



CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

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Statement by Mrs. H.H. Steen, Canadian Representative
on the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
Committee, on Wednesday, October 26, 1960.

The Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr. Chairman:

Last year the General Assembly appealed to governments, and through them to voluntary non-governmental organizations and the general public, to make extra efforts during World Refugee Year to improve the situation of refugees. This year we have been privileged to hear from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees one of the most encouraging reports on the effect which this appeal has had in reducing the problems of refugees to manageable proportions and in some cases in eliminating them entirely. That report brings out very clearly the immense achievements possible when the international community concert its efforts to alleviate human suffering.

Thanks to the efforts of the High Commissioner, we have travelled a long way in dealing with the "refugee problem". By the end of 1960 the total number of non-settled refugees in Europe including those living in camps and outside camps will have decreased to 75,000. Of the 13,800 who will be in camps at the end of the year, the majority--10,500--will qualify for the Camp Clearance Programme which is now financially guaranteed. It is encouraging to hear that the High Commissioner's Office intends to "prod and push" until the remainder are out of camps.

This striking achievement in clearing the camps and re-settling refugees was made possible because, during World Refugee Year, a determined assault was made on this aspect of the general refugee problem. As its part in this concentrated effort to close European camps, the Canadian Government announced in the General Assembly last year that it would waive normal immigration requirements and admit to Canada a substantial number of tuberculous