

Refugees

Continued preoccupation with the plight of the growing world-wide population of refugees and displaced persons was reflected in a number of actions taken by major United Nations organs in 1981, requesting the international community and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide both immediate and long-term assistance.

In 1981, UNHCR received the Nobel Peace Prize for the second time, and the accompanying cash award helped establish a Trust Fund for Handicapped Refugees. Other UNHCR contributions to the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons (p. 795) included an August appeal to a number of countries to accept a large number of disabled refugees.

Total UNHCR programme expenditures in over 60 countries dropped from the 1980 level of almost \$500 million to \$474 million in 1981. More than one fifth of this amount was used to provide basic needs to over 2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. International attention focused on the situation of refugees in Africa, estimated to number some 5 million, when the ministerial-level International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA)

(Geneva, 9 and 10 April) drew pledges of contributions in cash and kind amounting to some \$567 million (p. 1039).

In South-East Asia, over 230,000 Indo-Chinese refugees still awaited a durable solution despite the overall caseload reduction due to massive resettlement. Refugees in Latin America numbered 280,000, and the tense and volatile refugee situation in Central America called for increased UNHCR presence and action. Europe had an estimated refugee population of 589,200 at year's end. In addition to its ongoing humanitarian activities, UNHCR assisted a number of countries in Africa and in South-East Asia in their programmes of voluntary repatriation or departure.

The activities of UNHCR from 1 April 1980 to 31 March 1981⁽¹⁾ and in the remainder of 1982⁽²⁾ were described in annual reports of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly.

At its October session, the Executive Commit-

tee of the High Commissioner's Programme⁽³⁾ expressed concern over the increasing number of refugees in northern Latin America, Pakistan, Iran, Angola and Zaire; noted with approval the High Commissioner's regional approach in the Horn of Africa and the Sudan; reaffirmed the importance of international protection and non-refoulement; called for burden-sharing; and urged Governments to seek removal of the root causes of large-scale movements (p. 1050).

In one of a series of December resolutions, the General Assembly urged UNHCR to provide humanitarian assistance to the vastly increased numbers of refugees, and called on the international community to share the burden of assisting refugees and displaced persons, taking into account the economic and demographic absorptive capacity of the countries concerned.⁽⁸⁾

Noting with concern the continuing massive flows of refugees (p. 965) and their implications for international peace and security, the Assembly established a 17-member Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees to undertake a comprehensive review of the problem, with a view to developing recommendations and reporting to the Assembly in 1982.⁽⁹⁾

In four resolutions, the Assembly called for continued international and UNHCR assistance to meet the needs of refugees or displaced persons in Djibouti,⁽¹¹⁾ Ethiopia,⁽¹³⁾ Somalia⁽¹⁰⁾ and in the Sudan.⁽¹²⁾ In May, the Economic and Social Council called for international assistance to Djibouti,⁽⁴⁾ Ethiopia⁽⁶⁾ and Somalia⁽⁵⁾.

The Assembly invited the three ICARA sponsors to ensure that the funds pledged at the Conference were channelled to priority projects, and requested the Secretary-General to keep the African refugee situation under close scrutiny so as to facilitate Assembly consideration of the need to convene a follow-up conference in 1983.⁽⁷⁾

On the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to complete the current joint review of the financing of UNHCR administrative costs with a view to establishing a proper basis for their financing.⁽¹⁴⁾

Reports: UNHCR, ⁽¹⁾A/36/12, ⁽²⁾A/37/12; ⁽³⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Resolutions: ESC: ⁽⁴⁾1981/4, 4 May (p. 1043); ⁽⁵⁾1981/31 (p. 1048), ⁽⁶⁾1981/32 (p. 1045), 6 May. GA: ⁽⁷⁾36/124 (p. 1041), ⁽⁸⁾36/125 (p. 1031), 14 Dec.; ⁽⁹⁾36/148 (p. 1053), ⁽¹⁰⁾36/153 (p. 1048), ⁽¹¹⁾36/156 (p. 1043) ⁽¹²⁾36/158 (p. 1050) ⁽¹³⁾36/161 (p. 1046), 16 Dec.; ⁽¹⁴⁾36/235, sect. XIII, 18 Dec. (p. 1037).

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UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR activities

In 1981, UNHCR saw a relentless progression in the magnitude and complexity of the refugee problem, which required intensive and sustained efforts to provide for both immediate needs and long-term solutions.^(*)

Of some \$474 million spent during the year on refugee assistance in over 60 countries, ⁽²⁾\$109.5 million went towards provision of basic needs to over 2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. UNHCR assisted a number of countries in Africa and in South-East Asia in their programmes of voluntary repatriation or departure, in addition to its ongoing humanitarian assistance activities. In South-East Asia, over 230,000 Indo-Chinese refugees still awaited a durable solution, despite the departure of 120,000 persons primarily to North America and Europe, which raised the total resettlement figure since 1977 to over 700,000. In Central America, the refugee situation remained tense and volatile, requiring increased UNHCR presence and action. New outflows of refugees in Europe called for UNHCR involvement on that continent on a slightly larger scale than usual, and the High Commissioner continued to act as Co-ordinator of United Nations Humanitarian Assistance for Cyprus (p. 1033).

As part of its contribution to the International Year of Disabled Persons (p. 795), UNHCR took steps to identify physically and mentally disabled refugees on a systematic basis, and launched in August a special appeal to a number of countries to give particular consideration to accepting a large number of disabled refugees.

The efforts of UNHCR were recognized by its receipt in December of the Nobel Peace Prize for the second time in history, and the 1 million Swedish kronor (\$184,162) attached to the Prize was used to establish a Trust Fund for Handicapped Refugees.

Introducing his annual report in the General Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee on 16 November, High Commissioner Poul Hartling said refugee protec-

tion continued to demand a sustained and alert response at all times. He reported achievement of durable solutions and stressed that, while the international community must continue to give priority to the root causes of the refugee problem, it should do so in the appropriate forums, leaving the humanitarian character of UNHCR unscathed. In addition to co-sponsoring ICARA (p. 1039), other accomplishments of UNHCR during the year included a consultation meeting (Geneva, 20-22 May) with 130 non-governmental organizations to enhance co-operation; completion of a provisional version of a Handbook for Emergencies, designed to improve the UNHCR emergency capacity by ensuring the use of experience gained in crises; and introduction of a project management system for project planning, financial monitoring and programme evaluation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION. At its 1981 (thirty-second) session, held at Geneva from 12 to 21 October, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme⁽³⁾ adopted a series of decisions. Among them, it expressed concern over the increasing number of refugees in northern Latin America, Pakistan, Iran, Angola and Zaire; noted with approval the High Commissioner's regional approach in the Horn of Africa and the Sudan in dealing with the refugee problems in that area; and urged him to continue providing urgent humanitarian assistance to those refugees. It also urged the international community to continue its support to UNHCR assistance programmes, commended the High Commissioner for promoting the search for durable solutions, reaffirmed the purely humanitarian character of the High Commissioner's activities for the benefit of refugees and displaced persons of concern to UNHCR, and urged co-ordination of emergency humanitarian assistance activities among UNHCR and other United Nations bodies.

In addition to endorsing the recommendations of its Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection (p. 1054), the Executive Committee adopted a number of decisions concerning staffing, managerial, organizational and budgetary matters, and generally endorsed the High Commissioner's staffing proposals for 1981-1982 and his recommendations on strengthening the senior management level (p. 1038). These decisions were based on recommendations of the newly established Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters, whose terms of reference were fixed by the Committee in October.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION. On 23 July 1981, the Economic and Social Council, on an oral proposal by its President, decided without vote to transmit, without debate, the

UNHCR annual report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth (1981) session.⁽⁵⁾

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. By a resolution adopted without vote on 14 December,⁽⁴⁾ the Assembly called on the international community to share the burden of assisting refugees and displaced persons, taking into account the economic and demographic absorptive capacity of the countries concerned; noted with concern the serious humanitarian problems resulting from armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements of concern to UNHCR; and urged Governments to join in greater international efforts for suppression of piracy on the high seas and to make generous contributions to UNHCR.

It urged the High Commissioner to provide humanitarian assistance to the vastly increased numbers of refugees in various regions, reaffirmed his leading responsibility in emergency refugee situations, commended him for his efforts on behalf of disabled refugees on the occasion of the International Year of Disabled Persons, urged him to explore arrangements to facilitate the disembarkation and resettlement of asylum seekers rescued at sea, and requested his continued participation in the ICARA follow-up.

The Assembly also took note of the High Commissioner's proposals on strengthening management and welcomed his intention to seek the assistance of the Secretariat's Administrative Management Service in undertaking a review of UNHCR managerial methods and organizational structure (p. 1038).

The Assembly's Third Committee had approved without vote on 24 November the 32-nation text, introduced by Norway. Before approval, the text was orally revised by the sponsors to add the phrase "taking into account the economic and demographic absorptive capacity of the host countries" in paragraph 3 on burden-sharing; Ethiopia further amended this phrase to replace "host countries" with "countries concerned". By other revisions, the Assembly urged Governments, in paragraph 6, "to join in greater international efforts in the suppression" of piracy on the high seas, rather than to co-operate in repression of piracy; and urged the High Commissioner, in paragraph 13, to explore arrangements to facilitate not only the disembarkation but also the "resettlement" of asylum seekers rescued at sea.

In the Committee's debate on the High Commissioner's report, a number of speakers estimated the world refugee population at between 10 and 12 million, and Finland said more than 10 million people were of UNHCR concern.

UNHCR efforts for humanitarian assistance were commended by many, among them Austria, China, Denmark, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Finland,

the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Spain, Turkey and Viet Nam. Malaysia and the United States urged sustained international support of UNHCR activities, Zaire called for concerted global action, and Lebanon and Yugoslavia termed the refugee problem universal.

Yugoslavia commended as timely and useful the UNHCR contribution to the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) and the International Year of Disabled Persons (1981).

Belgium believed the High Commissioner should encourage States to help refugees acquire new nationalities, as had been done by the United Republic of Tanzania, and endeavour to persuade States which had made their accession to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (p. 1055) subject to reservations, to withdraw them progressively.

The idea of international responsibility and burden-sharing in refugee assistance was voiced by many, including Australia, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan; Canada, Denmark and France, in particular, called for greater and fairer burden-sharing. Argentina observed that entire regions were taking no part in the solution of the problem, and Chile regretted that some countries were not contributing adequately to UNHCR activities. For Pakistan, the nations that had refused to assist refugees by removing the root causes of the problems or through international humanitarian efforts had forfeited their right to talk of their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations.

While Italy expressed concern about the decrease in the UNHCR budget for 1981-1982, Pakistan urged the international community to provide the Office with adequate financial and material resources. Sierra Leone appealed to countries which tended to earmark their contributions to leave it up to the High Commissioner to decide on the funds' best use. France said it was important to provide the donor Governments with regular and detailed information on budgetary matters.

Many expressed support for the proposed review of managerial and operational methods of UNHCR, among them Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Sudan and Turkey. The Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland and New Zealand supported the High Commissioner's proposal to strengthen management. The Sudan considered the expansion of administrative capacity necessary and welcomed the staffing proposal. Lebanon supported the new recruitment policy for achieving the widest geographical representation. Canada and Denmark welcomed the estab-

lishment of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters (p. 1035), and Finland urged that body to concentrate on those matters and not depend solely on its 1981 operational experiences which, it said, were exceptional in many ways.

For France, what was needed to co-ordinate the humanitarian activities of the United Nations was not the creation of a new body but the establishment of flexible mechanisms at the international level and on the scene to deal with emergency situations.

Several speakers, including Argentina, the Central African Republic, Oman, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Somalia and the United States, spoke of the burden borne by the asylum countries. China expressed sympathy and respect, and Ireland commended those countries.

In view of that burden, the Netherlands believed that material assistance to refugees should be integrated into the ongoing structural development programmes of the host countries. Agreeing with Lebanon that the UNHCR programme had expanded to cover not only emergency material relief but also quasi-developmental or socio-economic assistance components, Italy said that necessitated a programme examination and consideration of the possibility of entrusting to others within the United Nations system the task of seeking the most appropriate solutions. Ethiopia asserted that, while special consideration was sometimes necessary as regards the burden borne by some asylum countries, UNHCR should be critical in its approach so as not to perpetuate the problem; the growing tendency towards formulating approaches to assistance programmes for refugees on the basis of misplaced emphasis should be reversed, by obtaining accurate data through UNHCR machinery.

For Chad, it was the countries of origin that deserved assistance.

Liberia noted with interest that a working group of the Organization of African Unity and UNHCR, established in 1980, was conducting an examination of questions relating to the legal protection of refugees in Africa. Belgium, which saw a need for a proper international law on refugees, wondered whether giving the term "refugee" a broader meaning in Africa than in the rest of the world was a good legal practice and whether it might not be preferable for the concordance of the definitions of the term to be studied by a group of legal experts. Mexico asserted that the concepts applicable to persons seeking asylum, to refugees or to displaced persons were often confused or loosely used. For Australia, the search for lasting solutions must focus primarily on the problem of genuine refugees and not on

those who might more accurately be described as migrants. Argentina considered it important to ensure that the aid provided did not become an incentive for people to leave their countries for purely economic reasons. Afghanistan and Viet Nam spoke of abuse and misuse of humanitarian aid given for refugees, and opposed aiding those who conducted political and subversive activities.

Denmark, Liberia and Sierra Leone considered that international assistance should be aimed at providing subsistence for the refugees and helping them achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Along with Belgium, which considered international protection of refugees as one of the essential tasks of the international community, New Zealand supported the High Commissioner's efforts to ensure refugees' physical safety; Chile and Denmark welcomed the decision to convene a working group to study the problems arising from the rescue, disembarkation and resettlement of "boat people".

The Federal Republic of Germany welcomed the close contacts between UNHCR and Member States as well as the improvement in the Executive Committee's consultative machinery, while Cyprus welcomed active UNHCR collaboration with other United Nations agencies and inter-governmental organizations. Noting the central co-ordinating role the High Commissioner played in emergency refugee situations, Australia urged others in the United Nations system to co-operate. Denmark was pleased with the close co-operation between UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations. Australia commended voluntary groups which provided humanitarian assistance.

