

75. The policy of the Canadian Government on this subject was clearly set forth in a statement of December 15, 1946, in the General Assembly, by the Canadian representative, the Hon. Paul Martin. In calling for support of the I.R.O. Constitution he said: "What it is proposed to do in this constitution is nothing more than to meet the immediate problem of giving relief to a million men and women in the world who have the right to ask of an international assembly that their plight should not be overlooked." The Canadian representative emphasized our view that the problem of refugees should be dealt with as early as possible and on an international basis. He added that "beyond everything, we want to emphasize the necessity of making this organization (the I.R.O.) a reality and not merely a legal fiction. Here is one way of dealing with a grave international problem under the auspices of an international organization. It seems to me, for this Assembly, a great test and I trust that we shall meet it."

76. Since these discussions in the General Assembly in 1946, the actions of the Canadian Government have given concrete evidence of its determination to help in the solution of the refugee problem. For example, from June 6, 1947 to April 22, 1948 the Canadian Government has authorized the group movements of 30,000 displaced persons into Canada. In addition applications for admission into Canada may be made by a resident of Canada for certain categories of close relatives, providing the applicant is in a position to receive and care for such relatives. Under the provisions of this scheme concerning the admission of close relatives of Canadian residents, up to June 25, 1948, 27,179 applications had been approved by the Canadian Government. Canada's record in the solution of this problem thus compares very favourably with that of any country in the Western Hemisphere.

(c) The Question of International Relief Following the Termination of UNRRA

77. In the autumn of 1946 the General Assembly was faced with the fact that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) would cease to operate towards the beginning of 1947 and that some of the states which had been receiving relief from UNRRA would continue to need help in 1947. In the discussions of this problem in the 1946 Assembly, it soon became apparent that while the majority of the delegations favoured some international relief plan, the two largest contributors to UNRRA (the United Kingdom and the United States) were not prepared to accept the idea of continuing to deal with international relief through the medium of an agency similar to UNRRA. It was evident that no relief plan could in fact be truly international if the United States and the United Kingdom did not participate in it.

78. Canada had been the third largest contributor to UNRRA, both in its share of costs and as a supplier of goods. Canada's attitude to the establishment of an international relief scheme under the United Nations was made clear in a statement in the Economic Committee of the Assembly by the Canadian representative on November 16, 1946. He then said: "If a concrete United Nations plan for meeting genuine relief needs in 1947 is adopted by this Assembly, and is in fact international in its form and scope, Canada, to the extent that prevailing conditions permit, will participate in its implementation". The late Mr. F.H. LaGuardia, the retiring Director-General of UNRRA, in an effort to find a solution which would be generally acceptable, then said that he was prepared to accept "sight unseen" any plan which Canada might put forward.