

or compensation. A programme of temporary employment which was first proposed proved unworkable, and a plan for re-integration, which was intended to resettle the bulk of the refugees by the end of 1955, proved unacceptable to the refugees. At present, the implementation of two major resettlement projects which would place about 200,000 refugees on land made cultivable by irrigation in the Yarmuk-Jordan Valley and Western Sinai is held up by political difficulties. It is clear that the Palestine refugees will continue to be an international charge until such time as there is a settlement of the major differences between Israel and the Arab States.

Up to June 30, 1956 expenditures by UNRWA and its predecessor, United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (established in December 1948), totalled about \$218 million. By far the larger part of this sum has been spent on direct relief, even though the cost of maintaining the refugees at a subsistence level is only about \$27 per capita per year. Canada has been the fourth largest contributor to the Agency, following the United States, the United Kingdom and France. Recently Canadian pledges have been in the neighbourhood of \$500,000 annually, and approval by Parliament of a contribution of \$750,000 for the 18-month period ending December 31, 1957 will bring the total amount contributed by Canada for the period 1948-57 well over the \$5 million mark.

UNREF

A refugee is defined by the United Nations as a person who has left the country of his normal residence because of fear of persecution. At the end of the Second World War the number of refugees in Europe was close to 2.2 million people. By the beginning of October 1956 this number had been reduced either by emigration, re-establishment in the country of present asylum, or voluntary return to original homes, to about 300,000 persons. Most of these 300,000 European refugees were in Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy. Those still living in refugee camps numbered 70,000, and included many aged, sick or physically handicapped persons who are known as "hard core" refugees.

Canada has aided United Nations refugee work since 1947. Immediately after the Second World War this work was carried on by the International Refugee Organization (IRO) and between the years 1947 and 1951 Canada contributed approximately \$19 million to that Agency and to the interim agencies which assumed some of IRO's work in 1951 and 1952. IRO was terminated in 1952 when the refugee problem in Europe had become more manageable and the great post-war urgency had passed. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose office had been established in 1950, then took over IRO's task of settling and assisting refugees, and was charged with the administration of the United Nations Refugee Fund. Canada continued to support the Fund, contributing a total of \$450,000 to it during the period 1952-1956. Subject to the approval of Parliament, Canada will, in addition, contribute \$200,000 to the regular 1957 budget of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who is endeavouring over a four-year period (1955-1958) to find some permanent solution for this tragic and pitiable European refugee problem.

During recent weeks the work of the High Commissioner for Refugees has been vastly increased by the great influx to Austria of refugees from Hungary. To meet this great emergency the Canadian Parliament at its special session in November made a special contribution of \$1 million to Hungarian relief, of which \$250,000 has been allotted to UNREF.