CHAPTER X

REFUGEES

In 1958 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees nearly completed its work on the Hungarian refugee problem, which had been before it since the end of 1956. By January 1958, the last of the Hungarian refugees in Yugoslavia who wished to leave had been moved to other countries. With regard to refugees in Austria, nearly 4,000 were resettled in other countries during 1958, and considerable headway was made on a programme to aid those who wished to remain in Austria.

The High Commissioner's Office concentrated its main efforts in 1958 on carrying out the programme of the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF), which was due to go out of existence on 31 December 1958. First priority was given to the clearance of refugee camps and to the resettlement of refugees of European origin from the Far East.

Arrangements were made in 1958 for a new body, the 25-member Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, to replace the 21-member UNREF Executive Committee on 1 January 1959. The continuation of international assistance to refugees was provided for by the UNREF Executive Committee at a special session held in September 1958.

HUNGARIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM

By the end of December 1958, nearly 167,000 of the total of about 200,000 Hungarian refugees who left their homeland after the events of 1956 had been moved to countries of resettlement; some 17,000 had returned to Hungary; approximately 700 had remained in Yugoslavia, where they were being integrated into the national economy; and 15,000 remained in Austria, of whom 5,000 were in camps and 1,500 in centres run by voluntary agencies.

A joint appeal for further resettlement opportunities for Hungarian refugees was made on 22 April 1958 by the High Commissioner's Office and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). In 1958, the total number of these refugees in Austria decreased from 19,000 to 15,000. Some 600 had been resettled in Australia, 1,000 in Canada, 400 in Sweden, 200 in Switzerland, 1,000 in the United States and 150 in Venezuela. Smaller groups were resettled in other countries.

Some 5,000 of the Hungarian refugees still in Austria by 30 September 1958 wished to emigrate to overseas countries, and another 1,000 wished to be resettled in European countries outside Austria. By the end of 1958, emigration opportunities had been offered for about 4,250 of these refugees. In addition, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe had recommended to its Committee of Ministers that it invite Member Governments to offer, without delay, opportunities for resettlement to Hungarian refugees in Austria.

For the Hungarian refugees likely to remain in Austria, a $3.5 million programme for permanent solutions was put into effect. By 30 September 1958, about 7,550 refugees had benefited under this programme from projects for small loans, housing, case work and counseling, vocational training and aid to intellectuals, students and high school pupils.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

1951 CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES

By the end of 1958, the Convention was in force in the following 22 States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United Kingdom. Ratification of or accession to the Convention was under active consideration in several other countries.

ADMISSION AND EXPULSION

During 1958, the Office of the High Commissioner continued to assist eight Governments —Austria, Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands—in determining whether persons claiming refugee status were in fact refugees within the meaning of the 1951 Convention. This is often a condition for admission to a country. In Austria, a new procedure was instituted whereby decisions on eligibility are taken by the Austrian authorities, with representatives of the High Commissioner acting in an advisory capacity.

RIGHT TO WORK

Further efforts were made to ensure the right of refugees to work. In Italy, residence permits and work permits of unlimited duration have been granted since July 1957 to certain refugees living outside camps who have lived in Italy for at least three years or who have a wife and children of Italian nationality.

NATURALIZATION

The Office continued its efforts to make it easier for refugees to become citizens of new countries of residence by encouraging Governments to reduce naturalization fees and by making special grants to help refugees in paying such fees.

TRAVEL FACILITIES

In co-operation with the High Commissioner, the Council of Europe Special Committee on the Simplification of Frontier Formalities adopted a draft text for a multilateral agreement for the exemption of refugees from visas. Pending the adoption of this agreement by Governments, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution to the effect that visas be granted free of charge to refugees and that the procedure for their issuance be speeded up. The resolution also recommended that all Governments parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees issue the travel document for which the Convention provides, and that non-parties issue a travel document to refugees.