While reaffirming the humanitarian and non-political mandate of UNHCR, many, including Australia, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Nigeria, stressed the need for the international community to explore the root causes of the refugee question (p. 1050). China also pointed to the need for humanitarian assistance as well as a political solution. Thailand considered it essential to continue seeking durable political solutions.

Voluntary repatriation was considered by Bangladesh as the most effective solution to the refugee problem, by Belgium as durable though not perfect, and by Zaire as ideal. Denmark noted the success of voluntary repatriation programmes, while Japan welcomed programmes of orderly departure and repatriation. Supporting voluntary repatriation as the best solution, New Zealand none the less recognized the principle of burden-sharing where that solution was not

feasible. For Lebanon, permanent settlement and local integration of refugees were unacceptable measures that put the right of repatriation in jeopardy. Lebanon therefore had reservations regarding reference in the High Commissioner's report to local integration and resettlement possibilities, and provision of assistance to that end, for the refugees in that country.

Reports: UNHCR, ⁽¹⁾A/36/12, ⁽²⁾A/37/12; ⁽³⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Resolution and decision: Res.: ⁽⁴⁾GA, 36/125, 14 Dec., text following. Dec.: ⁽⁵⁾ESC, 1981/186, 23 July, text following.

Meeting records: ESC: plenary, E/1981/SR.40 (23 July). GA: 3rd Committee, A/C.3/36/SR.50, 52-55, 60 (16-24 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.97 (14 Dec.).

Economic and Social Council decision 1981/186

Adopted without vote

Oral proposal by Council President.

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 1981, the Council decided to transmit, without debate, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

General Assembly resolution 36/125

Adopted without vote Meeting 97 14 December 1981

Approved by Third Committee (A/36/725) without vote, 24 November (meeting 60); 32-nation draft, A/C.3/36/L.58/Rev.1, orally amended by Ethiopia and orally revised; agenda item 83 (a).

Sponsors: Australia, Austria, Barbados, Botswana, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Portugal, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand.

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office, as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-second session, and having heard the High Commissioner's statement.

Recalling its resolutions 35/41 A and B and 35/42 of 25 November 1980,

Expressing deep concern at the persistence and gravity of the problems of refugees and displaced persons in the world, particularly in different parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe,

Noting with great appreciation the positive responses of Governments to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner through offers of asylum, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation and financial contributions, as well as the generous support given to the Office of the High Commissioner in its humanitarian task,

Reaffirming the eminently humanitarian and non-political character of the activity of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Extending its Congratulations to the Office of the High Commissioner for the award of the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work for refugees,

Considering the continuing and urgent need for a substantial International effort to promote durable solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner through voluntary repatriation or return and resettlement, drawing particular attention to women and children refugees, and disabled and elderly refugees,

Noting with satisfaction that a growing number of States have acceded to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,

Noting with great concern that, despite an increasingly broad understanding of the principles of international protection, refugees still encounter serious difficulties in many parts of the world in obtaining asylum and that they are exposed to the threat of refoulement, arbitrary detention and physical violence,

Deploring, in particular, the instances of military attacks on refugee camps in southern Africa and elsewhere and physical attacks on asylum seekers at sea,

Drawing attention, to the problem of refugees rescued at sea and the difficulties encountered for their disembarkation, involving threats of refoulement,

We/coming the success achieved by the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981, as a first step in arousing world-wide interest and support for refugees in Africa,

1. Commends the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the manner in which they have continued to discharge their responsibilities for protecting and assisting refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office;

2. Takes due note of the proposals made by the High Commissioner and generally endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner to strengthen the management of his Office on the basis of the principles and guidelines of the General Assembly, and welcomes his intention to seek the assistance of the Administrative Management Service of the Secretariat in undertaking expeditiously a review of the managerial methods and organizational structure of his Office, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. Calls upon the international community to share the burden of assisting refugees and displaced persons the world over, taking into account the economic and demographic absorptive capacity of the countries concerned;

4. Reaffirms the fundamental nature of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection to refugees and the importance of promoting durable and speedy solutions, in consultation and agreement with the countries concerned, through voluntary repatriation or return and subsequent assistance in rehabilitation and, whenever appropriate, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;

5. Urges Governments to intensify their support for activities which the High Commissioner is carrying out in accordance with his mandate and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, especially by:

(a) Facilitating the High Commissioner's efforts in the field of international protection, in particular by scrupulously observing the principle of asylum and non-refoulement and by protecting asylum seekers in situations of large-scale influx, as endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-second session;

(b) Supporting his efforts to promote, in co-operation with Governments, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, durable and speedy solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office;

6. Urges Governments to join in greater international efforts in the suppression of piracy on the high seas, in accordance with their international obligations, and to take appropriate action to protect asylum seekers from acts of violence at sea;

7. Notes with great concern the serious humanitarian problems resulting from armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements which are the concern of the High Commissioner, and the need for special measures to protect and ensure the safety of such refugees;

8. We/comes the measures taken to implement the recommendations on the subject of assistance to women refugees

and displaced women of concern to the High Commissioner in the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1960;

9. Commends the High Commissioner for his special efforts on behalf of disabled refugees on the occasion of the International Year of Disabled Persons;

10. Requests the High Commissioner to continue participating in the follow-up of the international Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and urges the international community to maintain the momentum gained by the Conference in providing assistance to refugees in Africa commensurate with the growing number of African refugees;

11. Urges the High Commissioner to provide humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of the vastly increased numbers of refugees in various regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe;

12. Stresses the importance of maintaining the relief efforts and the resettlement momentum for boat and land cases in South-East Asia, including the Programme of Orderly Departure, and urges all Governments to provide opportunities for durable solutions to these refugees;

13. Urges the High Commissioner further to explore the elaboration of arrangements in order to facilitate the disembarkation and resettlement of asylum seekers rescued at sea;

14. Reaffirms the High Commissioner's leading responsibility in emergency situations regarding refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office as well as his responsibility in the co-ordination of assistance in those situations and commends him for the considerable progress made in the elaboration of adequate procedures to meet emergency situations, in co-ordination with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

15. Requests the High Commissioner, while carrying out his responsibilities, to co-ordinate and co-operate closely with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system for greatest efficiency of relief in the case of major emergencies;

16. Urges all Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously in order to provide the High Commissioner with the necessary means to attain the objectives of his humanitarian programme.

Assistance to refugees

Africa. In 1981, African countries remained the haven for some 5 million refugees and displaced persons. In the Horn of Africa and the Sudan, the situation was aggravated by natural disasters in Somalia (p. 1046), limited possibilities for durable solutions in Djibouti (p. 1042) and large numbers of new refugee arrivals in the Sudan (p. 1049). The commencement in June 1981 of a programme of voluntary repatriation to Chad, arranged by UNHCR at the request of the Secretary-General, and a July proclamation of amnesty by the Government of Chad drew an immediate response, as demonstrated by a decline in the number of Chadian refugees in the United Republic of Cameroon from 110,000 in 1980 to 25,000 in 1981: Of a total of 150,000 returnees, some 66,000 were assisted by UNHCR.

The 1981 UNHCR expenditures in Africa totalled over \$111 million under General Programmes and \$55 million under Special Programmes. Of this amount, over \$97 million was spent to promote local settlement of refugees.

The ministerial-level ICARA (Geneva, 9 and 10 April) drew pledges of contributions in cash and kind amounting to some \$566.6 million (p. 1039).

In October, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme⁽¹⁾ welcomed the successful conclusion of the United Nations humanitarian assistance programme, co-ordinated by UNHCR, for the initial settlement and rehabilitation of returnees and displaced persons in Zimbabwe. Almost all the 111 refugees remaining in Zimbabwe at year's end were South Africans.

The following countries were known to host refugees and displaced persons (breakdown by origin of the 1981 refugee population, where available, is given in parentheses): Algeria (150,000 Sahrawis, 2,000 others of various origin); Angola (70,000 Namibians, 18,000 Zairians, 5,000 South Africans); Botswana. (1,300 Angolans, South Africans and Namibians); Burundi (234,600); Djibouti (31,600, mostly Ethiopians); Egypt (5,500); Kenya (3,400, mainly Ethiopians and Rwandese, in addition to a resumed influx of Ugandans); Lesotho (11,500, mostly South African students); Morocco (500, mostly elderly Europeans, the rest being African and Latin American students); Mozambique (about 100, mostly South Africans); Rwanda (18,000, mostly from Burundi); Senegal (some 4,000 of various origin); Sudan (419,000 Ethiopians, 110,000 Ugandans, 16,000 Chadians, 5,000 Zairians); Swaziland (5,600 South Africans); Tunisia (some 200, mostly Europeans); Uganda (80,000 Rwandese, 32,000 Zairians, 1,000 Ethiopians and Sudanese); and Zambia (29,100 Angolans, 4,700 Zairians, 4,300 Namibians, 2,200 South Africans, 200 others).

In Angola, programme modification was necessitated by repeated armed attacks into the territory. In Ethiopia (p. 1044), around 5,500 of the 11,000 predominantly Sudanese refugees no longer required UNHCR assistance. In Nigeria, UNHCR was requested to provide an emergency programme starting in March to assist the refugees from Chad, which comprised the majority of the refugee population there of 105,000. In the face of several emergencies including drought, flooding, epidemics and malnutrition, the UNHCR programme in Somalia first emphasized relief assistance for an estimated refugee population of 700,000, followed by income-generating and self-help projects.

The refugee population increased by 8,000 to 164,000 in the United Republic of Tanzania, as a result of a legal study which established the refugee status for 9,000 (previously estimated at 4,000) Zairians settled there and owing also to new arrivals, mainly from Burundi. The direct

responsibility of the High Commissioner for the Special Programme of Immediate Humanitarian Assistance in Uganda, launched in 1979, ended in March 1981; the Programme was subsequently administered by a special representative of the Secretary-General (p. 520). The continued influx of refugees from Uganda brought the refugee population in Zaire to 365,000 (215,000 Angolans, 115,000 Ugandans, 22,000 Rwandese, 11,000 from Burundi, 1,800 Zambia&; emergency relief was necessary for a new influx of Ugandans at mid-year.

Report: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Asia and the Pacific. Total UNHCR obligations amounting to \$250.8 million were recorded in 1981 for refugee assistance in Asia and the Pacific, where the number of Afghan refugees increased and the Indo-Chinese refugees continued to seek asylum.

In Pakistan, the number of Afghan refugees was estimated to have grown from 1,400,000 to over 2,375,000 in the course of the year, and the High Commissioner issued an appeal to the international community on 1 June for increased contributions. A rapid increase of Afghan asylum seekers at the end of 1980 led UNHCR to reopen an office in India, where the caseload involved 3,507 refugees, including 2,685 Afghans and 720 Iranians.

In South-East Asia, 99,000 Indo-Chinese refugees arrived in 1981 in countries of first asylum-75,000 by sea, as in the previous year, and 24,000 by land, half the 1980 figure. Although the departure of 120,000 persons primarily to North America and Europe raised the total resettlement figure since 1977 to over 700,000, more than 230,000 Indo-Chinese refugees still awaited a durable solution.

During the year, China received an additional 2,000 Vietnamese refugees, the number of Vietnamese "boat people" in Hong Kong decreased to 13,542, and Japan had a caseload balance of 1,798, after 1,026 arrivals and 1,181 departures for resettlement. In Indonesia, 7,395 refugees from Indo-China left for resettlement in third countries, arrivals totalled 9,328, and the first-asylum caseload of 6,191 awaited solution. A decline in Malaysia's refugee population to 9,845 Vietnamese and some 2,600 other Indo-Chinese, after the arrival of 23,113 "boat people" and resettlement of 25,652, made it possible to close a field camp and two transit centres.

In the Philippines, Indo-Chinese arrivals by boat doubled from the previous year to 8,353, 5,402 departed for resettlement in third countries and 6,628 persons awaited a durable solution. The 5,381 refugees arriving in Singapore in 1981 amounted to slightly over half the number in the

previous year; 5,967 persons departed, 539 Vietnamese refugees awaited resettlement and an additional 21,569 Indo-Chinese refugees arrived in transit for resettlement.

Due to fewer arrivals (42,792) and continued departures for resettlement (101,961), Thailand's refugee population of concern to UNHCR-composed mainly of Kampuchean and Lao-decreased from 261,334 in 1980 to 192,998 in 1981. After the closing of six camps, there remained three holding centres and one camp for Kampuchean, eight camps for Lao and one camp for Vietnamese, as well as one resettlement processing centre and three transit centres.

UNHCR assistance in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was directed to the remaining 3,500 Kampuchean refugees and repatriates from Thailand. The estimated number of Kampuchean refugees in Viet Nam decreased by 3,000 to 30,000, and 9,815 people-more than double the 1980 figure- left the country under the Orderly Departure Programme.

In Oceania, Australia accepted 13,485 refugees and displaced persons from South-East Asia, including 11,983 "boat people", and New Zealand accepted 607 Indo-Chinese refugees, including 155 "boat people". The UNHCR branch office actively promoted accession to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (p. 1055).

Western Asia had an estimated refugee population of 70,000, excluding Afghan refugees in Iran. The 3,200 refugees in Lebanon received UNHCR assistance geared towards self-sufficiency and supplementary aid.

At its October session, the UNHCR Executive Committee⁽²⁾ noted with concern the continuing increase in the refugee arrivals in Asia, aside from South-East Asia, and recognized the importance of assistance programmes corresponding to the needs of the respective situations.

In a letter dated 30 October,⁽¹⁾ Viet Nam transmitted to the Secretary-General a press release issued on 9 October by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning the agreement reached between him and the High Commissioner, during their talks at Geneva from 5 to 9 October, on increasing the number and rate of legal departures and on resettling the Kampuchean refugees currently in Viet Nam.

Letter: ⁽¹⁾Viet Nam 30 Oct., A/36/640.

Report: ⁽²⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Europe. The number of refugees in Europe at the end of 1981 stood at 589,200, and the total expenditures in the region, excluding Cyprus, amounted to \$8.8 million. There was a substantial increase in the number of Poles requesting asylum: nearly 30,000 Poles entered Austria,

where \$2 million was made available from the UNHCR Emergency Fund at the Government's request. The High Commissioner asked 24 countries to increase resettlement opportunities so as to lighten Austria's burden.

In addition to admitting Indo-Chinese refugees under established quotas, additional places were made available for handicapped refugees in the context of the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons (p. 795). The local integration of 7,500 displaced persons from Africa continued in Portugal through UNHCR assistance, and the 20,500 Latin Americans in Spain continued to receive legal and other assistance.

