

including our distinguished rapporteur, Mr. El Kony, in his very instructive statement to the Committee on November 19. When this Preparatory Commission is being established, we think that there are three considerations that should be borne in mind. The first of these is the necessity to keep the group relatively small, if it is to work effectively. A membership of 25 has been mentioned informally on occasion, and it would be our view that, if the Commission is to carry out satisfactorily the work entrusted to it, this number could scarcely be exceeded. The second consideration is that membership of the Commission should be broadly representative of those countries whose attendance at the proposed conference is essential, because of their significant military power or other reasons. Finally, we think that to the largest extent, possible membership of the preparatory group should be made up of those countries whose practical experience in complexities of disarmament negotiations will enable them to help in finding satisfactory answers to questions to be resolved.

SUPPLEMENT TO EXISTING NEGOTIATIONS

...In conclusion, there is one point I should like to make, and that is to express our support of the widely-held view that, while soundings and prepara-

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UNRWA AND PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

The following statement was made recently in the Special Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu:

The Canadian Delegation has studied with all due care the reports of the UNRWA Commissioner General describing the Agency's activities over the past two years....

One point that seems to elicit a unanimity of views within the Committee is the humanitarian aspect of UNRWA's activities. It is not surprising that differences of opinion exist as to the most satisfactory methods of alleviating the fate of the refugees. Nevertheless, my Delegation believes that these differences should not obscure the duty which devolves on the international community — namely, to facilitate the task of the Agency set up by the United Nations to assist these refugees. It is in this perspective that the following remarks should be interpreted.

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION

Since 1950, Canada, through its Government and private organizations, has not failed to support the Agency unsparingly, both by governmental contributions in commodities and funds and by voluntary contributions from philanthropic groups. We hope these various kinds of assistance have contributed in some measure — and this is our essential aim — to the needs of the refugees in the fields of food, health and education. Regarding the professional training of young refugees, the Canadian Government is happy to have been able to participate during the

tions for a World Disarmament Conference are under way, these activities should be conducted so as not to interfere with the disarmament deliberations which may be taking place elsewhere in bodies such as the United Nations General Assembly or the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Commission. As I think we all appreciate, the World Disarmament Conference, to be truly useful, must supplement rather than supersede existing arrangements for considering disarmament problems. In particular, it could not carry on detailed consideration of specific questions, which is possible in a more restricted body such as the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Commission. No one disarmament forum can be expected to have a monopoly of wisdom in this most important field, and we must do everything we can to assure that, in establishing a new forum, we are not in any way reducing the effectiveness of those that already exist. Because we feel so strongly about this question, it has been a matter of considerable satisfaction to the Canadian Delegation to find that most other delegations agree. In particular, I might refer again to Mr. El Kony's statement of November 19 when he said: "There is nothing contradictory between the negotiating table in Geneva and a world forum for disarmament which latter could serve as a real stimulation to the technicians in Geneva".

World Refugee Year in the establishment of the training centre at Sibirin which, like other centres run by the Agency, provides instruction and training to at least a part of the present generation of Palestinian refugees without which they could not assist their community. Canada is happy to join its efforts to those of other governments who have provided equipment for these schools, assisted in their construction, or made scholarships available for their graduates....

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Regarding the financial state of the organization, Mr. Michelmore has stressed the seriousness of the situation and pointed out the grave consequences for UNRWA's humanitarian work with the refugees and the unfavourable repercussions affecting the peace and stability of the Middle East, should this situation not be improved. The Commissioner General has indicated a certain number of measures that have been taken to effect budgetary savings. However, it has become quite clear that these steps alone are inadequate. Up to now the financial burden has been shared by a certain number of countries which, over the years, have regularly contributed to the Agency's budget. We feel obliged to acknowledge here the exceptionally generous nature of the contributions provided to the Agency by the United States and Britain. In addition to these contributions and to those of other donors, the highly important contributions of various kinds provided by the host countries should be mentioned. We should also note the participation of international organizations, namely UNESCO and WHO. No less important co-operation is afforded by several private organizations.