On suggestions made by the French Government and the High Commissioner, the Council of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) adopted a recommendation to the effect that refugees traveling to another OEEC member country in order to take up employment (under an earlier decision of the OEEC Council) be issued a travel document giving them the right of return, valid for a period of two years.

REFUGEE SEAMEN

By the end of 1958, the Agreement Relating to Refugee Seamen, which was concluded in November 1957 by Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, had been ratified only by France and the United Kingdom. Some of the other signatory States, however, were already applying the principles of the Agreement.

OTHER PROBLEMS

The Office also continued efforts to improve the situation of refugees in other legal fields, such as the right to social security benefits and indemnification for damages incurred during the Second World War. It also made arrangements for free legal assistance to needy refugees.

REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

The voluntary repatriation of refugees continued to be facilitated in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and refugees expressing to the Office the desire to be repatriated were referred to the authorities of their country of origin. Representatives of the

Office accompanied repatriation missions as neutral observers to ensure that no pressure from any side was exercised on refugees applying for repatriation. During 1958, about 900 Hungarian refugees, it was estimated, returned to Hungary.

RESETTLEMENT

Between November 1956 and December 1958, about 166,800 Hungarian refugees were transported from Austria and Yugoslavia to countries of second asylum or resettlement, the vast majority under the auspicies of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). Up to 1 November 1958, some 25,000 other refugees were resettled under the auspices of ICEM, including 5,600 in Australia, 5,600 in Canada, 6,500 in Israel, 3,500 in the United States and 1,400 in European countries.

THE UNREF PROGRAMME

The United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF) programme, which entered its fourth and last year in 1958, falls into four parts: permanent solutions, including voluntary repatriation, resettlement and integration; the Far Eastern Operation, for the evacuation of refugees of European origin from the Far East via Hong Kong; the settlement of difficult cases, that is, refugees who are too old or too ill to look after themselves; and supplementary aid, consisting of the provision of material assistance to the neediest refugees.

By the end of 1958, the total net income of the United Nations Refugees Fund amounted to $17,350,000. Of this amount, $14,492,000 had been contributed by Governments towards the $16,000,000 target for such contributions for the period 1955-1958. By 31 December 1958, additional contributions of approximately $23,000,000 were made within the countries where the major part of the programme was being carried out.

By 30 September 1958, beneficiaries under the first three parts of the programme totalled 46,270 persons. Of these, more than 22,000 came from the camp population of Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy, while some 6,300 were refugees of European origin from the mainland of China. Of the total of 46,270 refugees, 26,444 were firmly settled.

The camp clearance programme was intensified in 1958 in line with a request to that effect, made by the General Assembly at its twelfth session. These efforts were focused on the integration of refugees by providing them with housing and employment facilities. This camp clearance programme was to be continued in 1959 and 1960 when, it was hoped, solutions would be achieved for those refugees in camps for whom the UNREF programme was set up, and who could not receive assistance from other sources.

In 1958, considerable progress was made towards solving the problem of European refugees in the Far East. Nearly 2,200 refugees were resettled in other countries via Hong Kong under the joint operation of the High Commissioner and ICEM, including 169 difficult cases. By 31 December 1958, there remained 9,500 refugees on the mainland of China, including 4,000 with visas for final destinations.

By the end of 1958, a total of 1,318 difficult cases had been permanently settled under the UNREF programme. Plans have been made for further assistance to handicapped refugees, as well as to other non-settled refugees living outside camps.

During 1958, projects for supplementary aid to the neediest groups of refugees were carried out in Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the United Arab Republic. The projects benefited a total of 3,965 refugees who were in need of food, medical care and other special assistance.

SPECIAL REFUGEE PROBLEMS

During 1958, the High Commissioner continued to assist persons who had left the Middle East as the result of events which took place at the beginning of 1957.

