

## CHAPTER XI

# REFUGEES

In 1957, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was faced with the considerable Hungarian refugee problem in addition to its tasks of providing international protection for refugees and carrying out the programme of the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF). About 200,000 Hungarian refugees came into Austria and Yugoslavia in the course of 1957. By the end of that year, 15,000 had returned to Hungary, and permanent solutions had been found for 164,000 in other countries. By that date, the problem in Yugoslavia had

been nearly solved. But solutions were still required for the majority of the 19,000 refugees remaining in Austria.

The continuing need for international protection for the refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate—there are more than one million such refugees in Europe alone—was recognized by the General Assembly at its twelfth session in 1957, when it decided (by resolution 1165 (XII) ) to continue the Office of the High Commissioner for a further period of five years from 1 January 1959.

The UNREF programme for permanent solutions and emergency aid to refugees reached its full momentum in 1957. By the end of the third quarter of that year, 16,880 refugees had been firmly settled. It became evident, however, the programme would have to be intensified if permanent solutions were to be found for an estimated 14,000 refugees still likely to be in camps by the end of 1958. An estimated \$4,800,000 would be required in addition to the \$16,000,000 originally set as a target for governmental contributions for the four-year period 1955-1958. Recognizing the need for further international aid to refugees particularly those in refugee camps, the General Assembly, at its twelfth session, adopted a resolution (1166(XII)) on further international aid for refugees.

#### HUNGARIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM

The flow of Hungarian refugees into Austria and Yugoslavia stopped almost completely in the early months of 1957, and the extent of the situation then became clearer. There were three over-all problems: (1) to find emigration opportunities for refugees wishing to settle in other countries; (2) to obtain funds to reimburse the Austrian and Yugoslav Governments for the heavy expenditures they had incurred on behalf of Hungarian refugees; and (3) to provide aid for the relatively high number of refugees wishing to make their home in Austria.

No particular difficulties occurred in providing legal protection for the refugees from Hungary, as they were generally recognized as coming within the scope of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. A number of Governments gave facilities to Hungarian refugees going beyond those required by the Convention, particularly in regard to the right to work.

Resettlement from Austria, after proceeding satisfactorily in the first half of the year, later tended to slow down. Out of a total influx of about 180,000 refugees, some 19,000 (including about 8,500 in camps), were still in Austria on 31 December 1957. Approximately 11,000 of the 19,000 either wished to remain in Austria or were considered likely to do so through failing to meet the selection criteria of countries of resettlement. The other 8,000 refugees still awaited emigration.

Resettlement from Yugoslavia, on the other hand, increased in tempo during the second half of 1957. By the end of the year, only about 500 of the 20,000 who had arrived were still waiting to leave the country. About 16,000 had emigrated, 2,800 had returned to Hungary and 600 had settled locally. The rest were all expected to leave Yugoslavia within a few weeks.

Much of the success of the resettlement operation was due to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) and to the voluntary agencies which worked in Austria and Yugoslavia.

Expenditures incurred by the Austrian Government by the end of 1957 were expected to amount to over \$12,200,000. This sum was fully covered by contributions from other Governments made through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through the High Commissioner's Office or directly. In Yugoslavia, however, the Government was faced with a deficit of about \$6,650,000.

A remarkable contribution was made in both countries by the League of Red Cross Societies, which was awarded the Nansen Medal for 1957 in recognition of services rendered to the cause of refugees. In Austria, it supplied direct care and maintenance in camps. In Yugoslavia, it delivered supplies for distribution by the Yugoslav Red Cross. National Red Cross Societies contributed over \$3,000,000 in cash and \$9,400,000 in kind for the operation in Austria, and \$430,000 in cash and nearly \$1,100,000 in kind for Yugoslavia.

The needs of Hungarian refugees wishing to settle in Austria were being met in 1957 by an UNREF permanent solutions programme costing \$3,500,000. The major part of this was for housing. The programme also provided for educational and other special facilities for young refugees, aid to students and intellectuals and small loans to help refugees to become integrated into the countries they live in. It was also expected that some further aid might be needed for handicapped refugees.

#### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

##### 1951 CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES

The Government of Liechtenstein ratified the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees on 8 March 1957. Tunisia issued a declaration

that it considered France's ratification (made before Tunisia became independent) as binding and was applying the Convention. The number of States parties to the Convention by the end of 1957 thus rose to 22.

