Office. Under this programme, it has been possible to provide the refugees both in Morocco and Tunisia with the minimum of food and clothing required.

During 1959, the number of refugees requiring assistance rose from about 180,000 to some 200,000. In response to the High Commissioner's appeals, contributions in cash and in kind totalling over \$1,710,000 were promised, pledged or paid to the High Commissioner between 1 February 1959 and 31 January 1960. Allowing

for the basic supplies provided in kind by certain governments, the minimum average monthly cash requirement to maintain the food ration at the 1,550 calorie level amounted to \$120,000.

It was estimated that available supplies and contributions promised, pledged or paid, as of 31 January 1960, would enable the refugees in Morocco and Tunisia to receive the bare minimum for a few more months.

CHINESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG AND OTHER GROUPS

Contributions in cash and in kind totalling \$9,831 were channelled through the High Commissioner's Office for assistance to Chinese refugees in Hong Kong up to 31 December 1959. In addition, the United States Government announced a contribution of \$200,000.

Further, at its fourteenth session, the United Nations General Assembly authorized the High Commissioner to use his good offices in the transmission of contributions designed to provide assistance to the refugees not coming within the competence of the United Nations. (For further details, see below, under heading CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY.)

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

The World Refugee Year had considerable impact during 1959 on the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner of UNHCR. Thus, in many countries where the problems of refugees coming within the mandate of the High Commissioner had been little known or unknown until recently, many efforts were being made to add to the international assistance provided for refugees. Most national committees have reserved a considerable part of the amount which they hoped to collect for assistance to refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate.

By 31 December 1959, Governments had promised, pledged or paid contributions totalling \$2,269,255 to programmes of the High Commissioner for 1959 and 1960 and to the relief programme for refugees in Morocco and Tunisia to mark the World Refugee Year. Contributions from non-governmental sources for these programmes totalled \$353,003.

More opportunities for resettlement of refugees in other countries were offered to the High Commissioner and further schemes were

being negotiated. Resettlement offers were made for 4,300 refugees of whom 1,875 were handicapped refugees.

The High Commissioner worked in close co-operation with the International World Refugee Year Committee and with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for World Refugee Year.

It was expected that the World Refugee Year, while not solving all refugee problems everywhere, would enable the High Commissioner's Office to finance the completion of its camp-clearance programme and its Far Eastern Programme, and also to make an impact on the considerable problem of non-settled refugees outside camps.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme held three sessions during 1959—the first session in January, the first special session in June and the second session in October.

At its January session, the Committee endorsed decisions taken by the former UNREF Executive Committee on financial targets for 1959 and approved the High Commissioner's programmes for 1959.

At its June session, the Committee decided to earmark \$7,300,000 of its \$12,000,000 fund target for 1960 as a special World Refugee Year allocation.

In October 1959, the Committee approved detailed programmes to a value of \$6,000,000 for the first part of the 1960 programme. Should the whole \$12,000,000 become available, projects would be carried out as follows:

Far Eastern Programme	\$1,470,000
Programme for camp clearance	2,620,000
Fund for special hardship cases	540,000
Programme for non-settled refugees living outside camps, preferably handicapped refugees	6,870,000
Programme for new refugees in Greece	280,000
Emergency account for individual cases	100,000
Programme for legal assistance	120,000
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	\$12,000,000

As of 31 December 1959, \$3,533,592 had been pledged or promised by Governments towards the 1960 target of \$12,000,000.

The Committee also considered a report by the High Commissioner on assistance to refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia, together with a 12-months' budget for the relief programme put into effect for these refugees. The Committee noted with appreciation the action taken by the High Commissioner.

Also considered was a report on resettlement as a solution to the refugee problem. This was prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner in co-operation with the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). The report gave a summary of the emigration problems involved, and outlined the needs which still existed and measures for meeting them.

CONSIDERATION BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its twenty-eighth session in mid-1959, the Economic and Social Council considered the High Commissioner's annual report covering the period from May 1958 to May 1959.

In his introductory statement, the High Commissioner gave an account of the progress achieved by his Office and of what it might accomplish if World Refugee Year came up to expectations. He emphasized the importance of bona fide refugees being granted asylum regardless of their state of health. In reporting on the three forms of solutions open to refugees (repatriation, resettlement and integration), he drew attention to the possibility of solving many refugee problems through emigration. Priority in his annual programmes, he pointed out, was given to camp clearance and to the Far Eastern Programme. The next problem to solve would be that of the non-settled refugees living outside camps. The High Commissioner also described the relief programme for assistance to refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia.

