

## CHAPTER XI

## ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

During 1963, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to carry out his basic task of providing international protection for some 1,250,000 refugees within his mandate. While the major aid programmes for "old" European refugees neared completion, a new assistance programme was put into effect to deal with current and new problems of limited dimensions, in Europe and elsewhere.

At its eighteenth session, the General Assembly decided by acclamation, on 27 November 1963, that the term of office of Felix Schnyder as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees be extended for a two-year period from 1 January 1964 to 31 December 1965.

On 12 December 1963, by resolution 1959 (XVIII), the Assembly, among other things, requested the High Commissioner to continue to afford international protection to refugees and to pursue his efforts on behalf of the refugees by giving particular attention to new refugee groups.

## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

During the period under review, the High Commissioner continued his efforts to improve the legal and administrative position of refugees within his mandate, in consultation with Governments and with the co-operation of regional inter-governmental organizations.

The main instrument safeguarding the legal position of refugees, namely the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, was ratified in 1963 by Burundi and Ghana, while Algeria, Cyprus and Senegal issued declarations that they considered themselves bound by the Convention. Also parties to the Convention at the end of 1963 were:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Denmark, Ecuador, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav Government acceded to the Hague Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen. Also parties to the Agreement at the end of 1963 were: Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Iceland and Turkey decided in 1963 to issue to refugees the travel documents provided for in the 1951 Convention.

The United Nations Conference on Consular Relations, which met from 4 March to 24 April 1963 in Vienna, (see pp. 510-13 below) adopted a resolution drawing the attention of the Conference to the special status of refugees and their right to international protection.

UNHCR continued its co-operation with other organizations with a view to improving the economic, legal and social position of refugees, particularly with regard to their access to employment and social security. The Office continued to administer the fund of 45 million Deutsche mark placed at its disposal under an agreement of October 1960, for the purpose of indemnifying those refugees who had not benefited under the indemnification legislation of the Federal Republic of Germany. By the end of 1963, the screening of some 40,000 applications was nearing completion, and payments totalling over \$4,900,000 to qualifying applicants had already been authorized. The High Commissioner also continued to co-operate with the German Federal authorities on the application of the 1960 Agreement to those refugees who had suffered permanent injury to health under the national socialist régime by reason of their nationality.<sup>1</sup>

## UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

Pursuant to decisions taken by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, the 1963 programme was divided into two sections: a major aid programme in the amount of \$5,400,000, intended to solve the remaining material assistance problems of the

<sup>1</sup> See Y.U.N., 1960, p. 363.

"old" non-settled European refugees over a three-year period; and a \$1,400,000 current programme of complementary assistance drawn up with a view to contributing to the solution of new or hitherto unknown refugee problems as and when they should arise, and forestalling any fresh accumulation of destitute refugees.

In order to enable UNHCR to reach this exceptional financial target of \$6.8 million, it was necessary for the High Commissioner to appeal for special contributions from Governments, and also from other sources. As at 31 December 1963, special governmental contributions in an amount of \$1,116,000 had been paid or pledged towards the programme, and an amount of \$1,382,880 was allocated to the 1963 programme from private sources. Regular government contributions amounted to over \$3 million which, together with miscellaneous income and governmental and non-governmental promises, brought the total amount of funds anticipated at the end of 1963 towards the 1963 programme to \$6,668,822.

UNHCR assisted over 144,000 refugees in 1963. This number included some 65,000 European refugees, of whom more than 12,000 had been settled through local integration and 27,000 resettled in other countries. Approximately 80,000 refugees from Rwanda benefited from assistance towards their local settlement in Burundi, the Kivu Province of the Congo, Tanganyika and Uganda while a limited number of refugees from Angola and Cuba also received assistance to helping them in settling.

#### ASSISTANCE UNDER HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MANDATE

Thanks to the continued and concerted efforts of government authorities, other inter-governmental organizations and the voluntary agencies, a further 36,500 refugees were assisted in 1963 under the major aid programmes. Within this number, 10,649 were firmly settled, including some 9,729 through local integration and another 920 handicapped refugees through emigration, while some 1,200 refugees were settled through repatriation or spontaneous integration or naturalization. A further 40 camps were completely cleared of refugees, leaving, by 31 December 1963, 1,900 refugees still requiring assistance to leave camps.

#### VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT

During the period under review, a number of refugees returned to their countries of origin at their own request. UNHCR provided financial assistance for this purpose to some 150 refugees, of whom 135 had left for their country of origin by the end of 1963.

