

Chapter XXI

Assistance to refugees**Activities of Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1974 continued to provide international protection and material assistance to refugees. In addition, it also continued or undertook a number of special humanitarian assignments, in particular the repatriation of groups of persons from Bangladesh and Pakistan and the co-ordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance in Cyprus.

Activities in 1974*International protection*

As at 31 December 1974, the number of parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees was 65. The number of parties to the 1967 Protocol, which extended the coverage of the Convention to new groups of refugees, rose to 58, with the accession of Swaziland.

The 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, drawn up by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), entered into force in June 1974. The Convention was to supplement at the regional level the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol.

Consultations continued in 1974 between UNHCR and Governments regarding the desirability of establishing a convention on territorial asylum. The General Assembly decided to consider at its regular 1975 session the convening of a conference of plenipotentiaries, following review of the existing draft text by a group of experts, which was to be established for that purpose. (See below, section on legislative action, for details.)

In view of the forthcoming entry into force of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in December 1975, the Assembly decided that UNHCR should provisionally assume the functions foreseen in article 11 of that Convention, which required the establishment of a body to which a person claiming the benefit of the Convention might apply. The Assembly agreed to review this arrangement at its 1976 session. (See below, section on legislative action, for details.)

Technical assistance continued to be provided by UNHCR in 1974 to Governments which requested help in ensuring full implementation of the provisions of international instruments relating to the protection of refugees. Protection prob-

lems with regard to individual refugees, including such questions as abduction, refusal of asylum, expulsion, obstacles to family reunion and obstacles to access to employment, were acted upon by UNHCR, which intervened with Governments in favour of such refugees.

Material assistance programmes

In 1974, more than 320,000 refugees benefited from UNHCR regular assistance programmes, the majority of them in Africa.

As in previous years, the essential aim of the assistance provided was to promote lasting solutions to refugee problems through measures to facilitate their voluntary repatriation, resettlement through migration, or integration within their countries of asylum. In cases of new refugee movements, assistance in the form of emergency relief was also given.

Commitments for assistance under UNHCR's regular programme totalled \$11,285,281 in 1974, supplemented by allocations totalling \$508,743 from the Emergency Fund of the High Commissioner. In addition, \$2,377,815 was committed from special trust funds for complementary projects, including grants totalling \$968,068 from the Refugee Education Account. Supporting contributions, estimated at some \$5.5 million, were also provided, mostly by Governments, in countries where assistance projects were implemented.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA

At the end of the year, the number of refugees of concern to UNHCR in Africa was estimated at more than 1 million. Nearly 275,000 of those were receiving UNHCR aid, for which a total of \$13,667,096 was committed, including more than \$2 million in special trust funds. Major developments included the need for increased assistance to an estimated 130,000 refugees from Burundi, living mostly in Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire, many of whom were transferred to rural settlements and provided with the means of achieving self-sufficiency during the year.

Continued assistance was also given by UNHCR to refugees from colonial territories—the largest refugee group of concern to UNHCR in Africa—who lived mainly in Senegal, Zaire and Zambia. Be-

cause of the developments in 1974, following the accession to independence of territories under Portuguese administration, and because of subsequent opportunities for voluntary repatriation, UNHCR assistance to refugees from those territories was largely limited during the year to meeting immediate needs, including those of health and education. Plans for the formulation of repatriation and resettlement programmes were discussed in 1974 by UNHCR with OAU and with the liberation committees and Governments concerned. Plans for programmes for Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique were also under way.

Assistance to individual refugees seeking employment or educational opportunities in urban areas again formed an important part of UNHCR activities in Africa. The network of counselling services available to those refugees in various African capital cities was further expanded.

Commitments under the 1974 programme for assistance to refugees in Africa totalled \$5,410,000, of which \$4,940,000 was for local settlement assistance.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN ASIA

Further progress was made in Asia in 1974 towards phasing out the activities under the UNHCR annual assistance programme, benefiting refugee communities which had already achieved a high degree of self-sufficiency. In India, the main responsibility for assisting these communities was borne by that Government. In 1974, commitments by UNHCR, mainly for marginal needs with respect to medical and training requirements, amounted to \$145,000.

