



CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 9
October 20, 1960

Press Office
750 Third Avenue
YU 6-5740

STATEMENT BY MRS. H.H. STEEN, CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE
AT THE 1960 PLEDGING CONFERENCE ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

Mr. President,

In recent months we have witnessed the successful conclusion of an outstanding example of international co-operation in the humanitarian field -- World Refugee Year. That project, conceived by four enterprising young citizens of the United Kingdom in 1958, was intended to encourage nations to make an extra effort for one year to try to deal with one of the greatest human tragedies of our times -- the tragedy of the victims of war and political upheaval.

World Refugee Year officially ended on June 30 of this year. During the preceding twelve months, it was a major preoccupation of a great number of nations which joined together "to encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or integration, on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves."

The recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has revealed what a notable success this World Refugee Year has been. We have been told that the High Commissioner's camp clearance programme has been assured of achievement and that important resources have become available for programmes for refugees living outside camps. We have also heard of the significant step forward which has been made in re-settling handicapped refugees and their dependents -- an achievement which has exploded the myth of the "hard-core" or unemigrable refugees.

Equally significant is the new hope which has thus been brought to refugees, and the new awareness which has been brought to peoples throughout