

international voluntary agencies that are members of the International Committee for World Refugee Year. Another \$1 million is expected from the Stamp Plan sponsored jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. The major contributors to these impressive figures -- the United Kingdom, the United States and Austria, to name only the top three -- deserve our congratulations. At the same time, I think we owe a special debt of gratitude to others who, despite the hardships in their own countries, have willingly and eagerly made their contribution to the success of the Year. As the Secretary-General reported, "one of the outstanding characteristics of World Refugee Year is that even economically less privileged countries of Asia and Africa, sometimes burdened with refugee problems of their own, made their modest, but generous, contribution to reduce the burdens of others".

In the section of his report on voluntary repatriation, re-settlement and integration, the Secretary-General has noted as one of the most significant achievements of World Refugee Year the new opportunities made available by governments for settling physically and socially handicapped refugees. His generous reference to my government's contribution serves to emphasize our interest in making the most effective contribution possible, not only to programmes of material assistance through annual financial contributions, but to permanent solutions of refugee problems.

A Canadian Contribution

As I mentioned in my statement on the Report of the High Commissioner for Refugees, my government took a number of special measures to help achieve one of the High Commissioner's main objectives during World Refugee Year - the closing of the refugee camps in Europe. To mark the official end of World Refugee Year, it contributed \$1 million in wheat-flour to UNRWA over and above the \$2 million contribution in cash and kind it had been making annually to the Agency. This special gift has a twofold significance. In the first place, it will help feed the Arab refugees under the Agency's mandate. It will also permit UNRWA, with the money that would otherwise be spent by it on food purchases, to build, equip, staff and maintain for three years two vocational training centres for young Arab refugees. These two schools, which will provide technical training for perhaps 500 students each year, will add skilled workmen to the economies of the Middle Eastern countries, thereby making a considerable contribution to the prosperity and stability of that area.

In Canada, the federal government has actively promoted the idea of World Refugee Year. On many occasions both in the House of Commons and before various audiences across Canada, senior members of the government have made speeches to stimulate interest in the needs of the world's refugees. As patron of the Canadian Committee for World Refugee Year, the Governor General has spoken on television to encourage the people of Canada to participate wholeheartedly in the activities of their local committees.