As at 1 July 1974, the repatriation operation in the South Asian subcontinent, for which the High Commissioner had acted as executing agent, was virtually completed.¹ It involved the transport by air of some 121,600 persons from Pakistan to Bangladesh and some 108,700 from Bangladesh to Pakistan. By mid-1974, contributions in response to appeals made by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner totalled more than \$10.6 million. Additional contributions in kind, mostly in the form of transport facilities, were also made, some on a bilateral basis.

In a series of limited operations carried out between April 1973 and March 1974 at the request of Governments concerned, UNHCR also moved to Pakistan by air more than 10,800 non-Bengalis stranded in Nepal.

In 1974, the High Commissioner was also asked to assist displaced persons in Laos and Viet-Nam. In responding to specific requests from the parties concerned, he was guided by the view of the Secretary-General that all parties in the area should be assisted on humanitarian grounds.

The assistance programme for that area was

aimed at the rehabilitation of displaced persons, including their return to villages of origin when required. Special attention was given to helping beneficiaries become self-supporting.

In October 1974, an UNHCR Regional Office for Indo-China was established at Vientiane, Laos. The programme was co-ordinated with other international agencies, and a target of \$12,000,000 was set for contributions for the period October 1974–December 1975.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN EUROPE

In 1974, the number of refugees of concern to UNHCR in Europe was estimated at 554,000, most of whom had been economically and socially integrated for many years. Assistance by UNHCR was therefore mainly for the benefit of the handicapped and of refugees of non-European origin.

Measures of assistance were also required to facilitate the integration of Chilean refugees who had been admitted to several European countries for permanent settlement. In addition, more than 15,000 refugees, most of them from the Caribbean area, were helped to resettle through migration, mainly to the United States.

Commitments in 1974 for assistance to refugees in Europe amounted to \$677,000.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN LATIN AMERICA

The number of refugees in Latin America of concern to UNHCR rose to 180,000 in 1974, including 91,000 refugees of European origin, for whom relatively limited assistance was required.

Refugees of Latin American origin numbered 27,000, a substantially higher figure than in previous years owing to events in Chile in September 1973. Assistance to those refugees was directed mainly to providing for their immediate needs and facilitating their permanent resettlement. Some 12,000 to 14,000 refugees were admitted, many on a temporary basis, to Argentina, and 3,000 to Peru. Some 7,000 persons (including refugees and some of their family members) had been resettled from Chile, Argentina and Peru at the end of 1974.

Commitments in 1974 for assistance in Latin America totalled \$3,596,800.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East, the number of refugees of concern to UNHCR increased in 1974 to an estimated 17,000. With the rising cost of living, restricted migration opportunities and limited employment offers, the need for UNHCR assistance increased during the year, particularly for the aged, the handicapped and students.

¹ See Y.U.N., 1973, pp. 150-51, and p. 494.

Commitments under the 1974 programme for assistance in the Middle East totalled some \$670,000.

ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA ASIANS OF UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

The programme for resettling Uganda Asians of undetermined nationality, undertaken by UNHCR after their expulsion from Uganda in November 1972, was virtually completed by April 1974.²

Some 4,500 persons had left the transit centres in 1974 for new homes in about 20 States, including Abu Dhabi, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Dubai, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The compensation claims of Uganda Asians who had left Uganda were to be channelled through the office of the High Commissioner, under the terms of an agreement with that Government.

CO-ORDINATION OF UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN CYPRUS

On 20 August 1974, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was asked by the Secretary-General to co-ordinate United Nations humanitarian assistance in Cyprus with the task of meeting the emergency needs of more than 200,000 persons who were displaced or in need following events of July and August. Arrangements to this end were initiated by the High Commissioner and an appeal for contributions was made jointly with the Secretary-General. (For details, see p. 284.)

Legislative action

On 31 July 1974, the Economic and Social Council, without adopting a formal resolution, decided to transmit the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, covering the period 1 April 1973 to 31 March 1974, to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session later in the year. The Council's decision was taken without vote on the proposal of the Council President.

On 10 December 1974, the United Nations General Assembly, after considering the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, adopted without objection resolution 3271(XXIX).