#### ADMISSION AND EXPULSION

During 1957, the Office of the High Commissioner continued to assist the Governments of the main countries of asylum in determining the eligibility of refugees. Arrangements to this effect were made by the High Commissioner in Austria, Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Morocco and the Netherlands. In most cases, the arrangements made have also enabled the Representatives of the High Commissioner in the countries concerned to state their views in cases where refugees are in danger of expulsion or where there are difficulties with regard to their admission.

#### RIGHT TO WORK

Permanent solutions for the refugee problem depend considerably on the legal status of refugees in their countries of residence. It is therefore particularly important to help them obtain residence permits and permission to work. Austria, France and Italy were among the countries granting further facilities of this kind in 1957.

The Office of the High Commissioner, in consultation with the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), continued to promote the carrying out of a decision by the OEEC's Manpower Committee to enable refugees residing in OEEC member countries to be treated as nationals of these countries when taking up residence and employment in other OEEC member countries.

#### NATURALIZATION

In the course of 1956 and 1957, there was an increase in the number of refugees naturalized, mainly in Austria where some 60,000 refugees of German ethnic origin had acquired Austrian nationality by 31 December 1956. An estimated 20,000 refugees were naturalized during 1956 in Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and other European countries.

#### TRAVEL FACILITIES

By the end of 1957, travel documents under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees were being issued by Austria, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ecuador, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. During the year, Haiti and China agreed to give general recognition to Convention travel documents issued by other States. The number of States formally recognizing Convention travel documents thus rose to 14.

Upon the suggestion of the Office of the High Commissioner, negotiations were arranged between various European countries for the bilateral exemption of refugees from visa requirements.

#### REFUGEE SEAMEN

The Office took part in three conferences called at The Hague by the Netherlands Government which resulted in an Agreement on 23 November 1957 to regularize the legal status of refugee seamen. The Office of the High Commissioner took steps to implement the Agreement and to encourage other Governments to accede to it.

#### OTHER PROBLEMS

The Office also continued to promote arrangements for educational, social security and legal aid benefits for refugees and for the indemnification of victims of Nazi persecution.

#### REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT

##### VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

The Office of the High Commissioner continued to apply due safeguards to ensure the protection of those refugees considering repatriation. The countries in which they live inform the High Commissioner's Office of the visit of a repatriation mission and invite it to send a representative to accompany the mission as a neutral observer to ensure that no undue influence is exercised on the refugees from any side.

##### RESETTLEMENT

About 34,000 refugees other than new Hungarian refugees were resettled in the course of 1957 with the aid of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM),

which arranged for their transport. They included nearly 3,000 European refugees who left China via Hong Kong. Only 1,500 refugees of the approximate total of 34,000 were resettled in European countries, including 127 difficult cases for whom permanent care in institutions or otherwise was ensured.

#### THE UNREF PROGRAMME

In 1957, the UNREF programme entered its third year of operation. By the end of 1957, a sum of about \$10,600,000 had been contributed towards the \$16,000,000 target for governmental contributions for the period 1955—1958. This was \$2,400,000 less than the sum which had been hoped for by that date.

By 30 September 1957, 16,880 refugees had been firmly settled under the programme, including 5,016 from camps. The majority were in Austria (7,841) and Germany (2,757). In addition, 10,716 other refugees had benefited from projects other than those for emergency assistance but had not yet become firmly settled.

A significant part of the UNREF programme concerns the Far Eastern Operation whereby refugees of European origin on the mainland of China are resettled to overseas countries. Their transport costs are covered by ICEM while costs of their care and maintenance in transit in Hong Kong are met by UNREF. Owing to a sudden increase in the number of exit permits being issued on the mainland of China, the number of refugees of European origin arriving in Hong Kong rose considerably during 1957. The funds for transport proving inadequate, ICEM issued a special appeal which the High Commissioner supported. At the end of 1957, there were nevertheless some 1,140 refugees in transit in Hong Kong for whom it was necessary to provide care and maintenance.

