

Menzies, formerly our Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, to be our Ambassador-at-Large for Disarmament. We are also gratified that a distinguished Canadian diplomat, Mr. Robert Ford, has been asked to join the Palme Commission on disarmament and security issues. This is an independent group of eminent persons which will study and report on the problems of disarmament.

Before closing, I want to touch on one other aspect of military conflict which impinges directly on many developing countries. This is the tragic phenomenon of millions of refugees who have flooded into developing countries in recent years in the aftermath of armed conflicts. In almost every case, the nations which have had to bear the burden of these massive population movements have been developing countries -- countries whose precarious economies are marginal at best and who can ill afford the burden of providing for additional populations. It is presently estimated that about 10 million people today are refugees. And the number has been growing at an estimated rate of 3,000 persons per day over the past three years.

This phenomenon is demonstrated dramatically in the horn of Africa, in Pakistan and in Southeast Asia. As one example, in Somalia at the present time there are approximately 800,000 refugees living in camps and a similar number living outside camps. We are told that the situation is getting worse. Although some international food aid has