Of the refugees presumed to come within the mandate of UNHCR who were moved by the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) in 1963, 4,251 were resettled from Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Italy. In addition 1,112 "old" refugees, mostly physically or mentally handicapped in varying degrees, were resettled by migration in 1963. Of these, 920 received UNHCR financial assistance and 192 were accepted by immigration countries without financial grants. This group included over 500 refugees of European origin who were moved from the Far East, mainly to Australia, in conjunction with ICEM. Over 190 handicapped refugees were also resettled, mainly in Belgium and Sweden.

The survey of handicapped refugees, which had been started in 1962, was continued in 1963 and covered a total of 1,071 seriously handicapped refugees.

#### LOCAL INTEGRATION

During 1963, assistance towards local integration of refugees was carried out largely by the provision of housing, particularly in Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and Greece. The total number of housing units made available or planned, increased from 9,574 to 10,447, of which 8,708 were occupied by the end of 1963; 1,105 families moved into housing provided to them under the programme.

Assistance towards the rehabilitation and retraining of the handicapped was continued in 1963. Of the refugees in the handicapped category, 493 were enabled, in the course of 1963, to become partly self-supporting. Over 1,000 non-rehabilitable refugees were settled in their country of residence through placement in local institutions, or in accommodations where they could receive permanent medical care, or by being granted annuities.

SUPPLEMENTARY AID AND  
LEGAL ASSISTANCE

In 1963, \$19,017 was used to give supplementary aid to the most needy cases and over 1,400 refugees were so assisted.

Legal assistance was given to nearly 6,500 refugees at a cost of \$91,467. Nearly half the beneficiaries were in the Federal Republic of Germany and a sizeable number were in Iran. Refugees in Austria and in Latin America also benefited from this type of assistance. Legal aid in many cases helped refugees obtain benefits from certain pension rights or consolidate their positions in other ways and frequently obviated the need for other forms of material assistance.

ASSISTANCE TO NEW  
GROUPS OF REFUGEES

The current programme of complementary assistance (1963) was designed to enable the UNHCR to pursue the work of international assistance for refugees and adapt it to the requirements of the new problems of refugees which emerged in different parts of the world. The financial target of the current programme was \$1.4 million, of which roughly \$600,000 was allocated for assistance to European refugees, and \$800,000 for new groups of refugees.

## AID TO REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA

Following the completion of the programme to provide assistance in 1962 to the 150,000 refugees from Angola in the Congo (Leopoldville), limited assistance continued to be provided by voluntary agencies on an individual basis. In the course of 1963, the High Commissioner was able to give additional, but limited, support for assistance to Angolan refugees, mostly for medical care and educational assistance. The total of funds committed by UNHCR under the current programme for 1963 for assistance to refugees from Angola in the Congo (Leopoldville) amounted to \$44,911.

## AID TO REFUGEES FROM RWANDA

The most urgent new problem facing UNHCR during 1963 was that of the refugees from Rwanda. In February 1963, there were some 130,000 refugees from Rwanda in Burundi,

the North and Central Kivu provinces of the Congo (Leopoldville), Tanganyika and Uganda, of whom some 95,000 required further assistance towards their local settlement at that time.

Urgent requirements for food and medical care continued to be met and, at the same time, the refugees were given land, food and seeds to enable them to become self-supporting as rapidly as possible. Local settlement projects requiring UNHCR contributions in an amount of over \$900,000 were put into effect to this end with the co-operation of the local authorities, the League of Red Cross Societies and UNHCR. In the course of 1963, a total amount of \$3,169,000 was made available by Governments and voluntary agencies towards these programmes.

## REFUGEES IN TOGO

The programme for some 4,000 refugees in Togo, which consisted of a relief action followed by the resettlement of the refugees on the land and their establishment in crafts and trades, was successfully concluded in March 1963. The total cost to the High Commissioner's Office and its operational partner, the League of Red Cross Societies, amounted to \$60,000.

## CUBAN REFUGEES

The Office of the High Commissioner was also called upon to assist Cuban refugees towards their permanent settlement in countries where they had relatives or might obtain employment. In addition, arrangements were made with voluntary agencies to bring relief to these refugees, particularly in Spain. An amount of \$71,600 was contributed by UNHCR to projects for these refugees during 1963.

AID TO OTHER GROUPS  
OF REFUGEES

In the course of 1963 UNHCR continued, under the terms of the "good offices" resolutions, to channel contributions received from governmental and private sources and to make available resources from the Emergency Fund for assistance to various other groups of refugees in Africa, Asia and in Europe. A total of \$1.6

million was in this way made available by UNHCR for projects outside the programme, of which almost \$600,000 was committed for assistance to former Algerian refugees, approximately \$475,000 for assistance to Chinese refugees, \$200,000 for various groups of refugees in Europe, and \$56,000 for Tibetan refugees.