At the request of the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner continued to act as Co-ordinator of United Nations Humanitarian Assistance for Cyprus (p. 346), providing medical, training and material assistance to those displaced as a result of the events of 1974. Total obligations in 1981 amounted to some \$12.7 million, including \$3.5 million for the construction of a hospital at Lanarca.

Latin America. Assistance totalling \$18.9 million, including \$9.9 million for emergency relief, was provided to refugees in Latin America, whose number reached 280,000 by the end of 1981.

In northern Latin America, where Salvadorians comprised 90 per cent of the estimated refugee population of 200,000, expenditures towards resettlement and local integration increased from \$350,000 in 1980 to \$3.3 million in 1981. While the number of asylum seekers from Guatemala and Nicaragua increased, smaller numbers arrived from the Caribbean and South America, mainly in Costa Rica.

Elsewhere, the overall refugee population in Argentina was estimated at 26,500, of whom 20,000 were from Europe, 5,000 from Latin America and 1,500 from Indo-China. The refugee population in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay was 28,500, mostly of European origin, but the number of Latin American refugees was on the increase. In the course of the year, 710 Latin American refugees, mostly in Brazil and Chile, left for countries of permanent settlement.

In Peru, the new arrivals from other Latin American countries more than offset the departure of over 200 refugees for third countries and, at year's end, 730 Latin American refugees and 750 elderly Europeans remained in the country. Refugees of UNHCR concern in Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela included 11,000 Europeans and 8,500 Latin Americans.

The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, at its October session at Geneva, expressed concern at the increasingly serious situation of refugees in Central America and called on Governments to continue co-

operating fully with UNHCR in extending international protection and material assistance to the refugees in that region.⁽¹⁾

Report: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Resettlement of refugees

UNHCR spent some \$13.5 million in 1981 on resettlement activities, mostly for the transportation of refugees arranged by the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM). A tripartite agreement between ICM, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and UNHCR was concluded in 1981 to set up an International Refugee Integration Resource Centre (IRIRC), to facilitate the sharing of resource materials, data and information on resettlement and integration.⁽¹⁾

Many refugees in Africa, primarily from the Horn and from the south, were placed in urban centres which had no resources to absorb them. In Europe, a large number of asylum seekers arriving in Western Europe sought resettlement elsewhere, and some 34,000 asylum seekers were officially registered in Austria alone. The vast majority of Central American refugees had been allowed to settle locally, while refugees in Argentina and Brazil along with smaller numbers in Peru awaited resettlement. During the year, 1,550 persons were resettled from Latin America to 24 countries.

In South-East Asia, 120,000 Indo-Chinese departed from various camps, leaving behind some 45,000 "boat people" in countries of temporary asylum. Some 90,000 land cases, mostly Lao, and 97,000 Kampuchean remained in camps and holding centres in Thailand awaiting durable solutions. Discussions were held to accelerate departures of Vietnamese under the Orderly Departure Programme (p. 1033), and nearly 10,000 persons left Viet Nam in 1981 for 30 countries of resettlement. In addition, some 1,400 Kampuchean refugees left Viet Nam for resettlement in 16 countries.

The UNHCR Executive Committee, in an October decision on resettlement,⁽²⁾ urged Governments to be liberal in accepting refugees, particularly of special cases; commended Governments for accepting refugees rescued at sea by ships flying their flag; commended the High Commissioner for promoting the Orderly Departure Programme; and noted with appreciation the agreement reached on establishing IRIRC.

Reports: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR, A/36/12; ⁽²⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Financial and administrative aspects

Expenditures

In 1981, expenditure for UNHCR programmes, including expenditure for programme support

and administration, dropped from the 1980 level of almost \$500 million to \$474.3 million.⁽¹⁾ Of this amount, \$319 million was spent for General Programmes and some \$155 million for Special Programmes and other trust funds. For the year's expenditure by country or area and by main types of assistance activities, see table on p. 1036.

Report: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR, A/37/12.

Income

Total UNHCR income in 1981 amounted to \$506,778,000—including \$346,881,000 for General Programmes and \$159,483,000 for Special Programmes.⁽¹⁾

Income for voluntary funds under the Special Programmes category included \$28.5 million for the Trust Fund for Kampucheans, \$12.8 million for the Cyprus operation, \$10.3 million for repatriation and rehabilitation of Chadians, \$9.5 million for the Refugee Education Account, \$9.1 million for processing centres in South-East Asia, \$7.9 million for assistance to returnees to Ethiopia, \$4.1 million for language training in South-East Asia, \$3.8 million for the Trust Fund for Kampuchean Returnees, \$2.4 million for the Special Fund for Durable Solutions, \$1.7 million for the Orderly Departure Programme for Viet Nam, and \$1.3 million for the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa.

The Executive Committee, by an October decision⁽²⁾ on the status of contributions and the overall financial requirements for 1981-1982, reaffirmed the need for more equitable and widespread financial support within the international community for UNHCR programmes, and invited donors to at least maintain a proportionate level of contribution in relation to the increased programme and budget requirements.

Some \$120 million was pledged to the 1982 UNHCR programme at a 20 November 1981 meeting, in New York, of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNHCR.

By a 14 December resolution on the work of the High Commissioner, the Assembly urged Governments to contribute generously so as to provide the High Commissioner with the means to attain the objectives of his humanitarian programme.⁽³⁾

Contributions paid or pledged to the UNHCR assistance programmes for 1981 and 1982 are listed in the table on p. 1037.

Reports: ⁽¹⁾Board of Auditors, A/37/5/Add.5; ⁽²⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Resolution: ⁽³⁾GA, 36/125, para. 16, 14 Dec. (p.1032).

Meeting record: Committee of General Assembly for voluntary contributions to UNHCR, A/AC.212/SR.1 (20 Nov.).

Administrative expenses

The Board of Auditors, in examining the financial statements of the UNHCR-administered voluntary funds for the year ended 31 December 1980 (p. 1038), noted that over the years voluntary funds had assumed an ever-increasing share of the administrative costs of UNHCR, despite the stipulation in the UNHCR statute that the administrative expenditures relating to the functioning of that Office should be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations.

The UNHCR Executive Committee, at Geneva in October 1981,⁽¹⁾ urged the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General to pursue an equitable apportionment of the administrative costs of UNHCR. It also formally established the Subcommittee on Administrative and Financial Matters to assist in the managerial, financial and administrative aspects of its work.

By a resolution of 18 December, on the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983,⁽²⁾ the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to complete by the 1982 Assembly session the current joint review of the financing of the administrative costs of UNHCR with a view to establishing a proper basis for their financing. This action was taken by a recorded vote of 126 to 9. The text was recommended by the Assembly's Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee on 15 December as sponsored by Lebanon and approved by 81 votes to 7.

In explanation of vote, the USSR questioned the appropriateness of the Fifth Committee's taking action on a question whose substance had been discussed in the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee; it voted negatively because the Fifth Committee had rejected its request for deferring consideration of the item until 1982. Japan supported the call for completion of the joint review, on the understanding that the text did not prejudice the outcome of that review. Panama supported the decision as it attached importance to UNHCR work, and the United Republic of Tanzania considered the text appropriate for Fifth Committee action.

Introducing the text, Lebanon said the review, to be completed on the recommendation of the UNHCR Executive Committee, had taken longer than expected; the draft called for completion of that review so that the Fifth Committee could reach agreement on the funding of additional administrative costs, bearing in mind the universal responsibility of the international community and the essentially non-political, humanitarian vocation of UNHCR.

Support for the review's completion was voiced by Austria, Chile, India, Morocco, Paki-

(continued on p. 1037)

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN 1981 BY COUNTRY OR AREA'
(in thousands of US dollars)

Country or area	Local Settlement	Resettlement	Voluntary repatriation	Relief ^{''} and other assistance	Total
AFRICA					
Algeria	1,657.3	—	—	248.5	1,905.8
Angola	4,313.2	11.7	5.0	342.6	4,672.5
Botswana	1,672.4	3.7	15.9	89.8	1,781.8
Burundi	1,943.8	1.7	—	3.3	1,948.8
Djibouti	4,350.1	3.2	—	101.2	4,454.5
Egypt	1,741.1	71.8	0.6	226.3	2,039.8
Ethiopia	1,086.7	110.8	5,992.8	79.5	7,269.8
Kenya	1,369.0	29.9	15.0	598.3	2,012.2
Lesotho	1,286.7	32.4	—	281.0	1,600.1
Nigeria	799.0	—	320.0	1,019.9	2,138.9
Rwanda	306.2	0.2	5.0	1.0	312.4
Senegal	530.0	0.9	—	244.0	774.9
Somalia	12,633.2	1.1	—	35,110.9	47,745.2
Sudan	13,386.6	127.0	82.1	4,967.4	18,563.1
Swaziland	1,873.4	13.5	—	102.7	1,989.6
Uganda	850.3	6.7	2.4	853.4	1,712.8
United Republic of Cameroon	10,851.5	—	135.0	—	10,986.5
United Republic of Tanzania	6,677.5	11.4	10.0	89.9	6,788.8
Zaire	18,247.6	4.8	156.1	2,455.7	20,864.2
Zambia	2,720.3	—	1.6	55.9	2,777.8
Other	9,180.0	12.9	6,671.9	213.3	16,078.1
Follow-up on ICARA recommendations	—	—	—	669.0	669.0
Subtotal	97,475.9	443.7	13,413.4	47,753.6	159,086.6
AMERICAS					
Argentina	1,257.8	89.9	29.2	1,090.4	2,467.3
Other southern Latin America	755.5	282.7	5.1	607.5	1,650.8
Peru	476.4	50.0	2.4	29.4	558.2
Other north-western South America	421.2	0.3	0.4	97.9	519.8
Northern Latin America	3,326.7	124.6	83.9	8,126.2	11,661.4
North America	22.3	3.3	10.1	3.4	39.1
Subtotal	6,259.9	550.8	131.1	9,954.8	16,896.6
ASIA					
China	9,492.6	5.7	—	4.4	9,502.7
Hong Kong	581.6	2,286.5	—	5,042.0	7,910.1
Indonesia	1,326.5	1,313.4	1.0	8,549.3	11,190.2
Leo People's Democratic Republic	1,978.1	—	—	394.7	2,372.8
Lebanon	225.2	3.0	—	15.2	243.4
Malaysia	2,797.3	702.6	1.4	6,873.4	10,374.7
Pakistan	38.3	18.9	1.5	108,673.1	108,731.8
Philippines	2,493.1	604.6	—	10,236.9	13,334.6
Thailand	2,893.7	5,513.6	—	52,030.1	60,437.4
Viet Nam	6,973.8	2,276.4	—	—	9,250.2
Western Asia	169.0	54.9	—	27.0	250.9
Other	2,068.0	1,586.4	25.1	8,366.4	12,045.9
Subtotal	31,037.2	14,366.0	29.0	200,212.5	245,644.7
EUROPE					
Austria	2,192.9	15.8	—	23.2	2,231.9
Cyprus	11,900.1	—	—	573.3	12,473.4
France	239.9	39.6	8.9	17.0	305.4
Germany, Federal Republic of	79.4	70.6	—	84.8	234.8
Greece	135.9	30.4	0.1	70.0	236.4
Italy	102.8	66.4	7.6	345.8	522.6
Portugal	699.7	0.6	4.0	231.3	935.6
Spain	1,045.0	37.1	6.7	364.6	1,453.4
Turkey	50.1	68.9	—	5.3	124.3
United Kingdom	—	2.3	46.6	170.9	219.8
Yugoslavia	111.2	42.2	2.2	700.0	855.6
Other	371.0	42.1	47.1	141.3	601.5
Subtotal	16,928.0	416.0	123.2	2,727.5	20,194.7
OCEANIA					
Australia	—	5.3	1.3	0.2	6.8
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL	201.6	194.6	50.8	838.2	1,285.2
Total	151,902.6	15,976.4	13,748.8	261,486.8	443,114.6

'Not including expenditure for programme support and administration.

''Including donations in kind, e.g. food.

(continued from p. 1035)

stan and Sweden, the last on behalf of the Nordic countries. In addition, Algeria observed that there would be ample time in 1982 to go into the substance; India saw no need to postpone action, as the text simply requested the Secretary-General to meet a deadline.

A number of countries, including Austria, Chile, India, Lebanon and the Sudan, expressed concern over the financing of administrative costs from voluntary funds and asked that the United Nations regular budget meet a substantial portion of those costs. Chad agreed with Lebanon that the policy of budgetary restraint should not hinder the activities of an organ which faced ever-increasing responsibilities. Pakistan considered it important to determine an appropriate allocation of UNHCR administra-

tive costs between the United Nations regular budget and voluntary funds.

Report: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/ADD.1.

Resolution: ⁽²⁾GA, 36/235, sect. XIII, 18 Dec., text following.

Meeting records: GA: 5th Committee, A/C.5/36/SR.8, 10, 12-35, 37-39, 41-47, 62, 64, 65, 74, 76 (8 Oct.-15 Dec.); plenary, A/36/PV.105 (18 Dec.).

General Assembly resolution 36/235, section XIII
126-9 (recorded vote) Meeting 105 18 December 1981
Approved by Fifth Committee (A/36/845) by vote (81-7), 15 December (meeting 76); draft by Lebanon (A/C.5/36/L.35); agenda Item 100.

Administrative costs of the Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees

[The General Assembly...]

Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to complete the current joint review of the financing of the administrative

CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES TO THE UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES FOR 1981 AND 1982

(as at 31 December 1981; in US dollar equivalent)

Country	1981 payment or pledge	1982 pledge	Country	1981 payment or pledge	1982 pledge
Algeria	40,000	50,000	Monaco	1,020	870
Argentina	49,700	—	Morocco	9,859	—
Australia	33,013,953	7,505,643	Netherlands	8,982,564	4,520,000
Austria	103,101	100,000	New Zealand	298,098	—
Bahamas	4,454	—	Nicaragua	—	1,000
Bahrain	50,000	—	Nigeria	3,075,873	—
Bangladesh	2,918	—	Norway	11,133,004	6,506,849
Belgium	3,018,582	572,916	Oman	6,000	6,000
Benin	—	2,000	Pakistan	44,444	—
Botswana	1,224	—	Panama	500	1,000
Brazil	15,000	15,000	Philippines	9,333	—
Burma	10,000	—	Portugal	15,000	100,000
Canada	13,025,075	3,898,305	Qatar	1,010,000	35,000
Chile	35,000	20,000	Republic of Korea	30,000	10,000
China	1,995,902	200,000	San Marino	2,950	—
Colombia	11,646	15,000	Sao Tome and Principe	500	—
Costa Rica	—	2,000	Saudi Arabia	31,010,000	—
Cyprus	4,260	—	Senegal	6,000	3,000
Denmark	8,862,075	3,527,027	Singapore	30,000	—
Djibouti	2,000	2,000	Spain	80,000	—
Finland	1,459,462	568,182	Suds ²	3,333	3,333
France	1,937,440	1,095,652	Swaziland	1,875	—
Germany, Federal Republic of	19,010,131	—	Swede ²	19,586,487	8,960,573
Ghana	70,000	—	Switzerland	4,751,842	1,944,444
Greece	100,000	80,000	Syrian Arab Republic	11,000	—
Guyana	391	—	Thailand	20,000	10,000
Holy See	2,500	2,500	Trinidad and Tobago	2,073	—
Honduras	1,000	—	Tunisia	3,970	4,500
Iceland	42,900	43,300	Turkey	19,543	11,000
India	11,299	—	Uganda	12,195	2,500
Indonesia	24,000	4,000	United Kingdom	16,696,267	—
Iraq	11,822	—	United Republic of Cameroon	—	4,514
Ireland	472,219	—	United Republic of Tanzania	16,970	—
Israel	15,000	15,000	United States	138,749,107	80,000,000
Italy	3,300,319	—	Uruguay	2,000	—
Jamaica	550	—	Venezuela	20,000	20,000
Japan	52,220,840	—	Viet Nam	1,000	1,000
Jordan	10,000	10,000	Yugoslavia	30,000	30,000
Kenya	694	—	Zambia	4,396	—
Kuwait	2,040,000	40,000	Zimbabwe	5,000	—
Lao People's Democratic Republic	6,000	6,000			
Lebanon	10,000	10,000	Subtotal	376,942,785	120,021,157
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	50,000	—			
Liechtenstein	34,056	—	Intergovernmental organizations	51,912,299	—
Luxembourg	121,871	8,464			
Madagascar	1,767	—	United Nations system	651,152	—
Malawi	6,182	—			
Malaysia	1,500	1,500	NGOs and others	14,652,000	—
Malta	1,039	1,085			
Mexico	52,710	50,000	Total	444,158,236	120,021,157

costs of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to establishing a proper basis for the financing of those costs, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at Its thirty-seventh-session;

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

Accounts for voluntary funds

The financial statements on the UNHCR-administered voluntary funds, examined by the Board of Auditors,⁽²⁾ indicated that the funds' income for the year ended 31 December 1980 amounted to \$466,238,000 and their expenditures totalled \$496,956,000.

Meeting with the Board in June 1981, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)⁽¹⁾ noted the Board's recommendation that the responsibility for control of administrative expenditure be transferred from the Finance Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva to UNHCR in order to rectify the unsatisfactory situation arising from the current arrangement, under which the UNHCR Budget and Management Section rarely dealt with follow-up on payments and supporting documentation while the United Nations counterpart was not sufficiently involved with the evolution of the projects and the problems of the UNHCR field offices.

In response to queries, the Secretariat informed ACABQ that, in view of the importance of keeping separate the programme and financial responsibilities, the action proposed by the Board would adversely affect the responsibility of the Office of Financial Services for regular budget accounts; and that discussions were under way with UNHCR staff regarding proper financial procedures and controls as well as provision of management information as required to UNHCR.

By a resolution of 30 November on the reports of the Board of Auditors,⁽³⁾ the General Assem-

bly accepted the 1980 financial statements on UNHCR voluntary funds along with the audit opinions of the Board, concurred with the comments made by ACABQ, and requested the Board and ACABQ to give greater attention to areas regarding which they had made observations. The Assembly also requested the High Commissioner to take remedial action where required.

Reports: ⁽¹⁾ACABQ, A/36/480; ⁽²⁾Board of Auditors and financial statements, A/36/5/Add.5.

Resolution: ⁽³⁾GA, 36/65.30 Nov. (p. 1302).

Administration and management

In a note of 27 August 1981 to the UNHCR Executive Committee,⁽¹⁾ the High Commissioner proposed a series of measures aimed at strengthening the management of UNHCR, including decentralization of responsibility and authority within its Geneva headquarters and to 86 field offices, strengthening the programme implementation and evaluation, and reinforcing the mechanism for consultation and operational co-operation with other humanitarian assistance organizations.

The Executive Committee,⁽²⁾ in October, generally endorsed the High Commissioner's staffing proposals for 1981 and 1982, stressed the importance of delegating authority as a means of strengthening UNHCR, and welcomed his intention to have its managerial methods and organizational structure reviewed by the Secretariat's Administrative Management Service. The Committee believed that the review should include consideration of steps to facilitate decision-making, possibilities for improving programme delivery through redeployment of existing staff, and administrative costs and their implications for the United Nations regular budget.

By a resolution of 14 December on the report of UNHCR,⁽³⁾ the General Assembly noted the proposals by the High Commissioner to strengthen UNHCR management on the basis of the Assembly's principles and guidelines, and welcomed his intention to seek the assistance of the Administrative Management Service in undertaking expeditiously a review of the managerial methods and organizational structure of his Office, as recommended by ACABQ.

Note: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR, A/AC.96/594/Add.1 & Add.1/Corr.1.

Report: ⁽²⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Resolution: ⁽³⁾GA, 36/125, para. 2, 14 Dec. (p. 1031).

Public information

The International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (p. 1039) and the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to UNHCR provided major focal points for the public information activities of UNHCR in 1981.⁽¹⁾ In connection with the Conference, a special report entitled "Africa's Refugees and UNHCR" was issued as a follow-up

and two itinerant journalists' seminars visited refugee camps in Africa. The announcement of the Nobel award resulted in hundreds of media interviews, production of special radio programmes and world-wide distribution of a television film, "Road to Survival", covering the Office's 30-year history.

Increased demand for UNHCR publications, which included the fortnightly Refugee Update, led to the introduction of a computerized distribution system. The photo library provided 50,000 photographs, double the 1980 figure, to media, schools and non-governmental organizations. Among the documentary films produced were "Zimbabwe: From Swords to Ploughshares" and "Refugees: A Historical View".

The Executive Committee,⁽²⁾ in October 1981, reaffirmed the importance of effective public information in increasing global awareness of refugee situations and urged the High Commissioner to continue his efforts in that regard.

Reports: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR, A/37/12; ⁽²⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Assistance to refugees in Africa

International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES. Contributions in cash and kind amounting to \$566.6 million (see table on p. 1042) were pledged by 46 countries and the European Community (EC) at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA),⁽²⁾ which met at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981. Of this amount, unspecified pledges totalled \$451.9 million, those for ongoing United Nations programmes amounted to \$66.9 million and indications of bilateral assistance totalled \$41.1 million.

The ministerial-level Conference was convened by the Secretary-General, in response to a 1980 General Assembly request,⁽⁶⁾ in close cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the High Commissioner. Attended by 99 of the 131 States invited and by over 120 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), it focused on the plight of both the refugees and the countries of asylum, and reconfirmed the central role of OAU in pursuing basic remedies, as well as the need for international agencies to give priority to African refugee problems.

The Secretary-General, acting as ICARA President, informed the gathering on 9 April that Africa hosted more than half the world's refugee

population; the number of refugees there had risen from 750,000 in 1970 to 5 million in 1980, mostly in the last two years. Eighty per cent of them were sheltered in 18 African countries, the majority of which were among the least developed in the world. The less publicized but much larger part of the refugee burden—its effect on the economy—was disproportionate to the resources available to those countries. While the priority was to meet the refugees' immediate life-sustaining needs, resettlement programmes required full support so as not to perpetuate the problem.

To mobilize support for ICARA, representatives of the Secretary-General, OAU and UNHCR held several joint meetings at Geneva with regional groups, and missions were dispatched to donor countries. A document on assistance measures proposed by Governments and calling for some \$893 million was assembled by the Conference secretariat.

Following the Conference, an ICARA Steering Committee, comprising representatives of the sponsoring organizations, was established to implement the Conference's conclusions, including examination of projects for funding from pledges.⁽³⁾ The Committee, advised by a technical working group composed of representatives of OAU, the Economic Commission for Africa and UNHCR, referred a first selection of projects worth \$38 million to the African Governments concerned for final consideration and, on 22 December, UNHCR on behalf of the Committee transmitted to all Conference participants a summary of selected projects requiring funding on a priority basis.

COMMUNICATION. In a letter dated 14 April to the Secretary-General,⁽¹⁾ the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information of South Africa denied allegations made at ICARA that refugees were fleeing inhuman living conditions and persecution in Namibia and South Africa. He stated further that, while South Africa's requests for UNHCR assistance to Angolan refugees in Namibia had been ignored for political expediency, a considerable portion of the funds dispensed by UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme went to programmes executed by or benefiting the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the South West Africa People's Organization in promoting their political aims through violence and terror. Stating that it had been prevented from participating in ICARA by its organizers, South Africa requested that its letter form part of the ICARA documentation as well as that of the General Assembly.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION. Acting without vote on 6 May, the Economic

and Social Council, on an oral proposal by its President, took note of the oral report on ICARA proceedings made on behalf of the Secretary-General on 24 April by the Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes.⁽⁹⁾

In a 22 July resolution on assistance to colonial countries,⁽⁵⁾ the Council expressed appreciation to Governments and organizations for their pledges at ICARA and called for generous contributions to the funds earmarked for assistance to refugees in Africa, particularly those displaced as a result of the policy imposed by the racist minority regime of South Africa in Namibia and South Africa.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION. Noting the success of the Conference, the UNHCR Executive Committee, in October, thanked the High Commissioner for his efforts in convening ICARA, urged the international community to maintain the momentum in assisting African refugees and noted the wish expressed by delegations for a follow-up conference.⁽⁴⁾

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. By a 14 December resolution⁽⁸⁾ adopted without vote, the General Assembly commended the three ICARA sponsors and invited them to continue their co-operation to ensure the channelling of Conference funds to priority projects. The Assembly called on pertinent development-oriented bodies of the United Nations system to envisage co-ordinated actions aimed at harmonizing assistance programmes in affected countries so that the potentialities of refugees or returnees might constitute an advantage rather than a burden on national development. The Secretary-General was asked to keep the African refugee situation under close scrutiny and provide the Council in 1982 with up-to-date information, in order to facilitate Assembly consideration of the need to convene an international follow-up conference in 1983.

In a resolution of 9 December⁽⁷⁾ on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, the Assembly called on all Member States and regional and international organizations, particularly those of the United Nations system, as well as NGOs to increase substantially their aid to refugees in Africa.

The resolution on ICARA was approved by the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee without vote on 24 November. Introducing the text on behalf of the African Group, Benin said some amendments proposed by donor countries had been incorporated.

Many countries in the Committee debate considered ICARA a success, among them Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Democratic Kampuchea, the United Kingdom (for the EC members), the

United States and Yugoslavia. The Congo said ICARA had made clear that it was time to act before it was too late. Argentina, France and Japan said ICARA had given the international community a chance to express solidarity.

The Central African Republic, Egypt, Finland, Ireland, the Sudan and the United Kingdom, the last for the EC countries, said ICARA had helped to raise the consciousness of the magnitude of the refugee problem in Africa. Sharing that view, New Zealand believed it had generated support for the efforts of the African countries directly affected. The United States said ICARA had made the international community aware of the efforts of the African nations in providing asylum and sharing their resources with the refugees to the maximum extent. Australia spoke of burden-sharing, and Liberia said ICARA had highlighted the need for concerted international action to provide the refugees with subsistence and to help them become self-supporting.

Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Sudan and Yugoslavia called for maintaining the momentum created at the Conference, and the United Kingdom (for the EC countries) said the funds pledged should thus be deployed efficiently and responsibly through existing multilateral and national channels. The Sudan said the international community should review by 1983 the progress achieved and decide on further measures that might be needed at that time. Lebanon suggested that consideration be given to the possibility of convening a follow-up conference in 1983.

For the Sudan, ICARA had succeeded in providing reasonable financial and material assistance to the refugees. Somalia believed the amount pledged could go a long way towards assisting asylum countries and hoped that the funds' allocation would be commensurate with the magnitude of the refugee problem in those countries. The Central African Republic and Lebanon said ICARA had contributed to assisting both the refugees and the countries of asylum.

Chad, which was unable to attend the Conference, thanked the international community for its generous contribution and said ICARA should have focused its attention on assisting the countries of origin in order to facilitate the return of the refugees. The Conference objectives had been only partially met, according to Zaire, which asserted that international assistance continued to be insufficient in relation to the accumulated obligations and additional burden which the presence of refugees implied for the economies of the asylum States.

Sierra Leone was disappointed at the lack of response from States which had called themselves friends of Africa. In a similar vein, the

United Kingdom, for the EC countries, expressed regret that one group of countries was conspicuously absent at ICARA.

Canada commended UNHCR for the pivotal role it had played in the planning, organization and execution of ICARA.

Letter: ⁽¹⁾South Africa, 14 Apr., A/36/203.

Reports: S-G, ⁽²⁾A/36/316, ⁽³⁾E/1982/76; ⁽⁴⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Resolutions and decision:

Resolutions: ⁽⁵⁾ESC: 1981/54, para. 8, 22 July (p. 1102). GA: ⁽⁶⁾35/42, para. 4, 25 Nov. 1980 (YUN 1980, p. 945); ⁽⁷⁾36/80, para. 18, 9 Dec. 1981 (p. 231); ⁽⁸⁾36/124, 14 Dec., text following.

Decision: ⁽⁹⁾ESC: 1981/133, 6 May, text following.

Meeting records: ESC: plenary, E/1981/SR.8, 9, 10, 15 (24 Apr.-6 May). GA: 3rd Committee, A/C.3/36/SR.50, 52-55, 59 (16-24 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.97(14 Dec.).

Economic and Social Council decision 1981/133

Adopted without vote

Oral proposal by Council President; agenda item 4.

