

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu, in the Special Political Committee on the Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, on November 14, 1966.

We are entering the last phase of our discussions. This phase calls for all Delegations not to fall back on rigid positions, but to take a conciliatory attitude which will make it possible to achieve a practical conclusion.

From the numerous interventions in our Commission one common concern seems to emerge: the welfare of the refugees. Some Delegates have more than others emphasized this concern, which is fully reflected in the Annual Report of the General Commissioner, but the predominance of this concern in no way implies that they are indifferent to the political aspect of the problem, nor that they are overlooking the significance of several Resolutions, unfortunately still in abeyance. Impressed by the precarious financial situation of the Agency, my Delegation feels that it would be sound practice to give some priority to seeking the means to ensure the financing of UNRWA and to ensure the continued efficiency of the operations.

Now that we have reached the end of our discussion, my Delegation feels that it is preferable to state the points of agreement in a Resolution which, while reiterating the basic principles that should determine the political solution of the problem now before us, should also ensure a brighter future for the refugees of Palestine and encourage the member States of this Organization to contribute financially to the Agency. To be fully operative, such a Resolution must command widespread support over and above the various political ideologies since the Palestinian refugee problem involves the interdependence of mankind to which no member of the United Nations can remain indifferent.