

will permit the early resettlement of all those who have not yet been moved. The High Commissioner's resources in this area could thus be concentrated on the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong.

These people present one of the most difficult problems of the kind in the world today. The Government of Hong Kong is spending \$250 million on emergency shelter for the refugees and has already housed more than 300,000. Much remains to be done, however, and special contributions during World Refugee Year, which have been earmarked for the Chinese refugees, should do much to assist the Government of Hong Kong to carry out a number of special projects in conjunction with the High Commissioner for Refugees. Although World Refugee Year has focussed attention on the plight of the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong and the High Commissioner for Refugees has now been authorized to consider possible measures, such as the establishment of a revolving-loan fund, for increasing the assistance to them, an early permanent solution to this problem is not now foreseeable.

The problem of the Palestine refugees presents similar difficulties. Until a general political settlement is reached in the Middle East, it is doubtful that a permanent solution to it can be achieved. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees must, in the meantime, provide food, shelter and clothing for approximately 1,000,000 displaced Arabs. The money contributed to UNRWA during World Refugee Year will be used for vocational training programmes and other projects, including relocation in other lands, leading to permanent solutions to the problems of as many of these persons as possible. The continuing programme of maintenance will, on the other hand, be financed solely from regular budgetary contributions to UNRWA and not from WRY contributions.

Although final reports concerning the programmes of individual participating countries will not be available until after the end of WRY, preliminary reports indicate that several countries have already recorded remarkable success in their campaigns to raise funds from private sources. For example, some \$3 million has been donated privately in Sweden and in Norway the sum so far collected is \$1,800,000. In the United Kingdom, close to \$8 million has been raised and it is hoped that over \$11 million will have been contributed privately before the end of World Refugee Year.

One of the most notable advances achieved during the WRY has been the progress made in the resettlement of handicapped refugees. A number of countries including the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the countries of Scandinavia have instituted programmes for the admission of refugees suffering from various disabilities.

As a contribution to World Refugee Year, Yugoslavia and Greece have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees and 17 other governments are giving active consideration to this step. The Convention specifies the civil rights which refugees should enjoy in their new countries of residence.