



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1955.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that, subject to the approval of parliament, the Canadian Government would make the following grants this year to international programmes for assistance to European refugees:

- (a) \$125,000 to the United Nations Refugee Fund for the first year of a new four-year programme administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees.
- (b) \$50,000 to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration for the continued movement of European refugees from China.

The grant to the United Nations Refugee Fund is in response to an appeal from the U.N. Negotiating Committee for extra budgetary funds on behalf of the 1955-58 programme proposed by the High Commissioner for Refugees and approved in principle by the General Assembly last November. This programme is designed to achieve permanent solutions to the problems of refugees under the High Commissioner's mandate, and also provides for continued emergency aid to extreme hardship cases. Early this year the Negotiating Committee approved a provisional target figure for the four-year period of \$16,000,000, and a firm target figure of \$4.2 million for 1955.

This latest grant would bring the total of Canadian Government contributions to the United Nations Refugee Fund during the past three years to \$275,000. In this connection it will be recalled that prior to the establishment of the United Nations Refugee Fund Canada contributed over \$18,000,000 to the work of the International Refugee Organization while it was active between 1948 and 1952.

The grant to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration is in response to an appeal for contributions from member governments to make up an estimated shortage of funds for the continuation in 1955 of the Committee's programme for the movement of European refugees from the mainland of China to countries of re-settlement. ICEM has moved 5,687 of these refugees during the past three years, mainly with money from a trust fund established by the IRO prior to its dissolution.

It will be recalled that the Canadian Government made a similar contribution of \$50,000 to this programme in 1954.

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