

No. 54/26/UN 9/3 UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

Text of a statement made on October 13, 1954, by Mr. Roger Chaput, Canadian Representative in the Third Committee of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda Item 27 - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Note: The text of the resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

The Canadian Delegation is in general agreement with the objectives outlined in the High Commissioner's report and with those of the joint resolution tabled by the eight powers. The High Commissioner and his staff are to be commended for their work in endeavouring to alleviate the sufferings and improve the lot of refugees who, whatever the original cause of their present fate may be, are, and will remain, human beings. We are particularly grateful to the High Commissioner for having suggested to us in concrete terms the lines along which a permanent solution of the problem of the refugees within his mandate may be achieved.

It is the earnest hope of the Canadian Government that the carrying out of the High Commissioner's recommendations will at long last dispose of a problem with which the United Nations has concerned itself over a long period of time. In this connection, the Canadian Delegation wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to the increasing evidence that the targets of some international aid programmes which have already secured the unequivocal approval of the Assembly may prove greater than the financial support which Member states as well as non-Member states have been willing to provide. United Nations sponsorship of a programme for assistance to refugees would not, in our view, be in the interests of either the refugees or of the United Nations if it turns out in the end that adequate financial support is not forthcoming.

Canada is one of the countries which has been able to assist the United Nations refugee programmes in the past, both by receiving a substantial number of refugees and by making financial contributions. As members of the Committee may be aware, since the High Commissioner's report was issued, the Canadian Government has made a further contribution of \$50,000 to the High Commissioner's programme this year, in addition to a contribution of \$50,000 to the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration. For the benefit of those who may have been misinformed in this connection, I should like to point out here that the refugees entering into Canada enjoy the same status as immigrants from other countries; that prospective immigrants to Canada, other than refugees, exist in sufficient numbers to meet the requirements of Canadian immigration policy and that consequently the Canadian