In late 1957, following a request for aid by the Government of Tunisia on behalf of refugees from Algeria in that country, the High Commissioner appealed for contributions for these refugees. As a result, gifts in cash and kind, totalling $116,000, were made available through the High Commissioner for assistance to the refugees in Tunisia, while relief supplies valued at nearly $1,000,000 were contributed through bilateral assistance programmes. During 1958, the number of refugees in Tunisia grew

considerably, and the problem also became acute in Morocco. By the end of the year, 170,000 refugees were estimated to be in these two countries.

CHINESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

Although the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong do not fall within the mandate of the High Commissioner's Office, the General Assembly, in a resolution adopted on 26 November 1957, recognized this problem to be of international concern and authorized the High Commissioner to use his good offices to encourage arrangements for contributions. During 1958, he made an appeal on behalf of these refugees and submitted to Governments a list of projects which could usefully be financed from international sources.

ACTION BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNREF

The three sessions of the UNREF Executive Committee in 1958 were devoted mainly to the completion of the UNREF programme and the planning of further international assistance to refugees.

At its seventh session in January 1958, the Committee adopted a Revised Plan of Operations (1958), including allocations of $5,500,000, mostly for the clearance of camps. The Committee also adopted a resolution authorizing the the High Commissioner to appeal to Governments for special contributions to enable the Far Eastern Operation to be continued, and another resolution expressing the hope that countries of resettlement would facilitate the admission of refugees.

At its eighth session in June 1958, the Committee decided to establish a Working Party to consider future international assistance to refugees in the light of the information submitted by the High Commissioner. The Committee also adopted a resolution recommending an increase in membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme from 24 to 25 States as authorized by the General Assembly.

At its ninth (special) session in September 1958, the Committee approved a tentative contributions target of $4,700,000 for 1959, although it recognized that a total of $6,000,000 would be required to meet additional pressing needs of refugees. The plans included: Camp Clearance Programme, $2,900,000; Far Eastern Programme, $550,000; Programme for non-settled refugees living outside camps, $700,000. The Committee decided that, to achieve the clearance of camps, up to $5,700,000 would be needed, to be spread over 1959 and 1960. In order to complete the Far Eastern Operation, $1,650,000 would be required, in addition to an estimated $5,500,000 required by ICEM for transport over the three-year period 1959-1961. The Committee also adopted a resolution supporting a proposal for a World Refugee Year.

CONSIDERATION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Action was taken by the Economic and Social Council in 1958 to establish an Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme which, on 1 January 1959, was to replace the UNREF Executive Committee. As finally constituted, the new Committee consisted of 25 members. On 26 November 1957, the General Assembly, by resolution 1166 (XII), had requested the Council to establish such a committee with 20 to 25 members.

The Council first decided, at its twenty-fifth session, that the new body would comprise 24 members. It so acted by adopting resolution 672 (XXV) on 30 April 1958, by 15 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions. This resolution also instructed the future Committee to determine the general policies under which the High Commissioner would plan, develop and administer programmes, and review the use of funds available to him and the programmes proposed or carried out.

On 30 April 1958, the Council also named 24 countries to serve on the Committee. However, on 21 July 1958, at its twenty-sixth session, the Council decided, by resolution 682 (XXVI), to amend its previous resolution in order to add the Republic of China as the twenty-fifth member. (For membership details, see APPENDIX II.) This resolution was adopted by 10 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

At its twenty-sixth session, the Council also considered the High Commissioner's report for the period May 1957 to May 1958. In introducing his report, the High Commissioner em-

phasized that international protection for refugees was a prerequisite of all the work of his Office. The three main problems facing his Office, he said, were to find resettlement opportunities for Hungarian refugees (8,000-9,000) who wanted to emigrate from Austria; to finance solutions for earlier refugees in Europe who were still non-settled, particularly for those in camps; and to find funds required by ICEM and the High Commissioner's Office for moving abroad the 10,000 European refugees still on the mainland of China.