On 27 November, the Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee approved without vote the text of the draft resolution, which was in two parts. The text was sponsored by the following 45 Members: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal

Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sweden, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

By part A of the resolution, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction at the manner in which the High Commissioner and his staff continued to accomplish their humanitarian tasks. The Assembly asked the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of those of concern to his Office, and took note of the decision of the Executive Committee of the Commissioner's Programme to invite him, in the framework of programme budgeting, to report to that Committee on his special humanitarian tasks in the same way that he reported on other activities financed from trust funds under his regular programme.

The General Assembly also asked the High Commissioner to take appropriate measures, in agreement with the Governments concerned, to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees from territories emerging from colonial rule and, in co-ordination with other competent bodies of the United Nations, to facilitate their rehabilitation in their countries of origin. The High Commissioner was also asked to continue his efforts to promote permanent and speedy solutions through voluntary repatriation and other means. Governments were urged to intensify their support for the High Commissioner's humanitarian tasks.

By part B of resolution 3271(XXIX), the General Assembly recalled the existing arrangements regarding the High Commissioner's Emergency Fund, and it authorized the High Commissioner, in accordance with a recommendation of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, henceforth to allocate from the Fund up to \$2 million annually for emergency situations, under the general directives of the Executive Committee and on the understanding that the amount made available for any single emergency would, as previously, not exceed \$500,000 in any one year.

(For text of resolution (parts A and B), see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Another Assembly resolution was concerned with the question of territorial asylum. On 10 December 1974, having examined the High Commissioner's report on that question, the General Assembly decided to consider in 1975 whether to hold a conference of plenipotentiaries.

² See Y.U.N., 1972, pp. 408-9, and Y.U.N., 1973, p. 495.

The Assembly further decided to establish in the interim a group of experts to review the existing text of the draft convention on territorial asylum. The group was to be composed of representatives of not more than 27 States designated by the President of the General Assembly, on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, and was to report to the Assembly's regular 1975 session.

These decisions were set forth in resolution 3272(XXIX), adopted by 105 votes to 0, with 21 abstentions, on the recommendation of the Assembly's Third Committee. On 29 November 1974, the text was approved in that Committee by 72 votes to 0, with 25 abstentions, on the basis of a proposal by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ghana, Honduras, the Netherlands and Sweden.

The final text incorporated oral amendments by Ecuador, by Mali and by the Ukrainian SSR. Various of these oral amendments were accepted by the sponsors. Another, by Mali, was adopted by a vote of 32 to 30, with 32 abstentions; it deleted a stipulation that persons named to the group of experts be legally trained.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

In a further decision taken on 10 December 1974, the General Assembly noted that the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness was

to come into force on 13 December 1975, and that the provisions of its articles 11 and 20 required the establishment of a body to which a person claiming the benefit of that Convention might apply for the examination of his claim and for assistance in presenting it to the appropriate authority. The Assembly asked the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provisionally to undertake those functions, once the Convention entered into force. The Assembly also decided to review, not later than 1976, the opinion of the High Commissioner and the arrangements made in that regard, before deciding on the establishment of the body envisaged under article 11 of the Convention.

These Assembly decisions were set forth in resolution 3274(XXIX), adopted by 48 votes to 11, with 66 abstentions, as recommended by the Third Committee. On 27 November, the Committee approved the draft text, on the basis of a proposal by Australia, Austria, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as amended by Iraq. The vote by roll-call was 35 to 11, with 59 abstentions. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

An oral proposal by Poland to defer consideration of the item until 1975 was rejected by the Third Committee by a vote of 34 to 24, with 43 abstentions.