It became evident in 1957 that, despite a focusing of the programme on clearing the refugee camps, the financial resources available or anticipated would not suffice to provide solutions for all refugees living in camps by the end of 1958. The number of refugees in camps in Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy, had been reduced from 84,750 at the beginning of 1955 to 58,300 by mid-1957 (including 16,100 new Hungarian refugees). The High Commissioner's Office estimated that, if permanent solutions were to be found for all those refugees

in camps for whom the UNREF programme had been designed, it would be necessary not only to recoup the shortfall in governmental contributions but also to find an additional \$4,800,000. This problem was brought up at the UNREF Executive Committee's fifth session and sixth (special) session, at the Economic and Social Council's twenty-fourth session, in mid-1957, and subsequently at the General Assembly's twelfth session. The action taken is described below.

#### ACTION BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNREF

The UNREF Executive Committee held three sessions in 1957, as follows: its fourth session in January-February, its fifth session in June and its sixth (special) session in July.

At its fourth session, the Committee approved the Revised Plan of Operations for 1957. It agreed on a total combined target of \$7,096,303 for governmental contributions for 1957, this sum to include the original \$4,400,000 target for 1957 and the \$2,696,303 shortfall in governmental contributions for 1956.

The Committee also adopted a resolution declaring that the care of the Hungarian refugees was a burden to be shared by the whole world, and supported the High Commissioner's appeals for financial contributions and offers of resettlement.

The Committee was unable to reach a clear decision on the eligibility of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong for assistance. But, considering that their plight was of international concern, it suggested that the General Assembly examine the question at its twelfth session.

At its fifth session, the Committee approved new and revised projects for the Revised Plan of Operations for 1957, bringing the total value of approved projects up to \$6,474,664. In addition, it approved a tentative target of \$5.1 million for the Revised Plan of Operations for 1958.

Also at the fifth session, the High Commissioner explained that, upon the termination of the UNREF programme at the end of 1958, permanent solutions would still have to be found for some 14,000 refugees living in camps. To finance these permanent solutions would require an estimated \$7.5 million. This sum included an anticipated shortfall of \$2.7 million

in contributions by Governments to the original \$16 million target for governmental contributions for the four-year UNREF programme, plus \$4.8 million over and above that target.

It was also understood that even after the camps had been cleared of their present occupants, there would still be many refugees outside camps for whom permanent solutions would still be required. The High Commissioner was asked for a special analysis of the non-settled refugee population in various countries to obtain data on which to base plans for helping these refugees.

At its sixth (special) session, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution in favour of intensifying the programme, most representatives agreeing that this would enable the High Commissioner to provide permanent solutions more rapidly and at less cost. Members agreed, too, that the UNREF programme should continue to concentrate primarily on the clearance of camps. Some representatives pointed out that due account should be taken of the need also to assist the non-settled refugees living outside camps.

#### CONSIDERATION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

At its twenty-third session, the Economic and Social Council confirmed the membership of the UNREF Executive Committee and endorsed its recommendation that Canada be added, thus raising the Committee's membership to 21. It did so by resolution 639(XXIII), adopted on 24 April 1957 by 16 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

At the Council's twenty-fourth session, the High Commissioner, in introducing his annual report, said that the UNREF programme was about a year behind schedule. To clear refugee camps in Europe, he recalled, the UNREF Executive Committee had recommended intensifying the UNREF programme. The Executive Committee had also recommended that his office be prolonged in view of the continuing need for international protection of refugees, roughly a million of whom came within his mandate in Europe alone.

Most representatives agreed with these recommendations, and considered also that the High Commissioner should be supported in his

appeal for further financial contributions for this purpose. In this connexion, some representatives hoped that contributions would also be forthcoming from those Governments which had not hitherto contributed to the Fund.

On 24 July 1957, the Council adopted a three-part resolution. By the first part (650 A (XXIV)), adopted unanimously, it transmitted the High Commissioner's report to the twelfth session of the General Assembly. By the second part (650 B (XXIV)), it recognized the need for continued international action for refugees and recommended that the High Commissioner's Office be continued for a period of five years after 1 January 1959. This was adopted by 16 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions. The third part (650 C (XXIV)), adopted unanimously, endorsed the UNREF Executive Committee's request that the High Commissioner intensify his programme and recommended that he be authorized to appeal for the additional funds needed to close the camps.

#### CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was again considered at the General Assembly's twelfth session.

