

Commissioner for Refugees for legal protection and quasi-consular services. This estimate does not include the many thousands of Berlin refugees who have fled from dominated areas but who are still within their own country where they have rights of nationality. Approximately half of those included in the 2,000,000 total are in Europe and half in other regions.

Of the 2,000,000, there are some 500,000 refugees who have not been able to resume a normal life and whose fate is a matter of international concern. Most of these are in Central and South Eastern Europe, where approximately 125,000 are still living in camps. There are also some 15,000 European refugees leading a precarious existence in North China, and other groups of refugees in immediate need are to be found in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iran and other parts of the Middle East.

The principal international body now concerned with refugees is the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. The High Commissioner is Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart, of the Netherlands, who was appointed to this post at the fifth session of the General Assembly and whose three-year mandate and \$700,000 a year administrative budget will be reviewed at the eighth session. Refugee problems have also received attention within the past year from other sources: the Council of Europe has studied refugee questions and has resolved to appoint "an eminent European personality" to help find an answer; the United States has used Mutual Security Act funds to assist with the reception and resettlement of those who escape from behind the Iron Curtain; and many voluntary agencies have carried on welfare and resettlement work on behalf of refugees.

During the past year the United Nations High Commissioner has continued to perform the two main tasks assigned to him by the General Assembly of providing international protection for refugees and of seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems. Under the heading of "international protection" the Assembly had asked the High Commissioner to concern himself not only with the quasi-consular services of legal and political protection but with a range of other activities including the development of agreements calculated to improve the situation of refugees, the co-ordination of efforts of private organizations concerned with the welfare of refugees, and the procurement from governments of reports on refugee situations within their borders. In this field one of his principal tasks within the past twelve months has been to seek support for the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. This Convention, which was signed at Geneva in July, 1951, established minimum rights for refugees with respect to wage-earning, employment, education, public relief and religion and set forth a procedure for the issuance of travel documents. Twenty countries (not including Canada) have signed the Convention. Six ratifications are required for its entry into force of which two — those of Denmark and Norway — have been registered so far.

In developing permanent solutions to refugee problems the High Commissioner has sought opportunities for refugees to emigrate to other countries, since this unquestionably provides a most satisfactory