A number of representatives considered that efforts must be continued to achieve the final solution for Hungarian refugees in Austria. Several representatives also emphasized the importance of the camp clearance programme and expressed concern lest sufficient funds would not be available to resettle all European refugees from the Far East. Attention was drawn to the plight of the non-settled refugees living outside camps; among them were a large number of difficult cases.

On 21 July 1958, the Council adopted, by 13 votes to 0, with 5 abstentions, a resolution (686 (XXVI)) urging Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies: (1) to renew efforts to contribute or to increase their contributions to the Office of the High Commissioner; (2) to assist the Office in seeking permanent solutions for the problems of refugees by facilitating their voluntary repatriation of their assimilation within new national communities; and (3) to consider further resettlement opportunities for refugees wishing to emigrate from countries of first asylum, including if possible refugees suffering from physical, social or economic handicaps.

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Various aspects of the refugee problem were discussed by the thirteenth session of the General Assembly in connexion with the annual report of the High Commissioner, Auguste R. Lindt.

Dr. Lindt, introducing his report in the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, emphasized that the refugee problems were not insoluble. Despite an influx of some 300,000 new refugees, permanent solutions had been found for 440,000 in the past four years, and the camp population alone had decreased by 45,000. However, by the end of 1958, some 14,000 persons still in camps would require assistance as no provision had yet been made for them.

It was not possible, he said, to plan more than a minimum programme for the 120,000 non-settled refugees living outside camps in European countries. This group included 32,500 handicapped persons.

Among other problems, he drew attention to the presence of new refugees in Greece and North Africa.

He also stressed that the policy of his Office was to take into consideration the freely expressed wishes of refugees in offering solutions, and that the work was wholly humanitarian and social in character.

During the debate on the High Commissioner's report, three draft resolutions were submitted to the Third Committe. These dealt, respectively, with the High Commisioner's work for 1959, a World Refugee Year, and refugees in Morocco and Tunisia.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

The draft resolution on the High Commissioner's work was submitted by Canada, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. By this, the General Assembly would appeal to Member States to support the High Commissioner's programme for 1959 through financial contributions and/or offers of resettlement. It also welcomed the recommendation of the UNREF Executive Committee that the protection activities of the High Commissioner's Office be increased.

The sponsors stated that the purpose of the draft resolution was to ensure that the High Commissioner's 1959 programme would be fully carried out. Many representatives, in support, praised the High Commissioner's Office for the progress achieved but drew attention to the remaining problems which required increased international assistance.

Special problems were also stressed. The representative of Canada, for example, deplored the lack of funds for transporting European refugees from the Far East, the majority of whom already had visa assurances. The repre-

sentative of China and others felt that special attention should be given to the problem of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong.

Other delegations, including Czechoslovakia, Poland and the USSR, criticized the methods of work of the UNREF Executive Committee; since no mention was made of voluntary repatriation in the seven-power draft resolution, they could not support it as a whole. Several other representatives also stressed the importance of voluntary repatriation and of the return of refugee children to their families.

The Third Committee approved the draft resolution, as orally amended by the sponsors, on 6 November 1958 by 57 votes to 8, with 5 abstentions. It was approved, as resolution 1284(XIII), by the General Assembly on 5 December 1958 by 59 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions.

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

The proposal for a World Refugee Year to begin in mid-1959, which had been endorsed by the UNREF Executive Committee on 26 September 1958, was put forward in the Third Committee in a joint draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Austria, the Dominican Republic, France, Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The draft, as revised later by the sponsors, would urge Member States to co-operate, in accordance with the national wishes and needs of each country, in promoting the World Refugee Year as a practical means of securing increased assistance for refugees throughout the world; and would ask the Secretary-General to take steps to assist in its promotion.

The aims of the World Refugee Year, the draft resolution stated, would be: (1) to focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from Governments, voluntary agencies and the general public for its solution; and (2) to encourage opportunities for permanent refugee solutions, through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration, on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees.