International Conference on Assistance
to Refugees In Africa

At its 15th plenary meeting, on 6 May 1981, the Council took note of the oral report under agenda item 4 made on behalf of the Secretary-General at its 8th meeting on 24 April 1981 on the proceedings of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981.

General Assembly resolution 36/124

Adopted without vote Meeting 97 14 December 1981

Approved by Third Committee (A/36/725) without vote, 24 November (meeting 59); draft by Benin, for African Group (A/C.3/36/L.56/Rev.1); agenda item 83 (b).

International Conference on Assistance
to Refugees In Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling Its resolution 35/42 of 25 November 1980 relating to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981,

Taking note of resolution CM/Res.868(XXXVII) regarding the Conference and Its follow-up, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 June 1981,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,

Gravely concerned at the growing number of refugees on the African continent, who now constitute over half the population of refugees in the world,

Regretting that, In spite of the efforts made, the assistance provided to the growing number of African refugees is still very inadequate,

Aware of the economic and social burden imposed on African countries of asylum by the growing influx of refugees and its consequences for their development and of the heavy sacrifices made by them, despite their limited resources, to alleviate the plight of those refugees,

Recognizing, therefore, the need of the countries of asylum for adequate human, technical and financial assistance to enable them properly to shoulder their increased responsibilities and assume the additional burden which the presence of refugees represents for their economies,

Recognizing further the need to assist similarly the countries of origin in the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of returnees, as set out in the procedures of the Office of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Convinced that the attendance of high-ranking officials and representatives of ninety-nine countries and over one hundred twenty non-governmental organizations at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees In Africa bears evidence to the fact that the Conference drew international public attention to the situation and needs of African refugees.

1. Commends the initiative taken by the three sponsors of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa—the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—to maintain their close co-operation properly to define the follow-up actions that will be called for, and invites them to continue and develop their tripartite consultations and co-operation at all appropriate levels, so that the Conference funds are channelled to priority projects and put to the best use;

2. Reiterates its congratulations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his efforts towards the preparation of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as for his personal concern for African refugee problems and for the very able manner in which he presided over the Conference, thus bringing it to a successful end;

3. Expresses its appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries and to the international community at large for their very positive response to the appeal for assistance to African refugees and for their contribution to the assistance to refugees in Africa;

4. Urges the International community to continue to support the annual programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and of other United Nations agencies co-operating with that Office on behalf of refugees in Africa;

5. Calls upon the pertinent development-oriented organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to envisage, at the stages of conception and implementation, all concerted efforts and co-ordinated actions aimed at harmonizing assistance programmes in the countries of asylum as well as in the countries of origin during the repatriation process, and current or future development programmes, so that the potentialities of refugees or returnees may constitute an advantage rather than a burden on national development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to keep the African refugee situation under close and constant scrutiny and to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1982, a report containing up-to-date information on the condition of refugees in the countries concerned in order to facilitate consideration by the General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh session, of the necessity of convening an international conference in 1983 to review the status of contributions and commitments made at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, and to assess the needs and measures for further assistance for refugees and returnees in implementation of programmes for their relief, rehabilitation and resettlement;

7. Invites governmental bodies of specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to consider, within their sphere of competence, various ways and means to increase substantially assistance to African refugees and returnees;

8. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to keep under constant review the situation of refugees in Africa in order to ensure maximum international assistance on a global basis;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

CONTRIBUTIONS ANNOUNCED AT ICARA
(cash or kind, In US dollar equivalent)

Algeria	300,000
Argentina	500,000
Australia	11,627,906
Belgium	2,492,754
Canada	18,823,529
Chins	1,000,000
Cyprus	3,000
Democratic Kampuchea	1,000
Denmark	9,090,909
Egypt	1,000,000
Finland	2,962,963
France	2,474,747
Germany, Federal Republic of	42,857,143
Ghana	50,000
Iceland	10,000
India	10,000
Indonesia	20,000
Italy	17,000,000
Japan	33,000,000
Lesotho	2,597
Luxembourg	17,390
Malawi	5,882
Malaysia	30,000
Netherlands	9,698,276
New Zealand	186,916
Nigeria	3,000,000
Norway	3,055,555
Pakistan	44,000
Philippines	10,000
Republic of Korea	20,000
Saudi Arabia	30,000,000
Sierra Leone	100,000
Singapore	10,000
Spain	1,000,000
Sweden	6,493,509
Switzerland	2,356,020
Syrian Arab Republic	10,000
Thailand	10,000
Trinidad and Tobago	2,083
Tunisia	15,000
United Arab Emirates	2,000,000
United Kingdom	13,863,636
United Republic of Tanzania	12,500
United States	283,400,000
Upper Volta	4,032
Yugoslavia	78,125
European Community	68,000,000
Total	566,649,472

Assistance to refugees in Djibouti

REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. In the annex to an April 1981 report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly,⁽¹⁾ UNHCR stated that, of the \$7 million allocated for the year for intensified assistance to the refugees in Djibouti, \$1 million was designated for supplementary food and commodities transport and \$500,000 for domestic utensils, clothing and blankets. Further funds were earmarked for construction of housing and storage facilities, procurement of medical supplies and an extension of educational and training facilities. The staffing of the UNHCR branch office had been increased.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION. The Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes orally informed the Economic and Social Council on 24 April that the UNHCR programme was being supplemented by contributions from the World Food Programme and

voluntary organizations, and that Djibouti, drought-stricken for a number of years (p. 491) and a recent victim of devastating floods.. was in need of additional international relief assistance (p. 507).

Calling for international support, the representative of Djibouti told the Council that the need to cope with the continuous influx of refugees and the prolonged drought and devastating floods had placed heavy demands on the country's meagre resources and paralysed its social and economic infrastructure.

The number of refugees in Djibouti was estimated at 45,000 in May.

The Council, on 4 May,⁽²⁾ requested the High Commissioner to ensure adequate assistance to refugees in Djibouti and to maintain contact with Member States and organizations concerned to mobilize assistance to the Government to cope with the refugee situation, which had been complicated by the recent floods. The 23-nation draft, introduced by Bangladesh, was adopted without vote.

The Council remained seized of the problem and, on an oral proposal of its President, took note in a decision adopted without vote on 20 July⁽⁴⁾ of the High Commissioner's 14 July oral report on efforts being made to help the refugees, mostly of semi-nomadic background, attain some self-sufficiency.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. By a resolution adopted without vote on 16 December,⁽³⁾ the General Assembly requested UNHCR to continue ensuring that adequate assistance programmes were organized for the refugees in Djibouti, and to maintain close contact with Member States and organizations concerned to mobilize assistance for the Government to cope effectively with the refugee situation aggravated by the debilitating effects of the drought. The Assembly also called on Member States, the United Nations system and other organizations for continued support to the Government of Djibouti to cope with the needs of the refugee population and other victims of the drought.

The Third Committee, which approved without vote the 45-nation text on 30 November, heard on 19 November an oral report by the High Commissioner. Introducing the resolution, Zaire called it purely humanitarian, and added that the international community was duty-bound to provide assistance at a level commensurate with the urgency and importance of the problem.

In the Committee debate, Djibouti said the presence of some 50,000 to 55,000 refugees, constituting more than 15 per cent of the country's total population, was overburdening the infrastructure. Four years of prolonged drought had resulted in the loss of 40 per cent of its livestock,

thus threatening about 130,000 nomads with famine. The Government had established 17 temporary camps to accommodate the displaced nomadic population.

Report: ⁽¹⁾S-G, A/36/214.

Resolutions and decision: Res: ⁽²⁾ESC, 1981/4, 4 May, text following; ⁽³⁾GA, 36/156, 16 Dec., text following. Dec.: ⁽⁴⁾ESC, 1981/169, 20 July, text following.

Financial implications: S-G statement, E/1981/L.31.

Meeting records: ESC: plenary, E/1981/SR.8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 35, 38 (24 Apr.-4 May & 14, 20 July). GA: 3rd Committee, A/C.3/36/SR.56, 57, 58, 60-63, 64, 66 (19-30 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.101 (16 Dec.).

Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/4

Adopted without vote Meeting 13 4 May 1981
23-nation draft (E/1981/L.21); agenda item 4.

Sponsors: Bangladesh, Djibouti, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Republic of Cameroon, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti

The Economic and Social Council,

Having heard the statement of the Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes on the needs of the refugees and the devastating effects of the recent floods in Djibouti,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti, to which is annexed the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on assistance to refugees in Djibouti,

Recalling its resolutions 1980/11 of 28 April 1980 and 1980/44 of 23 July 1980 and General Assembly resolution 35/182 of 15 December 1980.

Deeply concerned about the continued food shortage in Djibouti, which has been aggravated by the devastating effects of the severe drought and the heavy floods that have left over one third of the already destitute population homeless,

Appreciating the determined efforts of the Government of Djibouti to cope with the ever-increasing number of the refugees, the devastating effects of the severe drought and the recent torrential rains and floods that have left over one third of the country's population homeless,

Aware of the consequences of the social and economic burden placed on the Government and people of Djibouti as a result of the influx of refugees and the subsequent impact on the national development and infrastructure of the country,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep the refugee situation in Djibouti under constant review,

Noting a/s/o with appreciation the concern and the continued efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme and the governmental and non-governmental organizations that have worked closely with the Government of Djibouti on the relief and rehabilitation programmes for the refugees and the people affected by the recent floods in Djibouti,

1. Appreciates the action taken by the Secretary-General in reporting on the refugee situation in Djibouti;

2. Endorses the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees annexed thereto;

3. Takes note with appreciation of the oral report of the Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes on the needs of the refugees and the devastating effects of the recent floods on the population in Djibouti;

4. Appreciates the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep the refugee situation in Djibouti

under constant review and invites him to continue his humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Djibouti;

5. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to ensure that adequate assistance programmes are organized for the refugees and to maintain close contacts with Member States and the governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to mobilize adequate assistance to the Government of Djibouti to cope effectively with the refugee situation, which has now been complicated by the recent floods that have severely affected the urban and rural refugee population in that country;

6. Appeals to all Member States, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations to continue their support for the efforts of the Government of Djibouti to provide for the needs of the refugees and the people affected by the devastating floods in that country;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to review the current refugee situation in Djibouti and to submit an updated report, including an assessment of the needs of the people affected by the severe floods in Djibouti, to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

8. Decides to consider at its second regular session of 1981, and to bring to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Economic and Social Council decision 1981/169

Adopted without vote

Oral proposal by Council President: agenda item 4.

Humanitarian assistance to refugees

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 20 July 1981, the Council took note of the oral report made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on behalf of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Djibouti and on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa.

General Assembly resolution 36/156

Adopted without vote Meeting 101 16 December 1981

Approved by Third Committee (A/36/792) without vote, 30 November (meeting 66); 45-nation draft (A/C.3/36/L.63); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Costa Rica, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, France, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia.

Humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/182 of 15 December 1980 on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/11 of 28 April 1980, 1980/44 of 23 July 1980 and 1981/4 of 4 May 1981 on assistance to the refugees in Djibouti,

Having heard the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti and the report of the High Commissioner annexed thereto,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the food shortage in the country, which has been aggravated by the devastating effects of the prolonged drought,

Aware of the determined efforts made by the Government of Djibouti to cope with the refugee situation, despite the impact of the devastating effects of the prolonged drought,

Aware a/s/o of the consequences of the social and economic burden placed on the Government and people of Djibouti as a

result of the influx of refugees and the subsequent impact on the national development and Infrastructure of the country.

Noting with satisfaction the concern and continued efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which have worked closely with the Government of Djibouti in the relief and rehabilitation programme for the refugees and drought-stricken population in Djibouti,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti and that of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees annexed thereto;

2. Appreciates the efforts made by the High Commissioner to keep the refugee situation under constant review and invites him to continue his humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Djibouti;

3. Requests the High Commissioner to continue to ensure that adequate assistance programmes are organized for the refugees and to maintain close contact with Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to mobilize the necessary assistance to the Government of Djibouti to cope effectively with the refugee situation aggravated by the debilitating effects of the drought;

4. Calls upon all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to support the efforts made by the Government of Djibouti to cope with the needs of the refugee population and other victims of the drought;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to review the present situation of refugees in Djibouti and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982 and to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the progress achieved with regard to the refugee situation in Djibouti.

Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION. The Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia told the Economic and Social Council on 24 April 1981 that persistent drought and other calamities in his country practically nullified the efforts made by the Government and the international community. The food situation was rapidly deteriorating and the United Nations Co-ordinating Committee for Relief and Rehabilitation in Ethiopia had recommended immediate assistance of \$215,439,000 and food aid amounting to 224,000 metric tons of grain and edible oil. However, the Secretary-General's appeal for aid had met with disappointing results. The Commissioner called for global assistance to resolve the plight of displaced persons in Africa, numbering four times more than refugees, and avert the worsening of the situation.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes informed the Council that the displaced persons, estimated by the Ethiopian Government to number 2.4 million, suffered from disease and a scarcity of food and water. An

inter-agency mission to Ethiopia had calculated that 870,000 tons of food assistance would be required over a three-and-a-half year period. With funds provided by UNHCR, the Government would implement a project for five reception centres to assist in the repatriation and resettlement of voluntary returnees.

The United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator noted the findings of the United Nations Co-ordinating Committee that about 1.5 million people in Ethiopia desperately needed help and that the estimated 1981 national food deficit of 350,000 tons was likely to affect over 1 million people.

On 6 May, the Council reiterated its appeal to the international community for prompt and generous assistance to the displaced persons in Ethiopia.⁽²⁾

The adoption without vote of the 16-nation draft, introduced by Zimbabwe, followed the Council's decision, by 23 votes to 13, with 14 abstentions, to agree to a motion by Morocco not to act on a series of amendments by Somalia⁽¹⁾ to this resolution and on amendments proposed by Ethiopia to a resolution on assistance to refugees in Somalia (p. 1046).

Somalia had proposed rewording the second preambular paragraph so that the statement by the Ethiopian Commissioner would be characterized as that dealing with "the question of displaced persons of Ethiopia" rather than referring to the grave situation and the difficulties encountered. The words "with regret" would have been deleted from the fifth preambular paragraph where the response to the Secretary-General's appeal was noted, and the sixth preambular paragraph, noting the extreme difficulties encountered by the Government of Ethiopia in providing relief, would have been replaced by a new paragraph noting "the extreme difficulties encountered by displaced persons in Ethiopia while victims of both the oppressive policies of the Government of Ethiopia and of natural disasters".

