

CHAPTER XIX

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

Protection and assistance for refugees in more than 60 countries was provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during 1967. Developments in the work of international assistance to refugees in 1967 included: the adoption or coming into force of legal instruments relating to the protection of refugees; the consolidation of the settlement of refugees in several countries in Africa and convening of the Conference on the Legal, Economic and Social Aspects of African Refugee Problems at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in October 1967.

ACTIVITIES IN 1967

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Madagascar and Nigeria acceded during 1967 to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, bringing the number of States parties to the Convention to 53. The Protocol of 1967 relating to the Status of Refugees, which extended the personal scope of the 1951 Convention to cover persons who became refugees after 1 January 1951, entered into force on 4 October 1967 (after ratification by six States). Nine States ratified in 1967; they were Algeria, Argentina, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Gambia, the Holy See, Norway, Senegal and Sweden.

Other actions relating to the international protection of refugees included the adoption by the General Assembly, on 14 December 1967, of the Declaration on Territorial Asylum. This set forth three fundamental principles: non-expulsion, the granting of asylum as a peaceful and humanitarian act, and the concern of the international community for persons to whom asylum has been granted. (See pp. 758-61 for additional details and text of the Assembly's Declaration as contained in resolution 2312 (XVII)). A generous asylum policy continued to be followed by many countries throughout the world.

Close co-operation was continued with other inter-governmental organizations in the field of protection. The Organization of African Unity

(OAU) recommended, among other things, that the legal instrument concerning African refugees, which was in the course of preparation, should be so conceived as to be complementary to the 1951 Convention.

The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme adopted a recommendation that Governments should include the problems of refugees in their plans for the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights (1968), with emphasis being placed on the right of asylum and on the principle of non-expulsion, as well as on further accessions to legal instruments of benefit to refugees.

Further measures were taken by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to indemnify certain categories of victims of the national socialist régime.

MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

The UNHCR "current" programme¹ for 1967, which had a financial target of \$4,826,930, benefited some 240,000 refugees, mostly in Africa. In addition, supporting contributions were made available within countries where programmes were being put into effect, and trust funds earmarked for essential assistance projects were committed by UNHCR in an amount of \$601,560. Also, there was bilateral aid to certain countries of residence of refugees (estimated at several million dollars) and other items such as land made available free of cost, the value of which could not be accurately assessed.

As growing numbers of refugees settled in rural communities, educational assistance provided under the UNHCR education account played an increasing role, as did co-operation between UNHCR and other United Nations organizations with a view to consolidating the settlement of refugees on the land.

¹ The High Commissioner's Office provides aid for persons who have been refugees since World War II or before—"old" refugees—and "current" programmes for newly arriving refugees as well as others whose needs had not previously been met.

ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN REFUGEES

RWANDESE REFUGEES

The number of Rwandese refugees in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania remained at about 160,000. In Burundi, an interim project was implemented under the 1967 programme for the consolidation of the agricultural settlements at Kayongozi, Muramba, Kigamba and Mugeru. These settlements were located in an area to be included in a global development plan for eastern Burundi, to be put into effect by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In both Burundi and in the Kivu Province of the Congo, the economic and social situation of the refugees improved. The refugees were producing cash crops and making a positive contribution to the development of the settlement areas. The Rwandese refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda continued to make satisfactory progress towards self-sufficiency. In Uganda, a new settlement was established at Kyangwale during 1967.

SUDANESE REFUGEES

During 1967, the number of Sudanese refugees rose 115,000 to 121,000, including 21,000 in the Central African Republic, 40,000 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and some 60,000 in Uganda.

In the Central African Republic, the transfer of some 26,000 refugees from Banbouti near the Sudanese frontier to M'boki further inland was started; about 9,500 were moved and began to settle on the land. The emergency relief programme started by UNHCR for those in the Congo had to be interrupted in view of conditions in the area. A mission was to investigate the situation of the refugees as soon as possible. Some 11,000 of the 60,000 Sudanese in Uganda were assisted in settling in agriculture.

REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES

REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA

At the end of 1967, the number of Angolan refugees had increased to an estimated figure of over 350,000, nearly all of them in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where a small number benefited from UNHCR projects for

vocational and agricultural training as well as medical aid. In Zambia, some 3,500 Angolan refugees in the settlements of Mayukwayukwa and Lwatembo progressed towards self-sufficiency.

REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE GUINEA

Approximately 57,000 refugees from Portuguese Guinea in the Casamance Province of Senegal benefited from UNHCR assistance with a view to their settlement in agriculture. Their integration in villages among their kinsfolk was making progress.

REFUGEES FROM MOZAMBIQUE

The number of refugees from Mozambique rose to 27,750. The settlement of some 24,000 of them on the land in Rutamba, Muhukuru and Lundo (United Republic of Tanzania) was progressing and the difficulties caused by the remote location of Lundo were overcome through the building of a road to M'bamba Bay. The 2,000 Mozambiquan refugees in Nvimba (Zambia) were not expected to require UNHCR assistance after June 1968.

REFUGEES FROM DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In Zambia, 2,500 new Congolese refugees arrived in 1967; 1,700 arrived in the Central African Republic. On the other hand, a number of those who had previously sought refuge in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania returned to their home country—some with assistance from UNHCR. The total number of Congolese refugees at the end of 1967 was estimated at 79,000. A certain number benefited from assistance under the UNHCR emergency fund and some 2,000 established themselves on the land in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda through UNHCR projects.

REFUGEES FROM ETHIOPIA

The approximately 28,600 refugees from Ethiopia who had arrived in the Sudan early in 1967 benefited from the UNHCR emergency fund pending the implementation of a project for their settlement on the land in a suitable area.

OTHER AFRICAN REFUGEES

In addition, there were over 2,000 individual refugees from other countries in Africa, many of whom lived in urban areas. A UNHCR counselling project was put into effect for the latter group. Some refugees benefited from the United Nations special educational and training programmes; a few of them were resettled through UNHCR assistance in other countries in Africa. Also, some 300 Manga Arabs received educational assistance after they left for the Trucial States.

ASSISTANCE TO EUROPEAN REFUGEES

The last remaining projects for "old" European refugees,² mainly for housing in Greece, were expected to be nearing completion during 1968.

New European refugees numbered 5,500 in addition to several thousand new arrivals from North Africa and the Middle East. Most of them found a solution to their problems either through local integration or through resettlement. Further progress was made in several European countries with a view to transferring responsibility for assistance to refugees from UNHCR to the local authorities and voluntary agencies.

The resettlement of over 6,700 European refugees was promoted, financed or co-financed in co-operation with the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), voluntary agencies and the countries of resettlement. Some 2,600 European refugees were assisted in local integration in the country of residence.

The Office continued its efforts to find new homes for the remaining 212 severely handicapped refugees in Austria, Germany and Italy. Following an appeal from the High Commissioner, 94 such refugees were admitted to other countries, where they were given suitable care and an opportunity to become rehabilitated. Handicapped refugees in Latin America continued to benefit from UNHCR projects for their placement in homes or institutions. A number of European refugees in the Middle East also benefited from UNHCR assistance. A further 50 refugees of European origin were resettled from the Far East in 1967, leaving 1,084 still on the mainland of China.

ASSISTANCE TO OTHER GROUPS OF REFUGEES

In Macao, where the number of Chinese refugees remained in the region of 75,000, work on projects was continued in spite of local difficulties. As in previous years, Chinese refugees in Hong Kong were assisted by local authorities.

The number of non-European refugees in Spain rose from approximately 15,500 to 17,000. However, improved facilities for their admission to the United States brought about a considerable increase in the resettlement of these refugees.

In Nepal, where the Tibetan refugees numbered about 7,000, the UNHCR settlement schemes in Kathmandu, Pokhara Pardi and Chialsa were either completed or nearing completion at the end of 1967. The UNHCR programme, which included housing, vocational training, schooling and medical care, was carried out in co-operation with the local authorities, the Nepal Red Cross Society, the Swiss Association for Technical Assistance and various voluntary agencies.

In India, Sikkim and Bhutan, the co-operative efforts of the Government and of the Central Relief Committee of India for assistance to some 50,000 Tibetan refugees were aided by the funds made available from the proceeds of the European Refugee Campaign conducted in 1966.

DECISIONS BY ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

At its mid-1967 session, the Economic and Social Council considered the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees covering the period from 1 April 1966 to 31 March 1967. On 1 August 1967, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution (1253(XLIII)) taking note with appreciation of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session, later in 1967. By this resolution the Council also endorsed a recommendation adopted by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to the effect that the High Commissioner be

² See footnote 1 above.

invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the UNDP. The Council's resolution was based on a proposal sponsored by Dahomey, Iran, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Venezuela. (For text, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES **below**.)

