

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(SIXTEENTH SESSION)

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Statement by Mrs. Jean Casselman, M.P., to
the General Assembly Pledging Conference
for Extra-Budgetary Funds on Canada's
Contributions to UNRWA.

Mr. President,

In his annual report to the Director of UNRWA, Dr. John H. Davis, has outlined for us a number of the projects in which his organization is engaged, including the special programme to provide more educational opportunities and vocational training for the children of the Palestinian refugees. In addition to its basic relief operation, UNRWA has already done a great deal in this other field, - and done it very well indeed - and, in the opinion of my delegation the Director and his staff are to be commended for their very considerable achievements. The Palestinian refugee problem is an exceedingly complex one which has been with us for some years, and the Director's programme to give the young refugees the necessary training to enable them to help themselves, deserves our support. To acquire the skill, not only to provide for one's own livelihood, but also to enable one to make a useful contribution to the welfare of others, is in itself a worthy accomplishment.

The task of supplying even the basic necessities of life for more than a million refugees is not an easy one. We must not, however, lose sight of the fact that all refugee problems are essentially humanitarian problems, and as such they merit from each of us, not only sympathy and understanding, but whatever assistance we may in our present circumstances be able to afford them.