

At its fourth session in 1949, the General Assembly decided to appoint a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for a three-year term, to continue to protect the interests of refugees after the termination of the IRO. In 1953 the Assembly extended the term of the High Commissioner's Office for another three-year period and in 1957 the term was extended for a further five-year period from January 1, 1959, to December 31, 1963. The situation will be reviewed at the Assembly's seventeenth session.

The High Commissioner's role was at first a non-operational one, limited mainly to the protection of refugees. However, in 1952, he was authorized to appeal for funds to enable emergency aid to be given to the most needy groups of refugees within its mandate. Funds raised by this decision were contributed to the United Nations Refugees Emergency Fund (UNREF). In 1954 this fund was incorporated in a new voluntary fund, the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNRF) and its programme was aimed principally at the promotion of a permanent solution by social and economic assimilation within European countries and the promotion of immigration.

On January 1, 1959, the UNREF was replaced by a new programme of the High Commissioner for Refugees, administered by the Office of the High Commissioner under the guidance of an Executive Committee composed of the representatives of United Nations member governments. Canada has been a member of this Committee since 1957. From 1951 to 1962, Canada contributed over \$2.5 million to the UNHCR and, in addition, donated \$350,000 in 1956-57 to the Canadian Red Cross for the assistance of Hungarian refugees. In its total pledged contribution from 1954 to 1962, Canada ranks as the fourth largest contributor.

Through the efforts of the refugee programmes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the IRO and those of the UNHCR, the number of refugees in Europe has been reduced from about 2.2 million in 1946 to some 50,000 in 1962. This improvement has been made possible to a large extent by the contributions of governments to the United Nations and its related programmes, World Refugee Year (WRY) and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). During WRY (June, 1959 to June, 1960), 97 countries, including Canada, took part in the campaign and contributed more than \$83 million (U.S.). The Canadian Government's contribution to WRY was \$1 million in wheat flour to UNRWA and up to \$600,000 for the admission, in three movements, of 325 tubercular refugees to Canada for treatment in sanatoria and resettlement. These refugees were accompanied by 501 dependents. As of March 31, 1962, only eight of these tubercular refugees remained in sanatoria. In addition to the movement of tubercular refugees, Canadian participation in WRY resulted in over 5,000 refugees being admitted to Canada, including 1,097 from camps in Italy and Germany.

In 1951, the ICEM was established to assist in the movement of European refugees from unsettled conditions in Europe and in Hong Kong. While the ICEM is not affiliated with the United Nations, it has co-operated closely with the UNHCR in the migration of refugees. Canada has been an active member of the ICEM since 1951 and has been represented on its Executive Committee since its establishment in 1954. During the period 1951-61, the ICEM has helped over 388,700 European refugees to move and to resettle in other areas of the world. In this same period Canada has contributed about \$2.2 million to the ICEM to help in the resettlement of European refugees from Europe and Hong Kong. The ICEM was originally established to assist in the