

is happy to note that the League has reached a decision to continue its aid programme until next September. As the distinguished delegates from Morocco and Tunisia have told us in their statements, the provision of assistance to the refugees is a hard burden to bear, particularly at this time when there are so many other demands upon their resources, in order to bring about the continued economic development of their respective countries. We are glad that the High Commissioner is to continue to utilize his good offices. Until some settlement of the Algerian problem has been achieved, which will permit the refugees to return to their homes, it is essential in the opinion of my delegation, that we guard against the possibility of the refugees themselves becoming one of the elements of contention involved in the settlement of this problem. The resolution on the Algerian refugees submitted by the 19 powers in document L-961 seems to my delegation a practicable and balanced one, and my delegation will vote in favour of it.

There are a number of other groups of refugees to whom the High Commissioner proposes to lend his good offices. For small countries, whose resources are scarcely adequate to provide for all of their own immense needs, the additional burden of providing for refugees is particularly difficult to bear. If such refugee groups can become a productive part of the economy, this seems to us a desirable solution.

It is most appropriate that this Committee should deal with the refugee items, for they involve essentially humanitarian problems. It is a sad commentary on our times that refugees have become one of the continuing problems with which we must deal. The arduous task of devising a solution for such problems is all too often long, frustrating and extraordinarily complicated. In the meantime, the plight of those who have fled from ill-fortune in the lands from which they