Somalia's proposed amendment to operative paragraph 2 would have had the Council describe the international appeal as for the provision of relief to the displaced persons, rather than for assistance to the Government in its relief and rehabilitation effort. The basis for an appeal for assistance, in paragraph 4, would have been confined to "the appeal of the Secretary-General dated 11 November 1980", and a new paragraph would have called on all concerned to ensure that any assistance given was used solely for the purpose of providing relief to the displaced persons. In paragraph 5, the word "certified" would have been inserted to qualify the voluntary returnees for whom the humanitarian assistance was requested.

In the Council's debate, Bangladesh said that natural and man-made disasters threatened more than 5.1 million people in Ethiopia, of whom as many as 1.5 million faced certain starvation unless supplementary rations were made available for the coming 18 months. The German Democratic Republic and Yugoslavia saw Ethiopia as struggling to surmount the problems resulting from its colonial heritage. The USSR said it shared Ethiopia's concern that assistance to that country was being sabotaged by some United Nations organizations and agencies, whose heads practised discrimination against a sovereign State, thus demonstrating the imperialist Powers' efforts to use the Organization for disruption of Ethiopia's economic development.

Ethiopia and Somalia exchanged a series of charges as to the cause of the refugee problem in the region, Ethiopia said that one State sought to describe part of the territory of a neighbouring State as an integral part of its own; that the refugee problem had been created solely by the war of aggression waged by Somalia against Ethiopia since 1978; and that, if Somalia was right in referring to refugees from western Somalia, then they were displaced persons and not refugees. Somalia considered the root cause of exodus to have been the official policy of the Ethiopian regime since 1977, and charged that Ethiopia continued to plead for assistance for its so-called displaced persons, while busy squandering its meagre resources on acquisition of arms.

The Council's decision not to act on the proposed amendments but to adopt the text as originally submitted was criticized by some, among them Algeria, Ethiopia and Zambia, as creating a dangerous precedent with serious implications of denying delegations the right to submit amendments. The German Democratic Republic said the Council should not make a wholesale rejection of amendments, and the Sudan did not participate in the decision because it believed in consultations as the only way to settle differences.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. The High Commissioner informed the Third Committee on 19 November of assistance measures developed in Ethiopia for refugees returning from neighbouring countries.

By a 16 December resolution adopted without vote,⁽³⁾ the General Assembly endorsed the appeals of the Secretary-General and the Council for assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia and requested the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of the voluntary returnees.

The revised 34-nation draft, introduced by Zaire, was approved without vote on 30 November by the Third Committee. The approved text

incorporated an oral revision by the sponsors adding to paragraph 1 the phrase "concerning assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia" after the endorsement of previous appeals.

Amendments not considered: ⁽¹⁾Somalia, E/1981/L.30 & Corr.1 & Add.1.

Resolutions: ⁽²⁾ESC, 1981/32, 6 May, text following; ⁽³⁾GA, 36/161, 16 Dec., text following.

Meeting records: ESC: plenary, E/1981/SR. 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 (24 Apr.-6 May). GA: 3rd Committee, A/C.3/36/SR.56, 57, 58, 60-63, 64, 66 (19-30 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.101 (16 Dec.).

Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/32

Adopted without vote Meeting 15 6 May 1981

16-nation draft (E/1981/L.22); agenda item 4.

Sponsors: Bangladesh, Burundi, Cuba, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/183 of 15 December 1980, in which the Assembly called for international assistance to alleviate the plight of displaced persons in Ethiopia,

Having heard the statement by the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia on 24 April 1981, outlining the grave situation of displaced persons and the difficulties encountered by his Government in providing relief and rehabilitation to millions of displaced persons in Ethiopia,

Having also heard the oral report of the representative of the Secretary-General on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia, presented pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/183,

Taking note of the appeal of the Secretary-General in his note verbale of 11 November 1980,

Noting with regret that the response to the appeal of the Secretary-General for providing generous assistance to alleviate the sufferings of displaced persons in Ethiopia has been inadequate.

Noting further the extreme difficulties encountered by the Government of Ethiopia in providing relief and rehabilitation to several millions of its citizens who are victims of both man-made and natural disasters, as well as to the voluntary returnees,

Recognizing the need for urgent and continued humanitarian assistance to save the lives and alleviate the plight of displaced persons in Ethiopia,

1. Takes note of the oral report presented by the representative of the Secretary-General on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia;

2. Reaffirms its appeal and that of the Secretary-General to Member States, Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies to assist the Government of Ethiopia in its effort to provide relief and rehabilitation to the displaced persons in that country;

3. Notes with appreciation the assistance thus far provided through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

4. Appeals once more to all Member States, governmental and non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies, other organizations of the United Nations system and voluntary agencies to provide prompt and generous assistance to the displaced persons in Ethiopia on the basis of the recommendations made in the report of the inter-agency mission to Ethiopia annexed to the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia;

5. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue their efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons and voluntary returnees;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982 on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 36/161

Adopted without vote Meeting 101 16 December 1981

Approved by Third Committee (A/36/792) without vote, 30 November (meeting 66); 34-nation draft A/C.3/36/L.69/Rev.1). orally revised; agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/91 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/54 of 24 July 1980,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General and of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia, prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/8 of 28 April 1980,

Taking note also of the appeal of the Secretary-General in his note verbale of 11 November 1980,

Deeply concerned that the appeals of the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly have yet to meet adequate response,

1. Endorses once again the appeals of the Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council concerning assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia:

2. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue his efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of the large number of voluntary returnees:

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982 and to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Assistance to refugees in Somalia

REVIEW MISSION REPORT. In response to a December 1980 General Assembly resolution,⁽⁵⁾ a United Nations mission, led by the Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes, visited Somalia from 11 to 18 January 1981 to review the refugee situation.

Its findings, annexed to a report of 26 March by the Secretary-General,⁽²⁾ pointed to the needs of the refugees whose number equalled nearly a quarter of the country's entire population. Over 1 million refugees were found in 30 camps and seven transit centres, in addition to an estimated 800,000 mostly nomadic people living elsewhere. Their composition was about 60 per cent children, 30 per cent women and 10 per cent men. Despite improved food delivery and increased food stocks, malnutrition persisted, potable water and medicines were in short supply, and

other necessities such as tents, clothing, tools and domestic fuel were scarce.

The mission called for increased international assistance to the camps, totalling \$234.6 million for 1981, and recommended several expert studies, including those concerning the provision of domestic fuels to the camps, the bulk handling of relief supplies, and the animal health problem created by the influx of cattle into Somalia. Further, the mission recommended some \$171 million in additional multiyear assistance to develop Somalia's economic and social infrastructure to service the refugees.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION. By a resolution adopted without vote on 6 May,⁽⁴⁾ the Economic and Social Council strongly endorsed the Secretary-General's appeal for assistance and urged the international community to help Somalia strengthen its social and economic infrastructure so that essential services and facilities could be expanded. The Council commended the Secretary-General for promoting international action to assist the Somali Government in providing relief aid to the refugees, noted with appreciation the measures taken by the Government, and requested the High Commissioner to bring to the attention of the Assembly all pertinent changes and developments in the refugee situation since the January visit of the review mission.

The adoption without vote of the 27-nation draft, introduced by Zaire as an apolitical and purely humanitarian measure, followed the Council's decision, by 23 votes to 13, with 14 abstentions, to agree to a motion by Morocco not to act on amendments proposed by Ethiopia⁽¹⁾ to this resolution and on amendments proposed by Somalia to a resolution on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia (p. 1044).

Ethiopia had proposed deleting, in the fourth preambular paragraph, a phrase describing the nature of the review mission's report; deleting, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the date of the Secretary-General's appeal for aid; and replacing, in the sixth preambular paragraph, recognition of the heavy burden placed on the Government of Somalia with recognition of the refugees' need for generous international assistance.

In operative paragraph 1, Ethiopia had proposed replacing the word "strongly" by "once more" in the endorsement of the Secretary-General's appeal; in paragraph 2, the Secretary-General would have been commended for "assisting the Government of Somalia in securing relief aid for the refugees" instead of for promoting international action to assist the Government in providing relief. In paragraph 5, the Council would have taken note of the mission's report, rather than endorse its findings and recommendations. Paragraph 6, whereby the Council took

note with appreciation of the measures the Government was taking to provide services to the refugees, would have been replaced with a paragraph simply noting the measures taken. In paragraph 8, assistance to strengthen Somalia's social and economic infrastructure would have been qualified as "necessary for the provision of relief aid for the refugees", and the reference to expanding and strengthening essential services would have been deleted.

Further, Ethiopia had proposed insertion of a new paragraph, which would have had the Council call on all concerned to ensure that the international assistance provided would be used for the sole purpose of providing relief and rehabilitation for the refugees. Paragraphs 9 and 10, providing for updated information on the refugee situation, would have been replaced by a paragraph requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its 1981 session, and the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its first regular session of 1982, on the progress achieved in implementing the resolution.

Subsequently, Ethiopia orally proposed replacing its amendment to paragraph 6 with a paragraph which would have had the Council deplore "the expansionist policy of the Government of Somalia, which is the root cause of the refugee problem in the whole of Africa". Ethiopia expressed readiness to withdraw the oral proposal if Somalia withdrew its amendment to the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia (p. 1044), containing a reference to "the oppressive policies of the Government of Ethiopia".

Morocco regretted that the drafts had been subjected to political demagoguery and confrontation, and appealed to Ethiopia and Somalia to forget their differences in the name of compassion for the refugees and withdraw their amendments.

Zaire said the text's sponsors could not accept the Ethiopian amendments, most of which were unjustified and unnecessary. The fourth and sixth preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 2 and 8 were part of a unanimously adopted 1980 Assembly resolution,⁽⁵⁾ and no alteration was justified. Ethiopia's proposal to replace the word "strongly" with "once more" in paragraph 1 was inappropriate as the Council was considering the appeal of 11 March for the first time, and the gravity of the situation called for a strong endorsement; rejecting in paragraph 6 the simple gesture of commending the Government of Somalia ran counter to the humanitarian spirit and traditions of the Council; and the sponsors could not accept replacing paragraphs 9 and 10 with a single paragraph of different intent.

Zambia, a sponsor of the original text, hoped the Council would adopt it unamended.

During the debate, Somalia said the unprecedented magnitude of the refugee situation in that country had seriously depleted its national resources and food reserves, and it feared that the heavy demands made on the ecological system had serious environmental implications. Bangladesh said the situation needed immediate attention and that all possible assistance should be provided on an emergency basis.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. In October, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the information supplied by UNHCR on the refugee situation since the mission's January visit.⁽³⁾

UNHCR reported that the exceptionally early and heavy rains following a drought had resulted in flooding that threatened the refugee camps; emergency measures for water supply had been followed by the provision of relief transport. In March, the camps were serviced by 150 international and 180 local medical personnel, new health centres were under construction, and a well-drilling project was started to secure an average of 20 litres of potable water per refugee per day. A comprehensive transport and distribution system was implemented in April, agricultural projects for self-reliance were extended in all camps, surveys were undertaken to identify new projects, a reforestation scheme was being planned, and experimentation with solar energy for cooking was being pursued. A committee set up by the Somali Government in August began a camp-by-camp headcount of refugees to establish precise figures for assistance needs.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. The High Commissioner told the Third Committee on 19 November that the UNHCR programme in Somalia consisted largely of humanitarian assistance for relief purposes, while attention was also being paid to the development of self-reliance schemes in agriculture.

By a resolution adopted without vote on 16 December,⁽⁶⁾ the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to dispatch a mission to Somalia early in 1982 to review the overall needs of the refugees, including those aspects relating to their settlement and rehabilitation. The Assembly also appealed to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies for maximum material, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Somalia in its efforts to assist the refugees.

The Third Committee had approved without vote on 30 November the 51-nation draft, which Zaire, in introducing it, called purely humanitarian.

Amendments not considered: ⁽¹⁾Ethiopia, E/1981/L.29 & Corr.1.
 Reports: ⁽²⁾S-G, A/36/136; ⁽³⁾S-G and UNHCR, A/36/136/Add.1 & Add.1/Corr.1.
 Resolutions: ⁽⁴⁾ESC: 1981/31, 6 May, text following. GA: ⁽⁵⁾35/180, 15 Dec. 1980 (YUN 1980, p. 948); ⁽⁶⁾36/153, 16 Dec. 1981, text following.
 Financial implications: S-G statement, E/1981/L.31.
 Meeting records: ESC: plenary, E/1981/SR.8-10, 11, 13, 15 (24 Apr.-6 May). GA: 3rd Committee. A/C.3/36/SR.56, 57, 58, 60-63, 64, 66 (19-30 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.101 (16 Dec.).

Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/31

Adopted without vote Meeting 15 6 May 1981
 27-nation draft (E/1981/L.18), orally revised; agenda Item 4.

Sponsors: Bangladesh, Burundi, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Assistance to refugees in Somalia

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/61 of 29 November 1979 on the situation of African refugees, by which the Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to make every effort to mobilize additional resources to meet the needs of refugees in Africa,

Recalling its resolutions 1980/9 of 28 April 1980 and 1980/53 of 24 July 1980,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/180 of 15 December 1980, in which the Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Endorsed the appeal of the Economic and Social Council to all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to increase further their assistance to the Government of Somalia and to the various refugee programmes sponsored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees so as to ensure the adequate and continuous provision of emergency relief and humanitarian assistance to refugees in Somalia,

(b) Requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to dispatch a mission to Somalia to make a comprehensive review of the refugee situation in that country in the light of developments since the report of the United Nations inter-agency mission, which visited Somalia from 10 to 16 December 1979,

(c) Further requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to arrange for the report of the review mission to be circulated as soon as issued, so that the international community might have an updated report on the condition of the refugees in Somalia and an assessment of their overall needs, including measures for strengthening the social and economic infrastructure of the country,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations review mission, which visited Somalia from 11 to 18 January 1981, providing up-to-date information on the condition of the growing refugee population in Somalia and an assessment of their overall needs,

Noting the appeal issued by the Secretary-General on 11 March 1981 for urgent international assistance to help the Government of Somalia to provide the necessary care and attention to the refugees,

Recognizing the heavy burden placed on the Government of Somalia in caring for the refugees and the need for international assistance to share that burden,

1. Strongly endorses the appeal of the Secretary-General for urgent assistance to the refugees in Somalia;

2. Commends the Secretary-General for taking steps to promote continued and concerted international action to assist the Government of Somalia to provide relief aid for the refugees;

3. Expresses its deep appreciation for the prompt response, generous donations and support of the United Nations refugee programmes in Somalia by various Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies;

4. Expresses its appreciation also for the efforts undertaken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as by the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and other international organizations, to provide humanitarian assistance;

5. Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the United Nations review mission;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the measures which the Government of Somalia is taking to provide shelter, food and other services to the refugees in Somalia;

7. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue their efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of the refugees;

8. Urges Member States, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other intergovernmental and financial institutions to assist Somalia in strengthening its social and economic infrastructure so that essential services and facilities can be strengthened and expanded;

9. Further requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to arrange for all pertinent changes and developments in the refugee situation in Somalia since the visit of the United Nations review mission in January 1981 to be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session so that the report of the review mission can be updated;

10. Further requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982 an updated report on the condition and needs of the refugees.

