

the admission to Canada of over 5,000 refugees, including 1,097 from camps in Italy and Germany. As of July 7, 1969, Canada had also admitted 11,165 refugees from Czechoslovakia who left that country at the time of the Soviet intervention in August 1968.

In 1965, the UNHCR took on added responsibilities by bringing assistance to new groups of refugees in Africa, where the total number is approximately 950,000 (1969 estimate). The African refugee situation now constitutes by far the largest part of the work of the UNHCR, since the sudden influx of thousands of refugees into areas lacking an extensive infrastructure may lead to famine and epidemics, as well as to political tension. The UNHCR provides emergency relief as a first step, including food and medical supplies. It assists local governments in programs for the refugees. Generally the refugees are from Rwanda, the Congo (Kinshasa), Burundi, the Sudan, Angola, Portuguese Guinea and Mozambique.

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees was established in 1949 to provide relief and rehabilitation for about 950,000 Arab refugees who lost their homes and their means of livelihood as a result of the Palestine hostilities of 1948-49. Owing to natural increase, these refugees now number more than 1.3 million. To this number must be added the 500,000 "new refugees" created by the June 1967 Middle East war. The Agency was set up to co-operate with local governments in direct relief and works programs and to consult them on measures to be taken either until international assistance for relief and works programs was no longer available or until the refugees were able to exercise the choice between repatriation and compensation offered to them by resolutions of the General Assembly. As originally envisaged, the Agency's mandate was to run for a limited period. However, political considerations have impeded plans for solving the refugee problem and the General Assembly has found it necessary to renew the mandate several times. It was last renewed to June 30, 1972.

To finance its 1969 activities, UNRWA needs about \$42.5 million. Owing to increasing demands for relief, health and educational services and to rising costs in the countries where the Agency operates, it has in recent years faced serious financial difficulties.

Canada has customarily ranked high among the regular contributors to UNRWA. In total contributions since 1949, it stands third behind the United States and Britain. In response to special conditions resulting from the "Seven-Day War", the Canadian Government contributed about \$3 million to UNRWA in 1967-68, in emergency assistance, cash and foodstuffs. For the fiscal year 1969-70, Canada made its regular contribution of \$500,000 in cash and \$700,000 in food and commodities, and also made a special supplementary contribution to UNRWA of wheat flour worth \$500,000. The Canadian Government believes that UNRWA's subsidiary educational and vocational-training program is vital to the maintenance of peace in the area and to the ultimate liquidation of the problem of refugees by facilitating their rehabilitation.