

rations or full services from UNRWA on June 30, 1958, and there were in addition 89,390 refugees registered with the Agency who had become wholly or partly self-supporting. The report stated that there had been no indication of any change from the collective hostility of the refugees towards major development projects, and no affirmative action by Israel on the 1948 Assembly resolution concerning repatriation and compensation. Nevertheless there continued to be signs of a growing appreciation by the refugees of the desirability of individual self-support and rehabilitation, and if adequate contributions were received, the Agency would probably be able to resume during 1959 a few of the self-support activities previously halted for lack of funds. The report went on to state that there would be a continuing need, after UNRWA's mandate expired in 1960, for the services the Agency now provides, since even in the most favourable political circumstances it would be years before the refugees could become self-supporting; and that the Assembly should therefore arrange for a study of the matter.

The proposed study provided a focus of discussion in the Assembly's annual debate on UNRWA. The Canadian Representative expressed a widely-held view in stating that it was right and proper that the Assembly should have a thorough study made of the arrangements for dealing with the Palestine refugees, although, given the present political situation, it was inevitable that examination of the question should be based on the premise that future assistance would in general continue along the lines of the present programmes. Interest was aroused during the debate by an Israeli statement that Israel would be prepared to pay compensation even before the solution of major problems such as a general peace settlement, although this offer was subject to certain other conditions. Note was also taken of the Palestine Conciliation Commission's report that the work of identifying Arab refugee properties in Israel was now almost completed, and interest was expressed by various delegations in a Saudi Arabian proposal for the appointment of a trustee for Arab properties in Israel, who would receive the revenues and pay them out to the refugees to assist them in becoming self-supporting.

The resolution of UNRWA finally adopted by the Assembly was generally similar to past resolutions and contained no specific reference to the Agency's future after 1960, but before the vote in committee the Secretary-General stated that as part of his regular duties he intended to look into UNRWA's technical operation in preparation of such proposals as he might consider it helpful or necessary to advance.

Canada's contributions to UNRWA during 1958 comprised a regular cash contribution of \$500,000 and also a special contribution of \$1,500,000 of flour, as indicated in the preceding volume of this series. This flour contribution, together with a very large matching contribution received from the United States, which pays up to 70% of UNRWA's expenses, played a decisive role in enabling UNRWA to avoid a dangerous cut in education and rehabilitation services. It was announced in October that parliamentary approval would be sought for a \$500,000 cash contribution to UNRWA in 1959.

Aid for Refugees

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established by the General Assembly at its fifth session in 1950 for a three-year period beginning on January 1, 1951. Since then the mandate of the High Commissioner's Office has twice been prolonged for five-year