

External Affairs  
Supplementary Paper

No. 56/7 CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

Statement by the Hon. Roch Pinard  
in the Third Committee on November 27, 1956

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates,

I should first like to express to you, Mr. Chairman, the satisfaction of my delegation upon learning of your decision that it would be appropriate that the problem of Hungarian refugees be discussed in this committee provided that such discussion did not degenerate into a debate on the political issues involved. You were correct in insisting that our interventions be limited to practical suggestions and to proposals on urgent measures to be taken in order that the refugees be provided as soon as possible with lodging, food and a permanent refuge.

I am sure that the former High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. van Hoeven Goedhart, would not have wished it otherwise and those who would attempt to transform this discussion into a political debate would render a disservice to the United Nations and would delay the approval of decisions which are imperative. In any case, the political aspects of the Hungarian problem have already been discussed at length during the debate in plenary, during the course of which the Chairman of the Canadian Delegation has, for his part, made known the position of our government.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe that you have shown great realism in deciding that a study by your committee of the Report of the High Commissioner for Refugees would be incomplete if it did not also include an examination of the numerous problems which the Hungarian exodus now raises. However, we should not allow this grave problem to divert our attention entirely from the excellent work done by the High Commissioner's Office in its endeavours to find permanent solutions to the other refugee problems which are of the legacy of the Second World War. Indeed, it is essential that we should not forget the other refugees who still find themselves in camps and who are still seeking a more permanent abode. I will not at this stage take up the time of the Committee in a repetition of the observations on the works of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees which were made by the Canadian Delegation to the Twenty-Second Session of the Economic and Social Council. My delegation may, however, wish to comment at a later stage on the draft resolutions which are before the Committee and on any other resolutions which may be presented which may deal either with the continuing problem of the High Commissioner's office or with the particular problems which have arisen as a result of recent events in Hungary.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation is of the view that our efforts to come to the aid of the Hungarian exiles must be based on the resolution adopted last week by the General Assembly, the text of which is contained in document A/3374. That resolution, sponsored jointly by Argentina, Belgium, Denmark and the United States and which Canada immediately supported, indicates the course of action we should follow together with