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PAID OR PLEDGED TO THE UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR 1975

As at 30 June 1975; in U.S. dollars

| Country | Amount | Country | Amount | Country | Amount |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Algeria | 15,000 | Iceland | 6,427 | Pakistan | 2,505 |
| Argentina | 25,000 | India | 12,500 | Peru | 1,284 |
| Australia | 433,604 | Iran | 8,000 | Philippines | 1,500 |
| Austria | 47,192 | Ireland | 25,000 | Qatar | 7,000 |
| Belgium | 228,571* | Israel | 10,000 | Rwanda | 1,000 |
| | 285,714 | Italy | 50,000 | Saudi Arabia | 8,000 |
| Botswana | 1,190 | Jamaica | 550 | Sudan | 8,616 |
| Brazil | 10,000 | Kenya | 1,000 | Sweden | 800,000 |
| Canada | 588,235 | Kuwait | 6,000 | Switzerland | 520,008 |
| Chile | 10,000 | Liberia | 5,000 | Syrian Arab Republic | 1,000 |
| Colombia | 5,000 | Libyan Arab Republic | 5,000 | Togo | 5,000 |
| Denmark | 590,406 | Luxembourg | 7,143 | Trinidad and Tobago | 1,500 |
| Egypt | 7,667 | Malta | 1,160 | Tunisia | 3,000 |
| Finland | 266,106 | Mauritius | 974 | Turkey | 5,357 |
| France | 617,284 | Mexico | 10,000 | United Arab Emirates | 5,000 |
| Gabon | 1,750 | Monaco | 233 | United Kingdom | 541,176 |
| Germany, Federal | | Netherlands | 208,333* | United States | 1,056,000 |
| Republic of | 854,701 | | 832,917 | Yugoslavia | 15,000 |
| Ghana | 5,220 | New Zealand | 101,626 | | |
| Greece | 20,000 | Nigeria | 6,902 | Total | 8,995,220 |
| Guyana | 455 | Norway | 693,878 | | |
| Holy See | 2,500 | Oman | 4,000 | | |

* For assistance to refugees in or from Chile.

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council—57th session
Plenary meeting 1978.

E/5484 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1. Report of United Na-

tions High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (A/9612 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3).

E/5570. Resolutions of Economic and Social Council, 57th session, 3 July-2 August 1974 (decision 26(LVII)).

General Assembly—29th session

Ad Hoc Committee of General Assembly for Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to Programme of UNHCR, meeting of 2 December 1974 (A/AC.170/SR.1).

General Committee, meeting 219.

Third Committee, meetings 2098-2103.

Plenary meetings 2236, 2311.

A/9601. Report of Secretary-General on work of the Organization, 16 June 1973-15 June 1974, Part Three, Chapter VIII A and B.

A/9603. Report of Economic and Social Council on work of its 56th and 57th sessions, Chapter III F.

A/9612 and Corr.1. Report of UNHCR.

A/9612/Add.1. Addendum to report of UNHCR (report of 25th session of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme, Geneva, Switzerland, 14-22 October 1974).

A/9612/Add.2. Addendum to report of UNHCR (report on South Asian subcontinent repatriation operation).

A/C.3/L.2136. Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sweden, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia: draft resolution (part A), as orally amended by sponsors, approved without vote by Third Committee on 27 November 1974, meeting 2101.

A/9922. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I A.

Resolution 3271 A (XXIX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/9922, adopted without objection (parts A and B together) by Assembly on 10 December 1974, meeting 2311.

The General Assembly,

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

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the High Commissioner in carrying out his duties, including the special humanitarian tasks undertaken by him,

Noting with satisfaction the positive trends in Africa that open the possibility for the voluntary repatriation of large numbers of refugees from Territories emerging from colonial rule,

Recognizing the importance of permanent solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, and of the role played by the High Commissioner in co-operation with other members of the United Nations system and non-governmental agencies,

Noting the generous attitude adopted by Governments in supporting and contributing towards the activities of the High Commissioner,

Commending accessions to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 and other relevant instruments,

1. *Expresses its deep satisfaction* at the efficient manner in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff continue to accomplish their humanitarian tasks;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of those of concern to his Office and takes note, in this connexion, of the decision of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme inviting the High Commissioner, within the framework of programme budgeting, to report to the Executive Committee on his special humanitarian tasks in the same manner as he reports on other activities financed from trust funds under his regular programme;

3. *Requests* the High Commissioner to take appropriate

measures, in agreement with the Governments concerned, to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Territories emerging from colonial rule and, in co-ordination with other competent bodies of the United Nations, their rehabilitation in their countries of origin;

4. *Further requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts, in co-operation with Governments, United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote permanent and speedy solutions through voluntary repatriation and assistance in rehabilitation, where necessary, through integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries;

5. *Urges* Governments to intensify their support for the High Commissioner's humanitarian tasks by:

(a) *Facilitating the accomplishment* of his tasks in the field of international protection;

(b) *Co-operating* in the promotion of permanent solutions to the problems faced by his Office;

(c) *Providing the necessary financial means* to attain the objectives of his programmes.