General Assembly resolution 36/153

Adopted without vote Meeting 101 16 December 1981

Approved by Third Committee (A/36/792) without vote, November (meeting 66); 51 -nation draft (A/C.3/36/L.59/Rev.1); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Egypt, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia.

Assistance to refugees in Somalia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/180 of 15 December 1980 on the question of assistance to refugees in Somalia,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/31 of 6 May 1981,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the review mission to Somalia and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the conditions of the refugees in Somalia and containing an assessment of their overall needs,

Having heard the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Deeply concerned at the need to continue to provide assistance to the refugees in Somalia,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General and of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the situation of refugees in Somalia;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for their continued efforts to mobilize international assistance on behalf of the refugees in Somalia;

3. Takes note with satisfaction of the assistance rendered to refugees in Somalia by various Member States, the Office

of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

4. Appeals to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to render maximum material, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Somalia in its efforts to provide all necessary assistance to the refugees;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to dispatch a mission to Somalia early in 1982 to make a comprehensive review of the overall needs of the refugees, including those aspects relating to their settlement and rehabilitation;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to submit the report of the proposed review mission on the refugee situation in Somalia to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Assistance to refugees in the Sudan

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. In a 22 April 1981 report⁽¹⁾ to the General Assembly, prepared in co-operation with UNHCR, the Secretary-General noted that, of the seven technical feasibility missions recommended by a June 1980 inter-agency mission to the Sudan,⁽⁵⁾ those organized by UNHCR concerning the planning for new settlements, the development of integrated housing programmes, and planning and project design for agricultural programmes for refugee zones had been completed. The mission on a health-delivery system for refugees in the Sudan was to be undertaken by the World Health Organization (WHO) in late April, and the remaining three missions-relating to education, training, and planning for social development and welfare services-were to be conducted in November by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in co-operation with United Nations agencies.

Based on the recommendations of a combined mission, which dealt with regional development for new settlements and project design for agricultural programmes in refugee zones, UNHCR took steps in 1981 to establish three new settlements and a water-supply system, create an agricultural extension service and order equipment for water supply and agriculture. Recommendations made by a mission on integrated housing programmes were under discussion between the Sudanese authorities and UNHCR.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION. Acting without vote on a 27-nation draft introduced by Indonesia, the Economic and Social Council took note; on 4 May,⁽²⁾ of the Secretary-General's report, on the situation of refugees in the Sudan and requested him to arrange for the completion of all technical follow-up missions

and to report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1981 and to the Assembly later in the year.

Accordingly, the Joint Co-ordinator for Special Economic Assistance Programmes orally reported to the Council on 14 July, on behalf of the Secretary-General. He noted that the WHO mission conducted in April and May had recommended a programme worth \$9 million to strengthen the Government's already overstretched health services, along with a proposal that a similar programme be considered also for the southern region, where the number of refugees had been increasing. As regards the missions on education, vocational training and social services, ECA had carried out the field work in June and July and the reports were under preparation for submission to the Government.

On 20 July, the Council took note of the oral report of the Joint Co-ordinator.⁽⁴⁾

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. On 19 November, the High Commissioner reported to the Third Committee that much progress had been achieved in the Sudan in terms of durable solutions and that some 100,000 refugees had been settled in the country.

By a 16 December resolution adopted without vote,⁽³⁾ the Assembly appealed to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to render the maximum possible financial, material and technical assistance to the Government of Sudan in its efforts to help the refugees. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the relevant agencies, to arrange for the completion of the remaining technical follow-up missions.

The 39-nation text, introduced by Zaire as purely humanitarian in character, was approved by the Third Committee on 30 November, also without vote.

Report: ⁽¹⁾S-G, A/36/216 & Add.1.

Resolutions and decision: Res.: ⁽²⁾ESC, 1981/5, 4 May, text following; ⁽³⁾GA, 36/158, 16 Dec., text following. Dec.: ⁽⁴⁾ESC, 1981/168, para. (b), 20 July (p. 497).

Yearbook reference: ⁽⁵⁾1980, p. 937.

Financial implications: S-G statement, E/1981/L.31.

Meeting records: ESC: plenary, E/1981/SR.8-10, 12, 13 (24 Apr.-4 May). GA: 3rd Committee, A/C.3/36/SR.56, 57, 58, 60-63, 64, 66 (19-30 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.101 (16 Dec.).

Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/5

Adopted without vote Meeting 13 4 May 1981

27-nation draft (E/1981/L.24); agenda item 4.

Sponsors: Algeria, Bangladesh, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, United Republic of Cameroon, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1980/10 of 28 April 1980 and 1980/45 of 23 July 1980,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/181 of 15 December 1980, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to send, as a matter of urgency, follow-up missions to the Sudan,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of refugees in the Sudan and the report annexed thereto, prepared in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which describes the steps taken to implement General Assembly resolution 35/181 and contains the findings of the sectoral follow-up missions that have thus far been completed;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the relevant agencies, to arrange for the completion of all technical follow-up missions, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981 and to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

General Assembly resolution 36/158

Adopted without vote Meeting 101 16 December 1981

Approved by Third Committee (A/36/792) without vote. 30 November (meeting 66); 39-nation draft (A/C.3/36/L.66); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, Cape Verde, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/181 of 15 December 1980 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/5 of 4 May 1981,

Having heard the statement delivered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees before the Third Committee on 16 November 1981,

Taking note of the ever-increasing number of refugees arriving in the Sudan,

Appreciating the measures which the Government of the Sudan, a least developed country, is taking in order to provide shelter, food and other services to the growing number of refugees in the Sudan,

Recognizing the heavy burden placed on the Government of the Sudan in caring for the growing number of refugees and the need for adequate international assistance to continue its efforts to render assistance to the refugees,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the findings of the sectoral follow-up missions which have so far been completed;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the relevant agencies, to arrange for the completion of the remaining technical follow-up missions;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the donor Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their valuable assistance rendered to refugees in the Sudan;

4. Appeals to all Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to render the maximum possible financial, material and technical assistance to the Government of the Sudan in its efforts to provide all necessary service to the refugees;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to submit a comprehensive report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982 as well as to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees

Expressing grave concern about the continuing massive flows of refugees and their implications for international peace and security, the General Assembly, by a resolution adopted without vote on 16 December 1981,⁽⁴⁾ established a 17-member group of governmental experts to undertake a comprehensive review of the problem in all its aspects, with a view to developing recommendations on means of international co-operation.

The Assembly requested the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, in preparing a report in time for Assembly deliberation in 1982, to pay due regard to the existing international instruments, norms and principles, including the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States; to the right of refugees to return to their homelands or otherwise receive adequate compensation; and to the importance of reaching general agreement whenever that had significance for the outcome of its work.

The experts, upon nomination by Member States, were to be appointed by the Secretary-General after consultation with the regional groups and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. Each nominating State, as a rule, would bear the expenses for its appointed expert.

For the Assembly's consideration of this item, the Secretary-General had transmitted to it the views and suggestions⁽¹⁾ of 26 States and six United Nations organs, submitted in response to a 1980 Assembly request.⁽³⁾

Human rights aspects of mass exoduses were also the subject of a report prepared for the Commission on Human Rights (p. 965).

The resolution, as orally revised, had been approved without vote by the Special Political Committee on 30 November. Introducing the 37-nation text, Senegal said that the latest estimated number of refugees, excluding those considered as temporarily settled, was over 12.6 million. In Africa, which harboured more than half that number, one person in every 75 was a refugee; of the 10 States having the greatest number of refugees in proportion to the local population, six were African. If nothing was done, the 1980s would become the "refugee decade". In addition to the human suffering, the refugee flows threatened the order and stability of the countries of asylum and the entire region.

Senegal saw the 1980 initiative by the Federal Republic of Germany for Assembly considera-

tion of the question⁽⁵⁾ as having helped enlarge the earlier concept of the refugee problem. The current resolution aimed at opening the way for a far-reaching discussion on measures of a preventive and political nature and at enlarging the degree of consensus obtained in 1980. The sponsors envisaged the proposed group of governmental experts, representing all regional groups, as being based in New York and conducting its work by consensus, without affecting the current distribution of functions and responsibilities within the United Nations system.

On behalf of the sponsors, Senegal orally revised paragraph 3, on the right of refugees not wishing to return to their homelands to receive adequate compensation, by adding a phrase indicating recognition of that right in previous Assembly resolutions. It also revised paragraph 4 by inserting the words "as a rule" to qualify the financial responsibility of the nominating States. Senegal subsequently revised paragraph 5 to ensure that the Group would pay due regard to, rather than merely keep in mind, the principle of non-intervention.

Although no vote was taken, explanations of position were made by 11 States, including Ethiopia, Guinea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar and Viet Nam, which indicated they would have abstained.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic considered that paragraph 3 on refugees' rights could have been better worded to avoid misunderstanding. For Viet Nam, the text, though improved, remained unbalanced and ambiguous. Guinea considered that the text failed to reflect the cause of refugee flows, and feared the future international co-operation based on the text, especially on the fifth preambular paragraph, would prove superficial.

Caution against a proliferation of organs was sounded by Brazil and Cuba. Madagascar and the USSR called for non-duplication of the work of existing United Nations organs. Brazil also felt that the Group's mandate was not specific enough. Madagascar believed that what was needed was the establishment of a new international economic order and the elimination of apartheid and colonialism.

Cuba supported the resolution in so far as it was not an instrument for demographic protection, cold war or interference in the internal affairs of States. The USSR also opposed using the refugee question for political or propaganda purposes, and called for due regard to such principles as the inadmissibility of interference in the internal affairs of States by other States or by the United Nations.

Israel supported the text on the understanding that, where there was an anomalous relationship,

including a state of war, between countries concerned in refugee flows, the right to return and the question of compensation would form part of the comprehensive settlement and peace agreement negotiations between those States.

Cyprus requested that the resolution be regarded as covering both refugees and displaced persons. Somalia pointed out, however, that the text made no mention of displaced persons and that the statement by Cyprus reflected the position of that delegation only.

In the Committee debate, the United Kingdom, a sponsor, stated that the reference to colonialism in the fifth preambular paragraph was unrelated to the United Kingdom's relations with its few remaining dependent Territories.

The 1980 initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany leading to Assembly consideration of the question was welcomed by Australia, Austria, Egypt, Finland, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, the Sudan, Togo and Zaire. Austria said the issues of migration and refugees might prove to be among the most important and troubling world problems of the coming decades, directly affecting the concept of the modern nation State and of international relations.

Many States supported the establishment of a group of governmental experts, among them Democratic Kampuchea, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and Zaire. Other supporters, including Greece, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom, the last on behalf of the members of the European Community (EC), said the Group should draw on existing international instruments. Pakistan thought it valuable to synthesize and develop the existing body of knowledge-which consisted of a number of scattered legal instruments and patchy experience-on the pattern of the Assembly's 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.⁽²⁾

Canada, Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, Malaysia, Norway, Somalia, Spain and the EC countries called on the Group to develop practical measures and/or general guidelines. New Zealand advised it to focus on specific aspects rather than be diverted by related problems that could more appropriately be handled in other United Nations organs. Italy suggested that the Group study ways of enhancing the United Nations responsiveness to emergency situations involving massive exodus of refugees.

Australia, although it would have preferred an ad hoc committee, expressed support for the Group and said it was ready to nominate an

expert. Kenya thought a comprehensive review and the preparation of guidelines based on non-interference could be carried out either on the basis of existing instruments or through the creation of a group.

Italy, Japan, Portugal and Spain called for the Group's adherence to the respect for State sovereignty and for non-intervention in internal affairs. Malaysia expressed confidence that the resolution provided the Group with clear guidelines, including non-interference in States' internal affairs and non-infringement of the prerogatives of existing international organizations and institutions.

As to the Group's composition, Indonesia and Kenya said consideration should be given to equitable geographical distribution. Australia and Kenya called, in addition, for the use of expertise in dealing with refugee questions, and the Sudan asked that experts from the developing world, especially from those States directly concerned with the problem, be asked to participate at United Nations expense. Australia, Indonesia and the Sudan believed the Group should conduct its work by consensus.

Misgivings or opposition to the creation of an expert group were voiced by, among others, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mexico and the Sudan. Bangladesh said that, although the Group could serve a useful purpose, it preferred to await a consensus on the proposal to establish it. India asserted that existing guidelines and machinery were more than adequate, and Bangladesh and Mexico said examining and improving them might help solve the problem and avoid duplication of work. Viet Nam supported making the existing machinery and instruments more effective to encourage the most appropriate solution through bilateral agreements. Ethiopia and the Sudan called for more scrupulous adherence to the existing instruments, notably the Charter of the United Nations; the Sudan also expected the group, if established, to define the role of existing organs.

India warned that, if the Security Council could not halt aggression or restore the inalienable rights of peoples and nations under foreign occupation, a subsidiary organ of the Assembly was unlikely to achieve that result. Mexico considered it the task of the Council and other appropriate organs, rather than of an expert group, to deal with political conflicts which went beyond national boundaries and threatened international peace and security. For Ethiopia, the creation of a new organ would contribute little, provide an additional instrument for interference in the internal affairs of States and lead to more refugee flows.

Morocco said a comprehensive review of the problem should clarify the practical measures

needed, including the possibility of preparing a declaration or creating a new machinery; however, the powers of the Secretary-General or the Security Council might suffice. India wanted the group to respect the principle of non-interference in States' internal affairs.

