

magnitude of the population outflow, it is essential that the problem be taken in hand by the international community as a whole in a broadly-based, cooperative effort. It is no longer adequate to address ourselves in a sporadic way to certain manifestations or symptoms of the problem even when they represent as serious and as immediate crisis as the Hai Hong incident. If we each seek individual remedies, the problem in its totality will remain. Furthermore, a continuation of recurring unco-ordinated appeals for assistance runs the risk in the long term of exhausting the good will of governments and individuals, or worse, of causing them to lose interest in the whole problem.

Mr. Chairman, that is the challenge which we must meet together. We consider that the High Commissioner in his note of November 29 has given us all the elements for an international plan of action to face that challenge. We agree with the High Commissioner that first and foremost we must aim at securing rescue at sea and first asylum. Human lives must not be lost as a result of the inability to provide a temporary asylum for refugees. To this end, it is necessary that the number of countries of first asylum in the region be increased and that guarantees be made to them of permanent resettlement in third countries. The High Commissioner should establish temporary camps throughout the region which will serve as reception and transit centres for the refugees as they arrive. We are fully aware, however, that the success of the High Commissioner in establishing temporary asylum camps in the region will depend directly on guarantees of permanent resettlement. We believe that in the present circumstances, it is imperative to explore thoroughly all possibilities for permanent resettlement both within the region or in other parts of the world. It is essential that more countries open their doors to the refugees from Indochina. What a few countries alone cannot resolve surely could be resolved by the