A/9612/Add.1. Addendum to report of UNHCR, para. 80 (decision of Executive Committee on UNHCR assistance activities in 1973-1974 and proposed voluntary funds programme and budget for 1975).

A/C.3/L.2136. Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sweden, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia: draft resolution (part B), approved without vote by Third Committee on 27 November 1974, meeting 2101.

A/9922. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution I B.

Resolution 3271 B (XXIX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/9922, adopted without objection (parts A and B together) by Assembly on 10 December 1974, meeting 2311.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957 and 2956 B (XXVII) of 12 December 1972 in connexion with the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, as mentioned in paragraph 80 (k) of the addendum to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner,

Authorizes the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to allocate from the Emergency Fund, under the general directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, up to \$2 million annually for emergency situations, it being understood that the amount made available for one single emergency shall, as heretofore, not exceed \$500,000 in any one year.

A/9612/Add.3. Addendum to report of UNHCR (on question of asylum).

A/C.3/L.2139. Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ghana, Honduras, Netherlands, Sweden: draft resolution, as orally amended by Ecuador, by Mali, by Ukrainian SSR and by sponsors, approved by Third Committee on 29 November 1974, meeting 2103, by 72 votes to 0, with 25 abstentions.

A/9922. Report of Third Committee, draft resolution II.

Resolution 3272(XXIX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/9922, adopted by Assembly on 10 December 1974, meeting 2311, by 105 votes to 0, with 21 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the question of territorial asylum,

Reaffirming the importance it attaches to the international protection of refugees as a principal function of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting the view of the Executive Committee on the High Commissioner's Programme that a conference of plenipotentiaries on territorial asylum should be called as soon as possible,

Further noting the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the conference should be preceded by a meeting of a group of governmental experts to review the present text of the draft Convention on Territorial Asylum,

1. *Decides* to consider at its thirtieth session the question of holding a conference of plenipotentiaries on territorial asylum;

2. *Further decides* to establish a Group of Experts on the Draft Convention on Territorial Asylum, composed of representatives of not more than twenty-seven States, designated by the President of the General Assembly after consultation with the different regional groups, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to convene the Group of Experts, not later than May 1975 and for a maximum of ten working days, to review the present text of the draft Convention on Territorial Asylum;

4. *Decides* that the costs of convening the Group of Experts be met from the voluntary funds which are at the disposal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

5. *Requests* that the report of the Group of Experts be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session and requests the Secretary-General to submit a proposal as to when such a conference could be convened, together with an assessment of the costs involved.

A/10067. Elaboration of a draft convention on territorial asylum. Note by Secretary-General.

A/9691. Note by Secretary-General (request for inclusion in agenda of item entitled: "Question of the establishment, in accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of a body to which persons claiming the benefit of the Convention may apply").

A/9750. First report of General Committee, para. 21.

A/C.3/L.2137. Administrative and financial implications of establishing body provided for in Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. Note by Secretary-General.

A/C.3/L.2140. Australia, Austria, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom: draft resolution, as orally amended by Iraq and by sponsors, approved by Third Committee on 27 November 1974, meeting 2102, by roll-call vote of 35 to 11, with 59 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho,

Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Sierra Leone, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay.

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

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

A/9896. Report of Third Committee.

Resolution 3274(XXIX), as recommended by Third Committee, A/9896, adopted by Assembly on 10 December 1974, meeting 2311, by 48 votes to 11, with 66 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Considering the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 28 August 1961 and, in particular, its articles 11 and 20 requiring the establishment of a body to which a person claiming the benefit of the Convention may apply for the examination of his claim and for assistance in presenting it to the appropriate authority,

Noting that the Convention will come into force on 13 December 1975,

Having considered the note and the explanatory memorandum of the Secretary-General,

Considering the practical advantages involved in the proposal to request the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assume the above-mentioned responsibilities,

1. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provisionally to undertake the functions foreseen under the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in accordance with its article 11 after the Convention has come into force;

2. *Decides* to review, not later than at its thirty-first session, the opinion of the High Commissioner and the arrangements he shall have made in this regard, with a view to taking a decision on the establishment of the body envisaged under article 11 of the Convention.