During the debate, the sponsors stated that the scheme was intended to benefit all groups of refugees, whether internationally recognized or not. Different countries were expected to support the project in a number of ways, perhaps by contributing funds to accredited agencies, by taking more refugees into their territory, or by extending greater legal assistance to them.

Many other delegations supported the proposal as a humanitarian and effective way of focusing world attention on the plight of refugees and of enlisting greater support for the solution of their problems.

The USSR representative, supported by Czechoslovakia, Poland and others, contended that the 10-nation resolution did not establish the importance of voluntary repatriation and of the unconditional return of refugee minors. These delegates said the proposal was silent about methods of assistance to be used, and it sanctioned by implication the policies of the UNREF Executive Committee.

The representatives of Hungary and Saudi Arabia, who abstained in the vote, felt the World Refugee Year might give rise to political propaganda and demonstrations, especially by private organizations.

The USSR submitted two amendments to the 10-power resolution. One was to stress that the basic aim of all United Nations measures in this field should be to promote the earliest voluntary return of refugees to their homelands and the unconditional return thereto of children who had been separated from or had lost their parents as a result of events. The second amendment set forth various methods to encourage voluntary repatriation and, the USSR representative stated, was designed to eliminate such measures as their use for diversionist activities against their countries of origin.

Several representatives who argued against these amendments expressed regret at the introduction of political considerations into the debate; they added that most refugees would not seek repatriation until the conditions leading them to request political asylum had disappeared.

The USSR amendments were rejected by roll-call votes of 42 against, 19 in favour, with 12 abstentions; and 47 against, 9 in favour, with 18 abstentions.

The revised 10-power reslution was approved as a whole by a roll-call vote of 56 to 8, with 9 abstentions, in the Third Committee on 6

November 1958. It was adopted by the General Assembly, as resolution 1285 (XIII), at a plenary meeting on 5 December 1958 by 59 votes to 9, with 7 abstentions.

REFUGEES IN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

The third resolution on refugees, as adopted at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, pointed out that action had been taken by the High Commissioner on behalf of refugees from Algeria in Tunisia in 1958, and that a similar problem existed in Morocco. It recommended that the High Commissioner continue his action on behalf of refugees in Tunisia on a substantial scale and undertake similar action in Morocco.

The proposal concerning aid for these refugees was submitted in the Third Committee by Morocco and Tunisia, who stressed that more assistance was needed, especially for the large numbers of women and children among the refugees from Algeria. Although many delegates spoke in support of the draft resolution, the original text was revised by the sponsors to meet objections raised by other delegations during the debate. A reference in the text to providing assistance "until the return of the refugees to their homes" was thus deleted.

Some delegations, including France and the United Kingdom, considered such a resolution unnecessary since the High Commissioner already was providing assistance to these refugees and could be expected to continue it; also, the resolution might impose a financial responsibility, without requisite funds to carry it out.

The draft resolution, as amended by the sponsors, was approved by the Third Committee on 6 November 1958 by a roll-call vote of 57 to 2, with 15 abstentions. On 5 December 1958, it was adopted by the General Assembly, as resolution 1286 (XIII), by 60 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

RE-ELECTION OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

On 14 November 1958, the General Assembly re-elected Auguste R. Lindt as High Commissioner. (The Assembly decided in 1957 to continue the Office for a further five-year period, beginning 1 January 1959.) Before Dr. Lindt's re-election, a note from the Secretary-General informed the Assembly that Dr. Lindt, for personal reasons, could accept re-election to the post for only two more years.

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

On 27 October 1958, the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly met for the announcement of pledges of contributions to the High Commissioner's programme.

Contributions for the 1959 programme totalled $2,908,898 at the end of 1958.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

CONSIDERATION BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ESTABLISHMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—25TH SESSION
Plenary Meeting 1019.