In an introductory statement in the Assembly's Third Committee, the High Commissioner declared that refugees coming under his mandate should be free to choose between the three main solutions: repatriation, resettlement and integration. The most efficient way of dealing with the refugee problem was to give them the necessary assistance speedily enough to avoid a subsequent need for continued material aid.

He considered that the problem of the refugee for whom the UNREF programme had been established, could be solved by an effort similar to that made for Hungarian refugees. Priority was being given to the achievement of solutions for the 39,000 refugees still living in camps, 80 per cent of whom belonged to family units. Their resettlement would be facilitated if, in accordance with the principle of family unity, liberal criteria were applied whenever the refusal of a visa to one family member might jeopardize the resettlement of the whole family.

For those refugees who could not be resettled or did not wish to be repatriated, the only solu-

tion was integration in their countries of residence. Housing was the main requirement for this.

As to non-settled refugees living outside camps, the High Commissioner drew attention to the serious position of refugees of European origin in the Far East, and to the existence of an estimated 15,000 difficult cases.

If permanent solutions were to be achieved for the refugee camp population, he stressed, the UNREF programme would have to be intensified. This objective could be achieved by the end of 1960 if the shortfall of \$2.7 million in governmental contributions to UNREF were made up and if an additional amount estimated at \$4.8 million were contributed to UNREF.

In the course of the debate three draft resolutions were submitted to the Third Committee.

One, put forward by the Netherlands, proposed that the Office of the High Commissioner be continued for five years from 1 January 1959.

The second, on international assistance to refugees, was sponsored by the following 13 Members: Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The third draft resolution dealt with the problem of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. It was submitted by the Netherlands, Turkey and the United States.

Most representatives supported the Netherlands proposal on prolonging the Office of the High Commissioner, which was adopted by the Third Committee on 12 November 1957 by 63 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions. On 26 November, it was finally approved at a plenary meeting of the Assembly as resolution 1165 (XII), by a vote of 66 to 0, with 9 abstentions.

The 13-power draft resolution on international assistance to refugees coming within the High Commissioner's mandate made provision, in a revised form, for the following steps, among others: (a) intensification of the UNREF programme for clearing the refugee camps, but without losing sight of the need to seek solutions for the problems of refugees outside camps; (b) appeals by the High Commissioner for the additional funds required for closing the camps; (c) discontinuance of operations under UNREF

after 31 December 1958 (except for projects started but not completed before then), and liquidation of UNREF; (d) future assistance to refugees; (e) appeals for funds to provide supplemental temporary care and maintenance to refugees and to help finance permanent solutions; (f) the establishment of an emergency fund not to exceed \$500,000; and (g) replacement of the UNREF Executive Committee by an "Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme", to consist of representatives from 20 to 25 States elected on the widest possible geographical basis from States with a demonstrated interest in, and a devotion to, the solution of refugee problems.

The revised draft resolution also reaffirmed the basic principle laid down in the statute of the High Commissioner's Office regarding forms of permanent solution of the problems of refugees by actions to "facilitate the voluntary repatriation of such refugees, or their assimilation within new national communities".

In the preamble to this draft, it was stated that if the UNREF programme received the necessary funds, it would be able to reduce the number of unsettled refugees by 31 December 1958 to such a point that most countries would be able to support their refugees without international aid. After that date, there would, however, still remain a residual need for international aid in certain countries, especially among certain groups and categories of these refugees.

In introducing this draft resolution, the United States representative expressed support of the High Commissioner for Refugees and said that the arrangements proposed to replace the UNREF programme were adapted to the continuing but constantly changing nature of the refugee problem. They would make it possible to set up specific programmes for solving specific refugee problems as and when the need arose. Interested Governments would be enabled to earmark their contributions for those programmes which were of special interest to them, so that a large number of contributions might be expected. It would be possible at the same time to continue the aid provided under the UNREF programme and to meet emergency situations that might arise.

Many representatives agreed on the need to

intensify the UNREF programme, and stressed the necessity to solve the problems of those refugees still in camps. Several hoped that Governments which had not yet done so would contribute to UNREF.

The representative of France and others stressed the need to continue aid to those refugees outside camps who were not yet firmly settled.

The French representative also maintained—as did the spokesmen of Denmark and the United Kingdom—that responsibility for aiding refugees should be transferred at an early date to the Governments of the countries where the refugees resided. Others, however, considered this either undesirable or difficult to put into practice.

