



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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The Department of External Affairs announced today that, subject to parliamentary approval, the Canadian Government would contribute \$125,000 to the United Nations Refugee Fund for the 1956 programme of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. The announcement was made at a meeting of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York today.

At its Ninth Session in 1954, the General Assembly gave its approval to a four-year programme submitted by the High Commissioner for Refugees designed to achieve a permanent solution to the problems of refugees under his mandate. It is being undertaken from 1955 to 1958 and \$16,000,000 has been approved as its total target figure. The main portion of these funds will be used to finance projects dealing with the integration of refugees in their present countries of residence while a smaller sum will be used for continued emergency aid. The target figure for 1955 was set at \$4.2 million dollars and the target figure for 1956 has been tentatively set at \$4.4 million dollars.

To date Canada has contributed \$275,000 to the work of the High Commissioner and the commitment for 1956 will raise this figure to a total of \$400,000. In addition, prior to the establishment of the United Nations Refugee Fund, Canada contributed \$18,000,000 to the International Refugee Organization during its operations between 1948 and 1952.