#### CONSIDERATION BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its thirty-sixth (mid-1963) session, the Economic and Social Council considered the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees covering the period from 1 April 1962 to 31 March 1963.

In resolution 965 A (XXXVI), adopted unanimously on 25 July 1963, the Council took note of the report prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees for transmission to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session later in 1963.

By resolution 965 B (XXXVI), adopted by 14 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions, the Council requested the General Assembly to enlarge the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner to 30 members. It decided to reconfirm the existing membership of the Committee for the duration of the High Commissioner's mandate and to elect the five additional members at its resumed thirty-sixth session in the event that the General Assembly approved its recommendation for enlargement. Resolution 965 B (XXXVI) was adopted by the Council on 25 July 1963 on the basis of a draft submitted by Jordan, as amended by the United States.

#### CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At the General Assembly's eighteenth session in 1963, the Report of the High Commissioner was referred to the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee.

During the debate, two draft resolutions were submitted in the Committee, dealing respectively with the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme and with the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

#### MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

The first of the proposals was sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Nigeria, Panama, Sweden and the United States. By the operative part of this text, the General Assembly would:

(1) enlarge the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to 30 members so as to achieve the widest possible geographical representation; and (2) request the Economic and Social Council to elect the 5 additional members of the Executive Committee during its resumed thirty-sixth session.

On 27 November 1963, the Third Committee unanimously adopted the seven-power text as a whole. It was approved at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, also unanimously, on 12 December, as resolution 1958(XVIII). (For complete text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

#### REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

A draft resolution on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees was put forward in the Third Committee by Colombia, the Congo (Leopoldville), Greece, Italy, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

By the operative part of their text, as revised to take into account amendments proposed by the United States and Syria, the Assembly would: (1) request the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to afford international protection to refugees and to pursue his efforts on behalf of the refugees within his mandate and on behalf of those to whom he extended his good offices by giving particular attention to new refugee groups in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme; (2) invite States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to continue to lend their support to the alleviation of the refugee problem: (a) by facilitating the voluntary repatriation, resettlement or local integration of refu-

gees (b) by improving the legal status of refugees residing in their territory, particularly in new refugee situations; (c) by providing the High Commissioner with the necessary financial means for the accomplishment of the tasks incumbent upon him and, in particular, by enabling him to reach the financial targets established with the approval of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme.

On 27 November 1963, the 14-power text was unanimously approved by the Committee, and adopted, also unanimously, by the Assembly at a plenary meeting on 12 December as resolution 1959(XVIII). (For complete text of resolution, See DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

#### FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

On 16 December 1963, at its resumed thirty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1958(XVIII), elected Algeria, Lebanon, Madagascar, Nigeria and Tanganyika to serve on the Executive Committee.

#### CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

As at 31 December 1963, 31 Governments had pledged or promised the equivalent of \$1,639,140 to finance the programmes of the High Commissioner's Office during 1964 (for details, see table below).

#### GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED OR PROMISED TO PROGRAMMES OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR 1964

(As at 31 December 1963; Equivalent of U.S. Dollars)

Governments	1964 Programme	Other Programmes	Total
Algeria	5,000	—	5,000
Australia	112,000	—	112,000
Austria	15,000	—	15,000
Belgium	150,000	50,000	200,000
Canada	268,519	—	268,519
China	5,000	—	5,000
Cyprus	560	—	560
Denmark	72,390	—	72,390
France	129,621	—	129,621
Germany	300,000	—	300,000
Ghana	3,000	—	3,000
Greece	10,000	—	10,000
Holy See	1,000	—	1,000
Iceland	5,750	—	5,750
Ireland	5,000	—	5,000
Israel	5,000	—	5,000
Luxembourg	3,000	—	3,000
Malaysia	1,000	—	1,000
Mali	1,500	—	1,500
Morocco	9,960	—	9,960
Netherlands	146,132	—	146,132
Nigeria	5,000	—	5,000
Norway	98,000	—	98,000
South Africa	12,500	12,500	25,000
Sweden	200,000	—	200,000
Togo	2,041	—	2,041
Tunisia	2,000	—	2,000
Turkey	2,667	—	2,667
Yugoslavia	5,000	—	5,000
Total	1,576,640	62,500	1,639,140

#### DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

ANNUAL REPORT OF  
HIGH COMMISSIONER  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—36TH SESSION  
Plenary Meeting 1296.