Representatives of the USSR and of most other countries of origin of refugees considered that repatriation was the best way to solve the refugee problem.

On 12 November 1957, the Third Committee adopted the revised 13-power draft, with some oral amendments, by 59 votes to 0, with 14 abstentions. On 26 November, it was approved at a plenary meeting of the Assembly by a vote of 63 to 0, and 10 abstentions, as resolution 1166(XII). (For text, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES, below.)

By a third resolution, approved on 26 November, the Assembly appealed to Members of the United Nations and specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to give all

possible assistance in alleviating the distress of the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. It authorized the High Commissioner for Refugees to use his good offices to encourage arrangements for contributions.

The resolution to this effect ( 1167 (XII) ) was approved by a vote of 50 for, 9 against, and 11 abstentions. It was previously approved in the Third Committee on the basis of a proposal by the Netherlands, Turkey and the United States.

During the discussion of the proposal, the representative of China maintained that the international community could not disclaim responsibility for assistance to this group of refugees. Other representatives, however, could see no possibility of solving the problem without the participation of the People's Republic of China.

The proposal on Chinese refugees in Hong Kong was adopted by the Third Committee on 12 November by 43 votes to 10, with 14 abstentions.

#### CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

On 4 October 1957, the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly met for the announcement of pledges of contributions to UNREF. Of the 82 Member States and 5 non-member States invited to attend, approximately 65 were represented. Contributions to UNREF totalling about \$3.3 million were pledged by 12 Governments. Other pledges were made later.

#### DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

##### MEMBERSHIP OF UNREF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—23RD SESSION Plenary Meeting 965.

E/2954. Note by Secretary-General.

E/L.747. Brazil, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 634(XXIII), as submitted in E/L.747, adopted by Council on 24 April 1957, meeting 965, by 16 votes/ to 0, with 2 abstentions.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 565 (XIX) of 31 March 1955 establishing the United Nations Refugee Fund Executive Committee,

"Noting that the Executive Committee has recommended the addition of Canada to the membership of the Committee, that the High Commissioner for Refugees has welcomed the suggestion and that Canada has expressed its willingness to serve,

##### "Decides:

"1. To confirm the membership of those States at present serving on the United Nations Refugee Fund Executive Committee;

"2. To amend Council resolution 565(XIX) to increase the membership of the Committee to twenty-one;

"3. To add Canada to the membership of the Committee."

##### ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES; PROPOSAL TO PROLONG OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES; INTENSIFICATION OF UNREF PROGRAMME

##### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—24TH SESSION Plenary Meetings 988, 989.

E/3015 and Add.1, 2. Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including reports of 4th, 5th and 6th (special) sessions of UNREF Executive Committee.

E/L.760. Brazil, Canada, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States draft resolution.

E/L.762. Greece amendment to joint draft resolution. RESOLUTION 650 A-c (xxiv), as submitted jointly by six Powers, E/L.760, and as amended by Greece and orally by the Netherlands, adopted by Council on 24 July 1957, meeting 989, as follows: 650 A and G (XXIV), unanimously; 650 B (XXIV), by 16 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

## A

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the annexed reports of the United Nations Refugee Fund Executive Committee on its fourth, fifth and sixth (special) sessions,

"Takes note of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the twelfth regular session of the General Assembly.

## B

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 727(VIII) of 23 October 1953, decided to review, not later than at its twelfth regular session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1958,

"Noting that the United Nations Refugee Fund Executive Committee, in paragraph 79 of the report on its fifth session, unanimously decided to recommend that the Office of the High Commissioner be continued for a further period beyond 31 December 1958,

"Recognizing that the need for international action on behalf of refugees will persist after that date,

"Appreciating the valuable work which has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner in this regard,

"1. Considers that the Office of the High Commissioner should be continued for a period of five years from 1 January 1959;

"2. Recommends that the General Assembly review, not later than at its seventeenth regular session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner, with a view to determining whether the Office should be further continued."