In addition to their sympathy for the human suffering involved, many countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Zambia, expressed concern at the implications of massive refugee flows, notably the burden on receiving States, destabilizing effects on the internal economic and social order, and increased tension and threats to regional and international peace and security. Zaire said it knew from experience that humanitarian duty imposed a heavy financial burden on receiving States, and Pakistan mentioned that it had spent \$200 million in 1981 to provide for the 2.5 million Afghan refugees on its territory. Indonesia stated that refugee flows not only created a burden on the receiving States but also placed the Government responsible for causing them in difficult circumstances, both internally and internationally.

Aside from natural disasters, most speakers considered the diverse causes of refugee flows to be basically political.

Most often mentioned as a cause were political and military developments, both domestic and foreign—such as political oppression, foreign intervention, armed aggression and military occupation, as Somalia put it. Ethiopia, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Sudan and Viet Nam identified colonialism as a cause, while denial of the right of peoples to self-determination was mentioned by Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan and Somalia. Violation of international law was cited by Democratic Kampuchea, Greece and Singapore, while human rights violations were listed by Austria, India, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom (for the EC members) and Zambia. Racial discrimination was another cause, according to Austria, Japan and the Sudan, and apartheid was listed by Bangladesh, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Viet Nam and Zambia. Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam regarded Zionism as a cause. Iran said people sometimes fled their homelands to preserve independence, freedom and faith.

Social and/or economic factors were mentioned by Austria, Ethiopia, Italy, Singapore, the Sudan and the United Kingdom, the last on behalf of the EC members. Economic disparities and the absence of a new international economic order were other factors, according to Bangla-

desh, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sierra Leone.

Specific recent events were listed by some as having caused massive flows of refugees. Democratic Kampuchea spoke of the USSR invasion of Afghanistan, wars of aggression in the Horn of Africa and in southern Africa, the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea and the tragedy of the Vietnamese "boat people". Japan spoke of millions of people forced to flee as a result of two military incursions within the past three years. Iran charged that Iraq expelled its citizens for their racial and ancestral ties with the Iranians.

For Malaysia, mass exoduses were caused by "push and pull" factors, which included propaganda, incitement and other forms of encouragement through the mass media; it hoped the expert Group would deal with States' obligations not to set such factors in motion.

A search for preventive rather than purely curative or remedial measures was called for by many, among them Australia, Canada, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Singapore, Somalia, Zaire and Zambia. Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Pakistan and the Sudan said humanitarian efforts should be supplemented by political action. While Canada, Egypt and Portugal stressed the need for political solutions, the Lao People's Democratic Republic said the issue should be totally depoliticized and approached from the humanitarian angle alone.

Finland said the concept of the international community's responsibility should not be seen as absolving the States that had caused a refugee problem. Democratic Kampuchea called for exerting pressure on the culprits, and the Philippines pointed to the need to deal with the acts of States that resulted in refugee flows. China saw the need to force those responsible to abide by United Nations resolutions, including the possibility of dispatching fact-finding missions. Viet Nam asserted that the political causes of the problem were too numerous and diverse to be attributed solely to the conduct of Governments of the countries of origin.

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Morocco believed that the establishment of a new international economic order could help prevent refugee flows. In India's opinion, what was needed was a new system of international relations based on respect for independence, security and development of all peoples.

As for more specific measures, Australia suggested the establishment of early-warning mechanisms and the empowering of international organs to carry out such functions as inquiry into potential mass-flow situations, mediation

and the formulation of recommendations for their solution or improvement. Making a similar suggestion, Somalia said the findings of such a special body could form a basis for action by the General Assembly or the Security Council. Some countries, including Austria, advised that account be taken of the prerogatives of the Council and the good offices of the Secretary-General. The Federal Republic of Germany suggested improving international mechanisms-for instance by broadening the mandates of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, creating new bodies within the system and enhancing the role of regional organizations; any recommendations regarding the institutional framework should be geared to making it easier rather than more difficult for States to seek international assistance.

A number of countries, among them Egypt, Greece, Malaysia and the Sudan, asked that special regard be paid to the right of refugees to return home. Greece also mentioned a similar right for displaced persons. Ethiopia asserted that, since there were 17 million displaced persons in the world as compared to 10 million refugees, no satisfactory solution to the refugee-flow problem could be envisaged without a simultaneous effort to solve that of displaced persons.

Egypt said the States responsible for causing refugee flows had the obligation to adopt measures for repatriation or for compensation to those who preferred not to return. While supporting the right to repatriation, Canada said that, in view of the size and complexity of the refugee situation, the idea of compensating refugees not wishing to return would require considerable study of financial and legal implications and practical aspects. Japan said due account should be taken of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own.

Report: ⁽¹⁾S-G, A/36/582 & Corr.1 & Add.1.

Resolutions: GA: ⁽²⁾2625(XXV), annex, 24 Oct. 1970 (YUN 1970, p. 789); ⁽³⁾35/124, 11 Dec. 1980 (YUN 1980, p. 953); ⁽⁴⁾36/148, 16 Dec. 1981, text following.

Yearbook reference: ⁽⁵⁾1980, p. 940.

Financial implications: 5th Committee report, A/36/823; S-G statements, A/SPC/36/L.27, A/C.5/36/94.

Meeting records: GA: SPC, A/SPC/36/SR.40, 42-45 (24-30 Nov.); 5th Committee, A/C.5/36/SR.73 (14 Dec.); plenary, A/36/PV.100 (16 Dec.).

General Assembly resolution 36/148

Adopted without vote Meeting 100 16 December 1981

Approved by Special Political Committee (A/36/790) without vote. 30 November (meeting 45); 37-nation draft (A/SPC/36/L.27/Rev.1), orally revised: agenda item 66.

Sponsors: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire.

International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees
The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/124 of 11 December 1980 on international co-operation to avert new massive flows of refugees,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the comments and suggestions submitted by Member States, organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies in response to General Assembly resolution 35/124,

Gravely concerned about the continuing massive flows of refugees in many parts of the world and the human suffering affecting millions of men, women and children who flee or are forcibly expelled from their homelands,

Reaffirming the strong condemnation of policies and practices of oppressive and racist régimes, as well as aggression, colonialism, apartheid, alien domination, foreign intervention and occupation, which are among the root causes of new massive flows of refugees throughout the world resulting in great human suffering,

Taking into account the importance of socio-economic factors in the creation of refugee situations,

Reaffirming the inviolability of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of other existing International instruments, norms and principles relevant, inter alia, to responsibilities of States with regard to averting new massive flows of refugees, as well as to the status and the protection of refugees, and also reaffirming the framework of competences of existing international organizations and institutions,

Stressing that massive flows of refugees may not only affect the domestic order and stability of receiving States but also jeopardize the political and social stability and the economic development of entire regions and thus endanger international peace and security,

Noting that, in addition to creating individual human misery, massive flows of refugees can impose great political, economic and social burdens upon the international community as a whole, with dire effects on developing countries, particularly those with limited resources of their own,

Convinced that averting new massive flows of refugees is, therefore, a matter of urgent concern for the international community as a whole,

Reaffirming its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, by which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Commending the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for their untiring humanitarian and social efforts, for which the Office of the High Commissioner has twice been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize,

Commending also for their contributions all Governments, organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations which have provided aid, and stressing the importance of their efforts in this field,

Conscious of the importance of developing, in order to avert new massive flows of refugees, appropriate means of international co-operation in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, with the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States and also with the principle that nothing in the Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Welcomes the comments and suggestions submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 35/124 by Member States, organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies on international co-operation to avert new massive flows of refugees and on facilitating the return of those refugees who wish to return;

3. Emphasizes the right of refugees to return to their

homes in their homelands and reaffirms the right, as contained in its previous resolutions, of those who do not wish to return to receive adequate compensation;

4. Decides to establish a group of governmental experts of seventeen members who shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, upon nomination by the Member States concerned after appropriate consultation with the regional groups and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution, and whose expenses as a rule shall be borne by each nominating State for its expert;

5. Requests the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, in the light of the existing relevant international instruments, norms and principles and with due regard to the rights mentioned in paragraph 3 above, to undertake as soon as possible, in order to improve international co-operation to avert new massive flows of refugees, a comprehensive review of the problem in all its aspects, with a view to developing recommendations on appropriate means of international co-operation in this field, having due regard to the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States;

6. Requests the Group of Governmental Experts to be mindful of the importance of reaching general agreement whenever that has significance for the outcome of its work;

7. Calls upon the Group of Governmental Experts to take into account the comments and suggestions submitted to the Secretary-General in response to resolution 35/124 and any further comments and suggestions from Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations and specialized agencies, as well as the views expressed during the debate on this item at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and also the study to be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-eighth session by the special rapporteur, pursuant to its resolution 29(XXXVII) of 11 March 1981, and furthermore the deliberations on this study by the Commission;

8. Calls upon Member States that have not yet submitted to the Secretary-General their comments and suggestions on this item to do so as soon as possible;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a further compilation of the replies received in accordance with paragraph 8 above and to provide the Group of Governmental Experts with all necessary assistance and facilities for the completion of its task;

10. Calls upon the Group of Governmental Experts to submit a report to the Secretary-General in time for deliberation by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session the item entitled 'International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees'.

International protection of refugees

REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. In his report⁽¹⁾ to the General Assembly on developments during 1981, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stated that Governments were adopting an increasingly restrictive approach in granting asylum and refugee status, possibly due to continued arrival of asylum seekers and public hostility against them. Moreover, the economic recession encouraged the view that all aliens were potential competitors for limited economic opportunities, thus resulting in overlooking the special situation of refugees.

In many parts of the world, asylum seekers continued to face physical danger. In South Asia and Central America, refugees were shot down while trying to reach the safety of a refugee camp, and some 50 per cent of asylum seekers in the South China Sea reaching the shores of their country of first asylum were victims of physical assault and robbery in the course of their flight. Numerous cases of murder and abduction were also recorded. In some countries, refugees in camps were the victims of attacks by the military forces of neighbouring countries.

The High Commissioner also noted with utmost concern the cases of refoulement- the forcible return of asylum seekers to countries where they faced the danger of persecution or death. In addition to a large-scale distribution of identity cards to refugees in a number of countries, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided some 8,000 convention travel documents- papers enabling refugees to travel outside their country of asylum - to Governments on request.

The High Commissioner convened at Geneva in April a meeting of a group of experts on temporary refuge in situations of large-scale influx, as had been requested by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. In December, a Symposium on the Promotion, Dissemination and Teaching of Fundamental Human Rights of Refugees was held in Tokyo, under the joint auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNHCR and the United Nations University.

REGIONAL ACTION. At the regional level, the Inter-American Convention on Extradition, containing a provision prohibiting the extradition of bona fide refugees, was adopted at Caracas, Venezuela, in February 1981, and the Colloquium on Asylum and the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, meeting in Mexico in May, recognized the need for harmonizing the concepts defined in relevant inter-American conventions with those in international instruments. The African Charter of Human and People's Rights, adopted in July at Nairobi, Kenya, affirmed the right of the persecuted to seek and obtain asylum, as did the Universal Islamic Declaration on Human Rights, which was adopted in September. In November, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation on the harmonization of national procedures relating to asylum.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION. The UNHCR Executive Committee noted at its October 1981 session⁽²⁾ that, despite a broader understanding

of the principles of international protection, the basic rights of refugees had been disregarded in a number of areas in the world. It noted with particular concern that in certain areas refugees had been denied asylum, rejected at the frontier or subjected to expulsion or forcible return, and had fallen victim to pirate attacks at sea. It also noted with grave concern the military attacks on refugee camps in southern Africa and elsewhere.

The Committee stated that, in situations of large-scale influx, asylum seekers should be admitted to the extent possible to the State in which they first sought refuge, and that the principle of non-refoulement -including non-rejection at the frontier-should be observed. The Committee listed 16 minimum basic human standards for the treatment of asylum seekers temporarily admitted to States pending arrangements for a durable solution, and declared that asylum seekers and UNHCR were to be entitled access to each other. The Committee also called for burden-sharing with the receiving States so requesting, and urged Governments to seek removal of the root causes of large-scale movements (P. 1050).

Further, the Committee requested the High Commissioner to convene a working group- comprising representatives of the maritime States, the coastal States most concerned, potential countries of resettlement and competent international bodies- to elaborate principles and measures to deal with the complex problems arising from the rescue, disembarkation and resettlement of asylum seekers at sea. The group was requested to report to the Executive Committee in 1982.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. On 14 December 1981, the General Assembly urged Governments to support the High Commissioner in promoting international protection, by observing the principle of asylum and non-refoulement and by protecting asylum seekers in large-scale influx situations.

Reports: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR, A/37/12; ⁽²⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Resolution: ⁽³⁾GA, 36/125, para.5 (a), 14 Dec. (p. 1031).

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December 1981, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,⁽²⁾ which entered into force on 22 April 1954,⁽³⁾ and its 1967 Protocol,⁽⁴⁾ which entered into force on 4 October 1967, had been ratified or acceded to by 89 and 87 States, respectively.

The UNHCR Executive Committee,⁽¹⁾ at its October session at Geneva, expressed hope for further accessions to the Convention and the Protocol and for those States maintaining geographical limitation in respect of their obliga-

tions under the Convention to withdraw that limitation. It also noted with satisfaction the measures taken by various States for the effective implementation of their obligations under the Convention, particularly as regards determination of refugee status.

By year's end, the following States (those adhering in 1981 are italicized) had ratified or acceded to the Convention:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, *chad*, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Suriname. Sweden. Switzerland. Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

The Protocol had been ratified or acceded to by the following States (those adhering in 1981 are italicized):

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada,

Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador. Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

During the year, Italy acceded to the 1973 Protocol relating to Refugee Seamen, bringing the total of States parties to the instrument to 14, while there were 18 States parties to the 1957 Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen.

There were no further accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, nor to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the number of States parties to those instruments remained at 32 and 10, respectively.

There were no further accessions to the, Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, adopted in 1969 by the Organization of African Unity.

Report: ⁽¹⁾UNHCR Committee, A/36/12/Add.1.

Yearbook references: ⁽²⁾1951, p. 520; ⁽³⁾1954, p. 256;

⁽⁴⁾1967, p. 769.