ENLARGEMENT OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On 18 December 1967, the Economic and Social Council unanimously adopted a resolution (1288(XLIII)), on the proposal of the United Republic of Tanzania, enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by the addition of one African State. Uganda was elected to fill this place. The General Assembly had requested the Council to take this action by the terms of its resolution 2294(XXII) adopted on 11 December 1967. (See below.)

DECISIONS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Various matters pertaining to the question of assistance to refugees were discussed later in 1967 at the General Assembly's twenty-third session.

In adopting a resolution arising from consideration of the annual report of the High Commissioner, the Assembly, among other things, decided to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1969. It also urged Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to consider increasing their annual voluntary contributions for the High Commissioner's programme and invited those Member States which had not yet done so to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to the 1967 Protocol to the Convention.

In addition, the Assembly adopted a Declaration on Territorial Asylum (see pp. 758-61) and also a resolution on the consolidation and integration of the special educational and training programmes for South West Africa, the special training programme for territories under Portuguese administration and the United Nations education and training programme for

South Africans abroad. (See pages 641-43 and 649-50.)

CONTINUATION OF OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Assembly's resolution continuing the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was approved on 14 December 1967 at a plenary meeting of the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, and on the basis of a proposal submitted by the following 23 Members: Algeria, Austria, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta and Yugoslavia. The Third Committee's text included an amendment proposed by Uganda with a view to enlarging the size of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme so that it would have at least one additional African State.

By the operative part of the resolution, the Assembly: (1) decided to continue the Office of the High Commissioner for a further period of five years from 1 January 1969; (2) requested the High Commissioner to pursue his activities of protection and assistance and to continue to make every possible effort to facilitate the repatriation, local integration or resettlement on a voluntary basis of the refugees who were his concern, bearing in mind the ever-increasing number of refugees in Africa; (3) invited the High Commissioner to continue to report to and be guided by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme with regard to refugee situations, in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference; (4) decided that the High Commissioner be invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the UNDP and to participate in the preparatory work of the second United Nations Development Decade; (5) urged Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to lend their support to the humanitarian task of the Office of the High Commissioner and to consider increasing their annual voluntary contributions to the High Commissioner's Programme; (6) further invited

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

481

those Member States which had not yet done so to accede to the 1951 Convention and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees; (7) further requested the Economic and Social Council to consider as soon as possible the advisability of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme in order to give at least one additional African country the possibility of participating in the work of the Committee; (8) decided to review, not later than at its 1972 session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1973.

On 22 November 1967, the Third Committee approved the text to this effect by 77 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions. On 11 December 1967, it was adopted at a plenary meeting of the Assembly by 96 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions, as resolution 2294(XXII). (For text, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PAID,
PLEGGED OR CONDITIONALLY PLEGGED TO
PROGRAMMES OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR 1968
(As of 31 March 1968, in U.S. dollars)

Government	Amount
Australia	150,000
Austria	24,000
Belgium	180,000

Government	Amount
Botswana	500
Canada	324,074
China	7,500
Colombia	1,000
Denmark	125,333
Finland	40,000
France	389,242
Gabon	1,020
Germany, Federal Republic of	325,000
Ghana	3,000
Greece	13,000
Holy See	2,500
Iceland	4,333
India	2,000
Iran	5,000
Ireland	7,500
Israel	7,500
Italy	3,000
Libya	3,000
Luxembourg	3,000
Madagascar	1,020
Malawi	360
Malaysia	1,000
Morocco	9,960
Netherlands	146,945
Norway	175,737
Philippines	1,250
Sweden	250,000
Switzerland	155,093
Tunisia	2,500
Turkey	5,000
United States	600,000
Venezuela	4,000
Yugoslavia	10,000
Total	2,984,367

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

DECISIONS OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—43RD SESSION
Plenary Meeting 1501, 1514.

ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

E/4390 and Corr.1,2 and Add.1,2. Annual Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

E/L.1176. Dahomey, Sweden, United Kingdom, Venezuela: draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 1253(XLIII), as proposed by 4 powers, E/L.1176, and co-sponsored orally by Iran, adopted unanimously by Council on 1 August 1967, meeting 1501.

