

movement from Europe of refugees and surplus population resulting from the economic dislocation caused by the Second World War. Since these tasks are now virtually complete, Canada announced on August 31, 1962, that it was withdrawing from the ICEM, effective December 31, 1962.

In 1960, Canada donated 20,000 pounds of canned pork and 20,000 pounds of skim-milk powder to Congolese refugees and, in 1961, made a contribution of \$1 million (U.S.) to the United Nations Civilian Fund for the Congo. This Fund was set up to provide assistance to the Congolese in maintaining the services necessary for the stability and growth of their economy and to train Congolese for jobs in public and private administration.

#### UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was established by the General Assembly in December 1949 to provide for the relief and resettlement of about 950,000 refugees left homeless by the hostilities in Palestine in 1948. These refugees now number more than 1.1 million. The Agency was to co-operate with local governments in direct relief and works programmes in the Middle East and to consult these governments on measures to be taken until such time as international assistance for relief and works programmes would no longer be available or the refugees were able to exercise the choice between repatriation and compensation offered to them by resolutions of the General Assembly.

As originally envisaged, the Agency's mandate was to run for a limited period. Political considerations, however, have impeded the various plans for solving the refugee problem and the Agency's mandate has been renewed three times. It is now due to expire on June 30, 1963.

Since no quick solution to the Palestine refugee problem appears to be in sight, the Director of the UNRWA has suggested that it concentrate on (a) the administration of relief, (b) the provision of general education, both elementary and secondary, (c) the teaching of voluntary skills and the awarding of university scholarships, and (d) the offering of small loans and grants to refugees who have skills and want to become self-employed. For the full programme, in which education is to play such an important part, the Director forecast expenditures of \$40.6 million in 1961, \$39.3 million in 1962 and \$41.2 million in 1963.

During the period 1949-62, Canada was the third largest contributor to the UNRWA, donating approximately \$14.1 million. Canada normally contributes \$500,000 in cash; on several occasions since 1958, however, the Canadian Government has augmented its cash contribution with special donations of Canadian wheat flour. From 1958 to 1962, these special donations totalled \$5.5-million worth of flour, of which \$1-million worth was a special grant in conjunction with Canada's contribution in World Refugee Year. In 1962 the Canadian Government plans to contribute \$500,000 in cash and to make a special donation of \$500,000-worth of wheat flour. Canada's donations have helped the UNRWA to maintain its relief programmes, while at the same time expanding its rehabilitation programmes for Palestine refugees. Private and government contributions of cash and wheat flour from Canada are being transformed by the UNRWA into the Sibling Vocational Training School in the Lebanon, a school at Homs, Syria, and a Teacher Training Centre in Jordan.