

Commissioner for Refugees, and to the Far Eastern operation of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration. Canada can be counted on again this year to assume its share in maintaining these international programmes.

The essence of the World Refugee Year is, however, that governments should make an extra effort. In considering what special contribution would be most appropriate and effective, my Government noted that the camp clearance project of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been assigned a top priority. If increased efforts could be made, it appeared possible to close the European camps and thereby terminate one entire United Nations refugee programme.

We are all aware that the remaining population of these European camps contains a high proportion of people who are difficult to relocate elsewhere because they fail to meet the medical regulations of countries which might provide a new home. A great many of these so-called "hard core" cases are suffering from tuberculosis; in many instances whole families have had to face the prospect of remaining indefinitely in the camps because one member had contracted that disease.

I am pleased to announce, therefore, that as its special contribution to the World Refugee Year the Canadian Government will waive a normal immigration requirement and admit to Canada a substantial number of tubercular refugees and their families. This group will be brought to Canada and treated in sanatoria at Canadian expense. Furthermore, a family unable to support itself while a member is under treatment will receive maintenance payments. It is my hope that the first refugees selected will reach Canada by the end of this year.

In this undertaking the Canadian Government will have the co-operation of provincial governments and the active support of a private organization, the Canadian Committee for World Refugee Year.

I am aware that a number of other members of the United Nations have outlined imaginative plans to receive handicapped refugees. Our collective efforts should have the effect of easing or bringing to an end the disproportionate burden which some European countries have carried since 1945. Above all, Canada welcomes the occasion offered by World Refugee Year to give a group of human beings, whose plight is particularly tragic, an opportunity to rebuild their lives in dignity and happiness.

United Nations Emergency Force

One other item on the Agenda which is of special interest to Canada is the UNEF. This force has for another year admirably carried out the tasks set for it by the General Assembly. Canadians are proud of the part which their armed forces are playing, with those of other contributing states, in attaining this satisfactory result.