E/3777 (A/5511). Annual report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including report of 9th session of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's programme.

RESOLUTION 965 A (XXXVI), as proposed by Council President, adopted unanimously by Council on 25 July 1963, meeting 1296.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the annexed report of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on its ninth session,

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—18TH SESSION

Third Committee, meetings 1270-1272.

Plenary Meetings 1265, 1279.

A/5503. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter IX, section VI.

A/5511/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1. Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including reports of 9th and 10th sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

A/C.3/L.1179. Colombia, Congo (Leopoldville), Greece, Italy, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Uganda, United Kingdom: draft resolution, as orally modified by United States and Syria, adopted unanimously by Third Committee on 27 November 1963, meeting 1272.

A/5643. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

RESOLUTION 1959(XVIII), as recommended by Third Committee, A/5643, adopted unanimously by Assembly on 12 December 1963, meeting 1279.

"The General Assembly,

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

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

"Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the High Commissioner, in his various fields of activity, for groups of refugees for whom he lends his good offices,

"Recognizing the importance of an adequate assistance programme for the over-all effectiveness of the work of the High Commissioner,

"Commending the non-governmental organizations working for refugees for their untiring activity on behalf of refugees throughout the world,

"Noting with appreciation that since the seventeenth session of the General Assembly six more States have adhered to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, bringing to forty-two the number of States parties to the Convention;

"1. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to afford international protection to refugees and to pursue his efforts on behalf of the refugees within his mandate and of those to whom he extends his good offices, by giving particular attention to new refugee groups, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

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

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

"(b) By improving the legal status of refugees residing in their territory, particularly in new refugee situations, inter alia, by acceding as appropriate to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and by treating new refugee problems in accordance with the principles and the spirit of the Convention:

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

#### MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—36TH SESSION Plenary Meeting 1296.

E/L.1026. Jordan: draft resolution.

E/L.1027. United States: amendment to draft resolution submitted by Jordan, E/L.1026.

RESOLUTION 965 B (XXXVI), as proposed by Jordan

(E/L.1026) and as amended by United States (E/L.1027), adopted by Council on 25 July 1963, meeting 1296, by 14 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting that the General Assembly at its seventeenth session decided to continue the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a period of five years from January 1, 1964,

"Noting further that the review of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was postponed until the General Assembly had taken action on the future of the Office of the High Commissioner, but not later than 31 December 1963,

"Being aware of the increased interest of Member States in the work of this Office and the increase in the membership of the United Nations,

"1. Requests the General Assembly to amend resolution 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957 to enlarge the Executive Committee to thirty members;

"2. Decides:

"(a) To reconfirm the existing membership of the Committee for the duration of the High Commissioner's mandate, and

"(b) To elect at the resumed thirty-sixth session the five additional members of the Committee, in the event the General Assembly approves the Council's recommendation for enlargement."

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY—18TH SESSION Third Committee, meetings 1270-1272. Plenary Meetings 1265, 1279.

A/5503. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter XIII, Section VII.

A/C.3/L.1178 and Corr.1. Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Nigeria, Panama, Sudan, United States: draft resolution adopted unanimously by Third Committee on 27 November 1963, meeting 1272.

A/5643. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 1958(XVIII), as recommended by Third Committee, A/5643, adopted unanimously by Assembly on 12 December 1963, meeting 1279.

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 965 B (XXXVI) of 25 July 1963,

"Recalling its resolution 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957, which provided for the establishment of an Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to consist of representatives of from twenty to twenty-five States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies, to be elected by the Economic and Social Council on the widest possible geographical basis from those States with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of the refugee problem,

"Recalling its resolution 1783(XVII) of 7 December 1962 relating to the continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

"Noting that the Executive Committee has at present a membership of twenty-five,

"Bearing in mind the continued interest of Member States in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner and the increase in the membership of the United Nations,

"1. Decides to enlarge the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to thirty members so as to achieve the widest possible geographical representation;

"2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to elect the five additional members of the Executive Committee during its resumed thirty-sixth session."

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SESSION—RESUMED 36TH SESSION

Plenary Meeting 1307.

E/L.1043. Note by Secretary-General on the enlargement of membership of Executive Committee of

Programme of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

#### ELECTION OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—18TH SESSION  
Plenary Meeting 1265.

A/5608. Note by Secretary-General.

#### CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—18TH SESSION  
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole Assembly, 29 November 1963.

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/AC.96/202, A/AC.96/216. Lists of documents issued at 9th and 10th sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.