E/L.787. United States draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 672 (XXV), as submitted by United States, E/L.787, adopted by Council on 30 April 1958, meeting 1019, by 15 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered General Assembly resolution 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957 concerning international assistance to refugees within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

"Noting that under the terms of the above-mentioned resolution the Council is to establish an Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme consisting of representatives of from twenty to twenty-five States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies, elected by the Council on the widest possible geographical basis from those States with a demonstrated interest jn, and devotion to, the solution of the refugee problem,

"**1. Decides:**

"(a) To establish an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to take the place of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund;

"(b) That the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund shall cease to exist after 31 December 1958 and that the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme shall take office on 1 January 1959;

"(c) That the Executive Committee of the High

Commissioner's Programme shall consist of twenty-four States, the membership being subject to review at the thirty-first session of the Council;

"2. Decides further that the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, being entrusted with the terms of reference set forth in General Assembly resolution 1166(XII), shall:

"(a) Determine the general policies under which the High Commissioner shall plan, develop and administer the programmes and projects required to help solve the problems referred to in resolution 1166 (XII);

"(b) Review at least annually the use of funds made available to the High Commissioner and the programmes and projects being proposed or carried out by his Office;

"(c) Have authority to make changes in, and give final approval to, the use of funds and the programmes and projects referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of the present paragraph;

"3. Requests the High Commissioner to submit to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, for its review at its first session, draft financial rules, to be drawn up in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII), for the use of all funds received by the High Commissioner under the terms of that resolution;

"4. Authorizes the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to elect its own officers, to establish its own rules of procedure, and to set up such standing sub-committee or sub-committees as may be required for the execution of its functions;

"5. Further requests the High Commissioner to attach to his annual report to the General Assembly the report or reports of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

"6. Further decides that from 31 December 1958 this resolution shall supersede Council resolutions 393 B (XIII) of 10 September 1951, 565(XIX) of 31 March 1955 and 639 (XXIII) of 24 April 1957."

INCREASE IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—26TH SESSION
Plenary Meetings 1040, 1041.

E/L.804. Greece and United States draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 682 (XXVI), as submitted by Greece and United States, E/L.804, adopted by Council on 21 July 1958, meeting 1041, by 10 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 672 (XXV) of 20 April 1958 establishing the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

"Noting that the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund has recommended that the Council consider the desirability of increasing the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from twenty-four to twenty-five seats,

"Noting also that General Assembly resolution 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957 provides that the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should consist of from twenty to twenty-five States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies,

"Noting further that the same General Assembly resolution requested that the membership of the Committee be elected on the widest possible geographical basis,

"Decides to amend Council resolution 672 (XXV) to increase the membership of the Committee by the addition of the Republic of China as the twenty-fifth member."

ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—26TH SESSION
Plenary Meetings 1040, 1041.

E/3138 and Add.1. Report on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including reports of 7th and 8th sessions of UNREF Executive Committee.

E/L.805. Netherlands draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 686 A and B (XXVI), as submitted by Netherlands, E/L.805, adopted by Council on 21 July 1958, meeting 1041, by 13 votes to 0, with 5 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 seventh and eighth sessions,

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

B

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling that in resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957 the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to intensify the programme of the United Nations Refugee Fund 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, and authorized him 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,

"Considering that the contributions paid, pledged or promised to the Office of the High Commissioner in answer to his appeal are as yet inadequate to enable him to complete by 31 December 1960 the clearance of refugee camps,

"Urges States Members of the United Nations and

members of the specialized agencies:

"(a) To renew their efforts either to contribute or to increase their contribution to the Office of the High Commissioner;

"(b) To assist the Office of the High Commissioner in its task of seeking permanent solutions for the problems of refugees by facilitating their voluntary repatriation or their assimilation within new national communities, in accordance with the basic principle laid down in paragraph 1 of the statute of the High Commissioner's Office and reaffirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 1166 (XII);

"(c) To consider with the help of voluntary agencies further resettlement opportunities for refugees wishing to emigrate from countries of first asylum, including if possible, refugees suffering from physical, social or economic handicaps."