"The Economic and Social Council,

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

of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions,

"Having considered in particular paragraphs 17 and 21 of the High Commissioner's report, concerning inter-agency co-operation,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session;

"2. Endorses the recommendation adopted by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, referred to in paragraph 21 of the High Commissioner's report to the effect that the High Commissioner be invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme."

ENLARGEMENT OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
E/4445. Request from United Republic of Tanzania for inclusion in agenda of item entitled: "Expansion

by one of the African membership of the Executive Committee of the Office of the UNHCR." Note by Secretary-General.

E/L.1197. United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 1288(XXII), as proposed by United Republic of Tanzania, E/L.1197, adopted unanimously by Economic and Social Council on 18 December 1967, meeting 1514.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Conscious of the heavy burden which devolves upon African countries owing to the intensification of the refugee problem,

"Mindful of the exhortation to the Council included in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2294(XXII) of 11 December 1967,

"Decides to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by one African State."

DECISIONS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—22ND SESSION
Third Committee, meetings 1519-1523.
Plenary Meeting 1625.

A/6703 and Corr.1. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter XIV, Section I.

A/6711 and Add.1. Report of UNHCR, including reports of 17th and 18th sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

A/6801. Question of continuation of Office of UNHCR. Note by Secretary-General.

A/C.3/L.1493. Algeria, Austria, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1. Algeria, Austria, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica (orally), Dominican Republic, Guinea, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia: revised draft resolution, as amended by Uganda, A/C.3/L.1494/Rev.1, adopted by Third Committee on 22 November 1967, meeting 1422, by 77 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

A/C.3/L.1494 and Rev.1. Uganda: amendment to 20-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1493, and revised amendment to 23-power revised draft resolution, A/C.3/L.1493/Rev.1.

A/C.3/L.1498. Statements by UNHCR, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, on 20 and 22 November 1967, meetings 1519 and 1522.

A/6936. Report of Third Committee.

RESOLUTION 2294 (XXII) as proposed by Third Com-

mittee, A/6936, adopted by Assembly on 11 December 1967, meeting 1625, by 96 votes to 0, with 11 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

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

"Recalling its resolution 1783 (XVII) of 7 December 1962, in which it decided to review, not later than at its twenty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1968,

"Concerned at the ever-increasing number of refugees, particularly in Africa,

"Recognizing the continuing need for international action on behalf of refugees,

"Considering the valuable work which has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner in providing international protection for refugees and in promoting permanent solutions for their problems, with the joint participation of Governments, international organizations and voluntary agencies,

"Commending the High Commissioner for the efforts he has made in finding satisfactory solutions of problems affecting groups of refugees who are his concern,

"Taking note of the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1253 (XLIII) of 1 August 1967 to the effect that the High Commissioner be invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme,

"Noting further the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme inviting the High Commissioner to participate in the inter-agency activities and in the concerted efforts made by the United Nations organs to attain the goals of the United Nations Development Decade,

"Expressing its concern at the difficulties with which the High Commissioner is faced in financing his programme of assistance,

"1. Decides to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1969;

"2. Requests the High Commissioner to pursue his activities of protection and assistance and to continue to make every possible effort to facilitate the repatriation, local integration or resettlement on a voluntary basis of the refugees who are his concern, bearing in mind the ever-increasing number of refugees in Africa;

"3. Invites the High Commissioner to continue to report to and be guided by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme with regard to refugee situations, in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference;

"4. Decides that the High Commissioner be invited to attend the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme and to participate in the preparatory work of the second United Nations development decade;

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

483

"5. Urges States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to lend their support to the humanitarian task of the Office of the High Commissioner and to consider increasing their annual voluntary contributions to the High Commissioner's Programme;

"6. Further invites those Member States which have not yet done so to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to the 1967 Protocol to the Convention;

"7. Further requests the Economic and Social Council to consider as soon as possible the advisability of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, in order to give at least one additional African country the possibility of participating in the work of the Committee;

"8. Decides to review, not later than at its twenty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1973."

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—22ND SESSION

Ad Hoc Committee of General Assembly for Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to Programme of UNHCR, Meeting 1.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/AC.96/372; A/AC.96/388. Lists of documents issued at 17th and 18th sessions of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.