

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 60/4 PLEDGES OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA AND THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMMES DURING
WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

A Statement by Mr. W.B. Nesbitt, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in the General Assembly of the United Nations on Thursday, December 10, 1959.

. . . Although circumstances have led to the holding of the pledging conference for the two refugee programmes at a very late date, it is still one of the most important occasions which take place during the course of the General Assembly. The United Nations has set up agencies to deal with the refugee questions which are a legacy of the political turmoil of our time. My Delegation has always laid great emphasis on the necessity of strong and widespread support for these extra-budgetary agencies set up to deal with these great humanitarian problems. We may have our differences on political issues but on one matter most of the members of this organization are agreed - it is one of the fundamental duties of an international organization such as ours to make adequate and effective provision for those members of the human community who for one reason or another have been denied the right of a homeland.

Since the very beginning of United Nations' action for refugees, the Government of Canada has demonstrated effectively its interest in and sympathy for the refugee. We are a large country in the process of development. We have over the years taken in tens of thousands of refugees and welcomed them as participants in the building of our country. We have also over the years contributed -- I think I can say generously -- to the international programmes for the care of refugees waiting their turn to take up once again the duties and the privileges of full membership in a national community.

For the year 1960 the Government of Canada has approved a recommendation that Parliamentary approval be sought for a contribution of \$500,000 Canadian for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees. This figure is the same as that for 1959. At the same time, the