

prompt consideration to ratification; to invite metropolitan governments to consider applying the four Conventions to all their non-metropolitan territories; to consider revising the Forced Labour Convention of 1930 to provide for complete suppression of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; and to affirm the ILO's willingness to intensify its efforts toward the abolition of forced labour of an economic character.

Refugees

Though the International Refugee Organization came to an end in 1952, there are probably still about 1,500,000 people, approximately half of them in Europe, who come within the principal category of the United Nations definition of refugees, that is persons who are outside the country of their normal residence because of fear of persecution.¹ This does not include the many thousands who have fled from Eastern Germany but are still within their own country where they have the rights of nationality.

The mandate of the principal international body concerned, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, extends to those whose refugee status pre-dates January 1, 1951, though certain groups of these, such as the Palestine Arab refugees, are dealt with by other United Nations agencies. The Office was continued by the eighth session of the Assembly for a further period of five years from January 1, 1954, and Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart was re-elected High Commissioner for the same period. The Canadian Delegation supported this resolution and expressed appreciation of the High Commissioner's ability and the devotion he accords to his humanitarian task, in which Canada is deeply interested.

Outside the United Nations, the Council of Europe has appointed a special representative to study refugee problems and submit proposals for their solution; the United States Government has aided many refugees through its Escapee Programme; the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration has been concerned with resettling certain groups of refugees; and many voluntary agencies have carried on welfare and resettlement work.

In seeking permanent solutions to the refugee problem, the High Commissioner has co-operated with the countries of residence of the refugees in schemes of economic integration and with countries of emigration and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration in the resettlement of refugees. But there remain under his mandate some 350,000 refugees who are not completely assimilated.

During the past year the High Commissioner has been giving special attention to the situation of refugees in need of emergency aid, those still living in camps and those requiring special care for whom no satisfactory arrangements have yet been made. The number of "difficult cases" of refugees who are the concern of his office has steadily increased, but by personal approaches to ten governments he has placed 307 refugees of this class from among those in China. In Europe there are more than 87,000 refugees still living in official camps, many of whom have been in the camps for eight or nine years.

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 41-43.