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Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu, in the Special Political Committee on the Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, on October 25, 1966.

The Canadian Delegation has examined the Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA on the Agency's activities during 1965-1966 with interest and care. In the light of the report, I should like to express the appreciation of my Government for the diligence and efficiency with which the Commissioner-General and his staff have carried out the task set before them. I should also like to commend the clarity and relevance of this annual review.

The report presented by Mr. Michelmore draws to the attention of this Committee several problems and difficulties which face the work of the Agency. I should like to make it clear that, in examining these problems, the Canadian Delegation bases its position on two main considerations. The first is the welfare of the Palestine refugees who after so many years are still suffering from an unsettled past, present poverty, and an uncertain future. The concern of the Canadian Government for the welfare of these refugees has been manifest in its substantial contributions to UNRWA's budget since the inception of the Agency. Nor should I ignore the part played by private organizations in Canada in helping to alleviate the situation of the refugees through their donations to the Agency.

The second consideration is our concern for peace and stability in the Middle East. We are convinced that UNRWA has an important role to play in this respect. This point was effectively made by the Commissioner-General in his recent statement when he described the attitudes of the refugees and