Several representatives expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved by the Office of the High Commissioner and, in particular, with the decrease in the number of non-settled refugees. Several Council members expressed the hope that the World Refugee Year would lead to a considerable increase in financial contributions, so necessary to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to accomplish its task. Some representatives emphasized the difficulties which countries of asylum for refugees had to

face and urged that more refugees be admitted for resettlement, particularly in overseas countries of immigration. The representative of China mentioned some of the measures taken by his Government within the framework of World Refugee Year to aid Chinese refugees, one of the most numerous of the refugee groups. He also drew attention to the needs of Tibetan refugees and expressed his Government's concern at their position.

On 20 July 1959, the Council adopted a resolution (725(XXVIII)) taking note of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly's fourteenth session.

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At the General Assembly's fourteenth session, the annual report of the High Commissioner was considered first by the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee.

Introducing his report in the Third Committee, the High Commissioner stressed three important factors in the work of his Office: the concentration of efforts and means on clearly-defined refugee problems, the humanitarian and social character of international assistance to refugees, and the impact of World Refugee Year.

He said, among other things, that he was seeking to intensify activities for the protection of refugees, the basic task of his Office, its ultimate aim being to help refugees to cease being refugees.

On refugee problems in Europe, the High Commissioner stated that non-settled refugees within his mandate—who had numbered 160,000 in the latter part of 1958—had been reduced to 110,000 by October 1959, while the camp population had decreased within the same period from 40,000 to 22,000. The Hungarian refugee problem, he added, was progressing towards a final solution, although there remained some 10,000 Hungarian refugees in Austria, of whom 2,100 were still in camps. Some 1,500 wished to emigrate to another country.

He estimated the total annual cost of the relief programme put into effect by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in

conjunction with his Office, to aid refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia at \$6,000,000. With the funds and supplies available, he said, the programme could only be continued until the end of the 1959-1960 winter.

From 1955 until 30 June 1959, he added, more than 62,000 refugees had benefited from the UNREF programme and the UNHCR regular programmes for 1959. More than half of these refugees had been firmly settled. He drew special attention to efforts to intensify the clearance of camps in Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy, where considerable headway was being made. Further progress was also being made in the resettlement of refugees of European origin from the Far East. Assistance to non-settled refugees outside camps was being continued, though only limited amounts had so far been available for that purpose. He hoped, however, that more substantial help could be given to them once the two priority programmes, the camp-clearance and the Far Eastern programmes, were nearer to a solution.

Although most of the non-settled refugees were being integrated in their country of residence, the High Commissioner added, resettlement in other countries was again assuming growing importance as a solution for refugee problems, and it was anticipated that many Governments which had already liberalized their admission and selection criteria would give further facilities to refugees, particularly to the handicapped, on the occasion of World Refugee Year.

With regard to financial contributions, he expected that the \$4.7 million target for the programmes of his Office for 1959 would be reached.

Three resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Third Committee. These dealt with: the High Commissioner's report; refugees in Morocco and Tunisia; and the World Refugee Year.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

As eventually adopted by the Third Committee and, later, at a plenary meeting of the Assembly, the resolution on the High Commissioner's report noted with appreciation the progress made in carrying out the international aid programmes of the High Commissioner's

Office. Noted in particular was the progress made, within the framework of the World Refugee Year, on the admission of more refugees, including handicapped cases, to countries of resettlement, as well as the increased contributions to the High Commissioner's international aid programmes. The Assembly hoped, too, that no additional efforts would be spared for repatriating refugees who wished to return to their countries of origin, and also that every effort would be made for the resettlement or integration of refugees.

By the operative part of the text, the Assembly invited United Nations Members and members of specialized agencies to devote, on the occasion of the World Refugee Year, special attention to the problems of refugees falling under the High Commissioner's field of competence. In particular, it invited them to consider the possibilities of: (1) improving the legal status of refugees living in, or to be admitted to, their territory by, among other things, acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; (2) increasing facilities for permanent solutions of the refugee problem through voluntary repatriation and assimilation within new national communities, and providing new opportunities for the resettlement of refugees through the liberalization of immigration laws and regulations and through the inclusion of refugees in resettlement schemes; and (3) enabling the High Commissioner, through additional voluntary financial contributions, to implement the programmes of international assistance to refugees approved for 1959 and 1960.

The resolution, in addition, authorized the High Commissioner to use his good offices in the transmission of contributions designed to aid refugees not falling within the competence of the United Nations.

The resolution was approved in the Third Committee on 6 November 1959, by 55 votes to 0, with 20 abstentions. On 20 November, it was adopted at a plenary meeting of the

Assembly as resolution 1388(XIV) by 66 votes to 0, with 12 abstentions.

It was based on a proposal sponsored jointly in the Third Committee by Austria, Colombia, Greece, Iran, the Netherlands and Sweden, as amended by Afghanistan and by the United Kingdom.

REFUGEES IN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

The resolution on refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia noted with appreciation the High Commissioner's action on their behalf and recognized that their situation remained precarious. It recommended that the High Commissioner continue his efforts on their behalf pending their return to their homes.

