

Plan approved by the Assembly in 1950, the Agency's activities should have terminated on June 30, 1954, by which time it had been hoped that all refugees would have returned to their homes or would have re-settled in the Arab countries where they took refuge, i.e. Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and the Gaza district under Egyptian control. While it was successful in carrying out its relief programme, the Agency has experienced difficulties in implementing its long-term programme for the re-settlement of refugees, and the number of refugees on June 30, 1953, was about the same as it was when the Agency began its operations.

The Assembly at the same time authorized an increase in the 1953-54 relief budget of the Agency from U.S. \$18 million to \$24.8 million. A 1954-55 relief budget, for which there is no provision in the Blandford Plan, was also authorized in the provisional amount of \$18 million.

In a second resolution on the Palestine Refugees item, the General Assembly authorized, by a vote of 51 in favour, including Canada, none against, and 6 abstentions (the Soviet bloc and Israel), the UNRWA Advisory Commission to increase its present membership of 7 by not more than 2 members. At present the Advisory Commission is composed of representatives from the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Turkey, Jordan, Syria and Egypt.

Financial Assistance for Libya

It was recognized during the sixth session of the General Assembly in Paris in the winter of 1951-52 that Libya, which had just achieved independence with the aid of the United Nations and the two occupying powers (the United Kingdom and France), would have to rely for some time to come on outside financial assistance if it was to remain a separate political unit. Although the United Kingdom and France were willing to meet reasonable budgetary deficits on the basis of separate bilateral agreements with Libya, certain Arab states proposed the creation of a special United Nations fund through which financial contributions toward Libya's economic and social development might be made by United Nations members generally. This, they argued, would help to prevent Libya from becoming unduly dependent on bilateral aid, to the possible prejudice of its political independence. The Chilean Representative then piloted through the Assembly successfully a resolution asking the Economic and Social Council to make a broad study of ways and means of furnishing aid to Libya; the creation of a special fund might be one aspect of this study.

At the eighth session the General Assembly had before it an ECOSOC recommendation that the United Nations should invite all Governments in a position to do so to give Libya, in the spirit of the United Nations Charter, the financial and technical assistance which was within their means. The resolution did not specify whether this aid should be given on the basis of bilateral agreements with Libya or indirectly through the United Nations itself.

On December 7, 1953, Libya and the United Kingdom exchanged ratifications of a friendship treaty accompanied by military and financial agreements under which Libya is assured substantial aid from the United Kingdom. On the following day the General Assembly adopted by 41 votes in favour, with none opposed and 5 abstaining, a resolution sponsored by the Arab States, Indonesia and Turkey which invited Governments willing and able to do so to