

receive attention when IRO operations ceased. Thus in 1950 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established to provide international protection for refugees. An effort was also made to ensure that refugees would be able to benefit from projects for resettlement through migration.

After comprehensive preparatory work, the International Labour Organization (ILO) sponsored a migration conference which was held in Naples in October 1951. The conference did not approve proposed plans for a migration administration within the framework of the ILO, considered by most governments to be a more elaborate project than the situation warranted. The Naples conference did, nonetheless, provide a useful forum for discussion which was of benefit to a group of interested governments which met in Brussels later in the same year to consider plans for a migration organization with more modest terms of reference. Canada was represented at the meetings in Naples and Brussels, and is a member of the Provisional Inter-governmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) which was set up at Brussels. PICMME is primarily concerned with the transportation of migrants, but the governments responsible for the organization of PICMME did make provision for the movement of refugees.

Now that the refugee problem has been reduced to more manageable proportions, thanks largely to the devoted efforts of IRO, it is hoped that the protection offered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, the migration opportunities provided by PICMME, and the continued good will of governments, inter-governmental organizations and voluntary societies, will meet the needs of those unfortunate persons who cannot look to their countries of origin or of former residence for protection or assistance.

When IRO formally ceased operations on March 1, 1952, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees became the principal international organ concerned with refugees. The competence of the High Commissioner extends to persons considered to be refugees under certain international conventions and other documents such as the Constitution of IRO. The competence of the High Commissioner also extends generally to "any person who, as a result of events occurring before January 1, 1951, and owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to return to it".

Representatives of the High Commissioner have been located, with the consent of the governments concerned, in Austria, in Belgium for the Benelux countries, in Colombia for Latin America, in the Federal Republic of Germany, in Athens for Greece and the Near East, in Italy, in the United Kingdom, and in the United States. It is expected that a representative of the High Commissioner will soon

<sup>2</sup>General Assembly Resolution 428 (V).