Other documents

A/9607/Add.5. Voluntary funds administered by UNHCR.

Accounts for year ended 31 December 1973 and report of Board of Auditors.

UNHCR (information tabloid): Nos. 1 (March 1974), 2 (May 1974), 3 (June 1974), 4 (July 1974), 5 (October 1974), 6 (December 1974) and supplement (December 1974).

UNHCR Report. Airlift—The Subcontinent Repatriation Operation (September 1973–June 1974).

Assistance to Sudanese returnees and displaced persons

At its mid-1974 session, the Economic and Social Council considered the final report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

on the United Nations immediate relief programme in the southern region of Sudan. The programme had been concluded on 31 October

1973, when the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assumed responsibility for longer-term development assistance in the area.³

The report gave details of the component parts of that programme, which had been co-ordinated by the High Commissioner and which had helped prepare and facilitate the return of some 160,000 refugees from neighbouring countries and of some 500,000 persons displaced within Sudan. The information provided covered transportation, food, shipment of goods, communications, shelter, agriculture and fisheries, health, education, and administration. The report also described the role of other members of the United Nations system and of voluntary agencies in the programme, and it provided details of the final budget, totalling more than \$16 million, which had been contributed in cash and kind, in response to appeals made by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner.

Following consideration of the High Commissioner's final report, the Economic and Social Council commended both the successful efforts of the Government of Sudan in restoring economic and social order in southern Sudan, and the effective manner in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had organized and co-ordinated the United Nations re-

lief programme, enabling Sudanese returnees and displaced persons to embark on a new existence in their home country.

The Council also expressed gratitude to Governments for their generosity and co-operation, and appreciation to agencies of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations for having contributed to the success of the operation. Noting that considerable further development aid would be required, the Council commended UNDP for its work as the focal point for long-term reconstruction of southern Sudan.

These Council decisions were embodied in resolution 1877(LVII).

On 16 July 1974, the Council adopted that resolution at a plenary session, without vote, on the basis of a proposal by the following 20 States: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Senegal, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

³ See Y.U.N., 1973, pp. 497-98.

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council—57th session
Plenary meetings 1913-1915.

E/L.1604. Egypt: draft resolution.

E/L.1604/Rev.1. Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Senegal, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia: revised draft resolution.

E/5483. Final report of UNHCR.

Resolution 1877(LVII) as proposed by 20 powers, E/L.1604/Rev.1, adopted without vote by Council on 16 July 1974, meeting 1915.

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling its resolutions 1655(LII) of 1 June 1972, 1705(LIII) of 27 July 1972, 1741(LIV) of 4 May 1973 and 1799(LV) of 30 July 1973 and General Assembly resolution 2958(XXVII) of 12 December 1972,

Having considered the final report prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees pursuant to Council resolution 1799(LV) and the statement made by the High Commissioner at the Council's 1913th plenary meeting, held on 15 July 1974,

Commending the successful efforts made by the Government of the Sudan in restoring economic and social order in the country's southern region,

Noting that considerable further development aid will be required for the Sudan to finalize the rehabilitation of the returnees and displaced persons,

1. Commends the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the effective manner in which he has organized and co-ordinated the United Nations immediate relief programme in the southern Sudan, thus enabling Sudanese returnees and displaced persons to embark on a new existence in their home country;

2. Expresses its deep gratitude to the Governments which, through their generosity and co-operative spirit, have greatly contributed to the implementation of the relief programme;

3. Expresses its deep appreciation to the agencies of the United Nations system and to the governmental and non-governmental organizations which have contributed to the success of the operation;

4. Commends the United Nations Development Programme for the activities it is carrying on as the focal point for the long-term reconstruction of the southern region of the Sudan.

A/9603. Report of Economic and Social Council on work of its 56th and 57th sessions, Chapter III E.