

governmental contributions will be added the deficit for the two previous years which now amounts to \$2.696 million, making the total required for 1957, if the third year of UNREF's regular programme is to be carried out, \$7.096 million. This regular programme excludes any expenditures arising from the Hungarian refugee problem.

The Representative of Austria at the Executive Committee's fourth session stressed the need of his country¹ for continuing assistance in coping with the influx of Hungarian refugees into Austria. The Executive Committee recommended to governments that they accept refugees from Yugoslavia² as well as Austria since Hungarians were streaming into that country in ever-increasing numbers, and further recommended that no distinction be made by governments between Hungarian refugees whether in Austria or Yugoslavia. When the League of Red Cross Societies informed the UNREF Executive Committee that, in view of its other worldwide commitments, it would have to discontinue its operations in Austria on June 30, 1957, there was immediately a strong plea from the Executive Committee that the League's decision be reconsidered³.

Another matter raised during the fourth session of the Executive Committee was the problem of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, and the General Assembly at its twelfth session in the autumn of 1957 will have to decide whether or not these persons come under the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Slavery

The International Slavery Convention of 1926, which was ratified by 46 countries including Canada⁴, had as its basic purpose the abolition of slavery, but made no detailed provisions for the suppression of the slave trade, nor of institutions similar to slavery, such as debt bondage, serfdom, forced marriage and the exploitation of adopted children.

By a resolution of April 30, 1956⁵, the Economic and Social Council invited a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to convene at Geneva in August-September 1956, in order to prepare for a Convention supplementary to that of 1926 and dealing with these practices analogous to slavery. To this Conference 51 countries sent delegates bearing full powers to participate and 8 countries were represented by observers.

Considerable debate took place at the Conference on two matters: (a) a clause permitting the right of search of vessels suspected of carrying slaves in the waters around the Arabian peninsula; and (b) the application of the terms of the Convention to dependent territories. A compromise was reached by which the right of search was dropped, and provision was made

¹Of the \$1 million which the Canadian Government contributed for the relief of Hungarian refugees, \$350,000 was granted to the Canadian Red Cross. The remainder, \$650,000, was given to the High Commissioner for Refugees, and he was requested to allot \$250,000 of it to the Austrian Government.

²The High Commissioner has recently been informed that Canada will take 1,000 Hungarian refugees from Yugoslavia in addition to those being taken from Austria.

³The decision was reconsidered at the League of Red Cross Executive Committee meeting in April 1957, and as a result the League will continue its work in Austria until the end of 1957.

⁴Canada also ratified the Protocol of 1953 which transferred to the United Nations the functions exercised by the League of Nations under the 1926 Convention.

⁵See *Canada and the United Nations 1954-55*, p. 47 for an account of earlier developments on this matter in ECOSOC.