This resolution was submitted in the Third Committee by Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, who emphasized that a special resolution had been devoted to the refugees from Algeria because they constituted a separate category. It was pointed out that the High Commissioner was only temporarily responsible for them and that it was the wish of the parties concerned that these refugees should return to their homes.

The representative of France pointed out that the French Government was ready and able to provide the aid required and was prepared to pay the repatriation costs of all those who wished to return to their country.

This text was approved in the Third Committee on 6 November by a roll-call vote of 66 votes to 0, with 5 abstentions. On 20 November, it was adopted at a plenary meeting of the Assembly as resolution 1389(XIV), by 74 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions.

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

The resolution on the World Refugee Year (1390(XIV)) was submitted in the Third Committee by Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For details and votes, see section above on WORLD REFUGEE YEAR.)

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

CONSIDERATION BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—28TH SESSION
Plenary Meetings 1083, 1084.

E/3263 and Add.1. Report of United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees including reports on first session and first special session of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme. RESOLUTION 725(xxviii), as proposed by President of Council, adopted by Council on 20 July 1959, meeting 1084.

"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 first and first special sessions,

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

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—14TH SESSION
Third Committee, meetings 943-948.
Fifth Committee, meeting 708.
Plenary Meeting 841.

A/4104/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1. Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including reports of first, first special and second sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

A/4143. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter VI, Section IV.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

A/C.3/L.780. Austria, Colombia, Greece, Iran, Netherlands, Sweden: draft resolution as amended by Afghanistan, A/C.3/L.783/Rev.1 and United Kingdom, A/C.3/L.788, adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1959, meeting 948, by 55 votes to 0, with 20 abstentions.

A/C.3/L.783 and Rev.1. Afghanistan amendment and revised amendment to 6-power draft resolution, A/C.3/780, adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1959, meeting 948, by roll-call vote of 31 to 19, with 24 abstentions.

A/C.3/L.787. Italy: amendment to 6-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.780.

A/C.3/L.788. United Kingdom: amendment to 6-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.780, adopted by Third Committee on 9 November 1959, meeting 948, by roll-call vote of 36 to 23, with 16 abstentions.

A/4278. Report of third Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 1388(xiv) as recommended by Third Committee, A/4278, adopted by Assembly on 20 November 1959, meeting 841, by 66 votes to 0, with 12 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

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

"Noting with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the programmes of international assistance carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner,

"Noting in particular the progress made, within the framework of the World Refugee Year, as regards the admission of additional numbers of refugees, including handicapped cases, to countries of resettle-

ment, as well as the contribution to the Office of the High Commissioner of additional funds for international assistance to refugees,

"Expressing the hope that no additional efforts will be spared for the repatriation of refugees who wish to return to their country of origin,

"Expressing the hope also that every effort will be made for the resettlement or integration of refugees,

"1. Invites States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to devote, on the occasion of the World Refugee Year, special attention to the problems of refugees coming within the competence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in particular to consider the possibility of:

"(a) Improving the legal status of refugees living on, or to be admitted to, their territory by, inter alia, acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;

"(b) Increasing the facilities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation and assimilation within new national communities, and, for resettlement of refugees, providing further opportunities through the liberalization of immigration laws and regulations and through the inclusion of refugees in resettlement schemes;

"(c) Enabling the High Commissioner, through additional voluntary financial contributions, to implement the programmes of international assistance to refugees approved by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme for 1959 and 1960;

"2. Authorizes the High Commissioner, in respect of refugees who do not come within the competence of the United Nations, to use his good offices in the transmission of contributions designed to provide assistance to these refugees."

REFUGEES FROM ALGERIA IN TUNISIA AND MOROCCO

A/C.3/L.781 and Rev.1. Libya, Morocco, Tunisia: draft resolution and revision, adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1959, meeting 948, by 66 votes to 0, with 5 abstentions.

A/4278. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 1389(xiv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/4278, adopted by Assembly on 20 November 1959, meeting 841, by 74 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

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

"Considering the efforts made by the High Commissioner and the results achieved during the World Refugee Year,

"Noting with appreciation the action of the High Commissioner on behalf of refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia,

"Recognizing however that the situation of these refugees, and especially of the young children who constitute the majority of them, remains precarious,

"Recommends that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should continue his efforts on behalf of these refugees pending their return to their homes."

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

A/C.3/L.782. Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, United States: draft resolution adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1959, meeting 948, by 51 votes to 9, with 10 abstentions.

A/4278. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 1390(xiv), as recommended by Third Committee, A/4278, adopted by Assembly on 20

November 1959, meeting 841, by 63 votes to 9, with 5 abstentions. (For text, see above, DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES for Section on WORLD REFUGEE YEAR.)

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—14TH SESSION

Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole Assembly, meeting 2.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/AC.96/23, A/AC.96/33, A/AC.96/55. Lists of documents issued at first, first special and second sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.