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY——13TH SESSION

Plenary Meeting 782.
Third Committee, meetings 836, 870-876.
Fifth Committee, meeting 696.

A/3828/Rev.1 and Rev. 1/Add.1. Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including reports of 7th, 8th and 9th (special) sessions of UNREF Executive Committee.

A/3848, Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter VI, Section II.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

A/C.3/L.696. Canada, Dominican Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States draft resolution, as orally amended on suggestion of Chairman, adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1958, meeting 875, by 57 votes to 8, with 5 abstentions.

A/4001 and Corr. 1. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I.

RESOLUTION 1284(XIII) as recommended by Third Committee, A/4001, adopted by Assembly on 5 December 1958, meeting 782, by 59 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

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

"Bearing in mind that a substantial international effort still needs to be made in order to achieve solutions for non-settled refugees, and in particular for those living in camps,

"Having considered the decisions taken by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund at its ninth (special) session pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957,

"1. Welcomes the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund that the protection activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should be increased;

"2. Takes note of the programme recommended for 1959 by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund;

"3. Notes that the High Commissioner has been authorized by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund to appeal for the funds required for the programme;

"4. Appeals to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to support the High Commissioner's programme, either through financial contributions or through offers of resettlement or both."

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

A/C.3/L.695 and Rev.1. Argentina, Austria, Dominican Republic, France, Iran, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States draft resolution and revision, adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1958, meeting 875, by roll-call vote of 56 to 8, with 9 abstentions as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

Abstaining: Burma, Cambodia, Hungary, India, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Uruguay, Yemen.

A/C.3/L.697. USSR amendments to 10-power draft resolution, A/C.3/L.695.

A/4001 and Corr.1. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

A/C.5/765, A/4014, A/4020. Financial implications of draft resolution II recommended by Third Committee (A/4001). Statement of Secretary-General, report of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and report of Fifth Committee.

RESOLUTION 1285 (XIII) as recommended by Third Committee, A/4001, adopted by Assembly on 5 December 1958, meeting 782 by 59 votes to 9, with 7 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, together with the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund at its ninth (special) session on 26 September 1958,

"Convinced of the need to make a further worldwide effort to help resolve the world refugee problem,

"Having considered the proposal for a World Re-

fugee Year to begin in June 1959,

"Noting that this proposal has two aims, namely:

"(a) To focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from Governments, voluntary agencies and the general public for its solution,

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

"1. Urges States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to co-operate, in accordance with the national wishes and needs of each country and from a humanitarian point of view, in promoting a World Refugee Year as a practical means of securing increased assistance for refugees throughout the world;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to take such steps as he may think fit to assist in the promotion of a World Refugee Year in accordance with the present resolution."

REFUGEES IN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

A/C.3/L.694 and Rev.1l. Morocco and Tunisia draft resolution and revision, as amended orally by Japan adopted by Third Committee on 6 November 1958, by roll-call vote of 57 to 2, with 15 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian SSR, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Republic, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: France, Union of South Africa.

Abstaining: Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Peru, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom.

A/4001 and Corr.1. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution III.

RESOLUTION 1286 (XIII) as recommended by Third Committee, A/4001, adopted by Assembly on 5 December 1958, meeting 782, by 60 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

"The General Assembly,

"Having examined the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in particular chapter II,

"Considering the efforts made by the United Nations Refugee Fund to assist refugees,

"Noting the action taken in 1958 by the High Commissioner on behalf of refugees from Algeria in Tunisia,

"Considering that a similar problem exists in Morocco,

"Recommends the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue his action on behalf of the refugees in Tunisia on a substantial scale and to undertake similar action in Morocco."

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY——13TH SESSION

Ad Hoc Committee of Whole Assembly, meeting 2.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/9387. Election of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Note by Secretary-General.

A/AC.79/105, A/AC.79/128, A/AC.79/135 and Corr.1. List of documents issued at 7th, 8th and 9th (special) sessions of UNREF Executive Committee.