## C

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recognizing the value of the United Nations Refugee Fund programme in achieving solutions for the problems of refugees,

"Noting the progress achieved in the implementation of the programme,

"Recognizing the importance of achieving permanent solutions for the refugees in camps as quickly as possible,

"Considering that the closure of the refugee camps will be practicable only to the extent that adequate funds are made available,

"Having considered the report of the United Nations Refugee Fund Executive Committee on its sixth ses-

sion (special) and in particular resolution No. 6 adopted at that session,

"1. Endorses the request made to the High Commissioner in that resolution to the effect that he should intensify his programme to the fullest extent possible in order to achieve permanent solutions for the maximum number of refugees remaining in camps, without losing sight of the need to continue to seek solutions for the problems of refugees outside camps;

"2. Recommends that the General Assembly authorize the High Commissioner to make an appeal to the States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies for the purpose of raising funds needed for closing the refugee camps."

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY—12TH SESSION

Plenary Meeting 723.

General Committee, meeting 111.

Ad Hoc Committee of Whole Assembly, meeting 2.

Third Committee, meetings 800-809.

A/3585/Rev.1. Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including reports of 4th, 5th and 6th (special) sessions of UNREF Executive Committee.

A/3585/Rev.1/Add.1. Survey of non-settled refugee population in various countries. Note by High Commissioner.

A/3613. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter VI, Section IV.

PROLONGATION OF OFFICE  
OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

A/3669. Review of arrangements for Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Note by Secretary-General.

A/C.3/L.638. Netherlands draft resolution adopted by Third Committee, meeting 807, by 62 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

A/3737 and Add.1/Rev.1. Report of Third Committee, (draft resolution I).

RESOLUTION 1165(XII), as recommended by Third Committee, A/3737, adopted by Assembly on 26 November 1957, meeting 723, by 66 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

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

"Having regard to its resolution 727(VIII) of 23 October 1953 in which it decided to review, not later than at its twelfth session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1958,

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

"Considering the valuable work which has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner both in providing international protection for refugees and in promoting permanent solutions for their problems,



"Noting with appreciation the effective manner in which the Office of the High Commissioner has been dealing with special emergencies

"Noting the recommendation adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 650 B (XXIV) of 24 July 1957,

"1. Decides to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a period of five years from 1 January 1959 on the basis of the Statute of the Office;

"2. Decides that the election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for a period of five years from 1 January 1959, shall take place at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly;

"3. Decides to review, not later than at its seventeenth session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be further continued beyond 31 December 1963."

#### INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

A/C.3/L.639 and Add.1, and Rev.1. Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States draft resolution and revision, as amended orally by Saudi Arabia, adopted by Third Committee, meeting 808, by 59 votes to 0, with 14 abstentions.

A/C.3/L.640. Venezuela amendment to 13-power draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.641. Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria amendment to 13-power draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.642. Saudi Arabia amendments to 13-power draft resolution.

A/3737 and Add.1/Rev.1. Report of Third Committee (draft resolution II).

RESOLUTION 1166(XII), as recommended by Third Committee, A/3737, adopted by Assembly on 26 November 1957, meeting 723, by 63 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the problem of those refugees within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who are the concern of the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF),

"Noting with approval that the United Nations Refugee Fund programme, if it receives the necessary funds, will, by 31 December 1958, have reduced the number of non-settled refugees under the programme to the point where most countries of asylum should be able to support these refugees without international assistance,

"Recognizing that, after 31 December 1958, there will be a residual need for international aid in certain countries, and particularly among certain groups and categories of these refugees,

"Bearing in mind that new refugee situations requiring international assistance have arisen to augment the problem since the establishment of the Fund, and that other such situations may arise in the future wherein international assistance may be appropriate,

"Bearing in mind that, under the Statute of his Office, the High Commissioner is charged with the duty of seeking solutions for the problems of refugees through voluntary repatriation, resettlement and integration,

"Recalling its resolution 538 B (VI) of 2 February 1952, in which the General Assembly authorized the High Commissioner to issue an appeal for funds for the purpose of enabling emergency aid to be given to the most needy groups among refugees within his mandate,

"Recalling its resolution 832(IX) of 21 October 1954, in which it authorized the High Commissioner to undertake a programme to be devoted principally to the promotion of permanent solutions for certain refugees coming within his mandate and also to permit emergency assistance to the most needy cases among these refugees, and to appeal for voluntary contributions towards a fund set up for the purpose of this programme and incorporating the fund authorized by the General Assembly in resolution 538 B (VI),

"Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 565 (XIX) of 31 March 1955, by which the Council reconstituted the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Refugees as an Executive Committee,

"Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 650(XXIV) of 24 July 1957,

"1. Approves the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 650(XXIV) of 24 July 1957, and accordingly:

"(a) Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to intensify the United Nations Refugee Fund programme to the fullest extent possible in order to achieve permanent solutions for the maximum number of refugees remaining in camps, without losing sight of the need to continue to seek solutions for the problems of refugees outside camps;

"(b) Authorizes the High Commissioner to appeal to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies for the purpose of raising the additional funds needed for closing the refugee camps;

"2. Reaffirms the basic principle laid down in paragraph 1 of the Statute of the High Commissioner's Office regarding forms of permanent solution of the problems of refugees, by actions designed to "facilitate the voluntary repatriation of such refugees, or their assimilation within new national communities";

"3. Decides that the operations under the United Nations Refugee Fund shall not be continued after 31 December 1958 except as provided for in paragraph 4 below;

"4. Requests the High Commissioner to supervise the orderly completion of projects financed from the United Nations Refugee Fund which were started but not completed before 31 December 1958, and to carry out the liquidation of the Fund in accordance with paragraph 5(a) below;

"5. Requests the Economic and Social Council to establish, not later than at its twenty-sixth session, an Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's

Programme to consist of representatives of from twenty to twenty-five States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies, to be elected by the Council on the widest possible geographical basis from those States with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of the refugee problem, this Committee to take the place of the UNREF Executive Committee and to be entrusted with the terms of reference set forth below:

"(a) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the liquidation of the United Nations Refugee Fund;

"(b) To advise the High Commissioner, at his request, in the exercise of his functions under the Statute of his Office;

"(c) To advise the High Commissioner as to whether it is appropriate for international assistance to be provided through his Office in order to help solve specific refugee problems remaining unsolved after 31 December 1958 or arising after that date;

"(d) To authorize the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds to enable him to solve the refugee problems referred to in sub-paragraph (c) above;

"(e) To approve projects for assistance to refugees coming within the scope of sub-paragraph (c) above;

"(f) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the use of the emergency fund to be established under the terms of paragraph 7 below;

"6. Authorizes the High Commissioner, under conditions approved by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, to make appeals for the funds needed to provide supplemental temporary care and maintenance to, and participate in the financing of permanent solutions for, refugees coming within his mandate and otherwise not provided for;

"7. Further authorizes the High Commissioner to establish an emergency fund not to exceed \$500,000, to be utilized under general directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, and to maintain this fund from the repayments of the principal and interest of loans made by the United Nations Refugee Fund and from voluntary contributions made for this purpose;

"8. Decides that appropriate financial rules for the use of all funds received by the High Commissioner under the terms of the present resolution shall be established, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, and in accordance with the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Financial Regulations of the

United Nations;

"9. Requests the UNREF Executive Committee to exercise in 1958 such functions incumbent upon the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme in conformity with paragraph 5 above as it deems necessary, with a view to assuring the continuity of international assistance to refugees falling within the scope of paragraph 5(c) above;

"10. Requests the High Commissioner to include in his annual report a statement on the measures which he has taken under the terms of the present resolution."

#### CHINESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

A/C.3/L.643. Netherlands, Turkey, United States, draft resolution, as orally amended by Saudi Arabia, adopted by Third Committee, meeting 808, by 43 votes to 10, with 14 abstentions.

A/3737 and Add.1/Rev.1. Report of Third Committee (draft resolution III).

RESOLUTION 1167(XII), as recommended by Third Committee, A/3737, adopted by Assembly on 26 November 1957, meeting 723, by 50 votes to 9, with 11 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the problem of the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund at its fourth session,

"Acknowledging the heavy burden placed upon the Government of Hong Kong in dealing with this problem, and the efforts made to alleviate it,

"Recognizing however that the problem is such as to be of concern to the international community,

"Taking into account the need for emergency and long-term assistance,

"1. Appeals to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and to non-governmental organizations to give all possible assistance with a view to alleviating the distress of the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong;

"2. Authorizes the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to use his good offices to encourage arrangements for contributions."

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

E/AC.79/95. Further report on problem of Hungarian refugees, submitted by High Commissioner to 7th session of UNREF Executive Committee.