

Turning to the High Commissioner's report, Mr. Chairman, it is evident that the work to be done is two-fold: first there is the matter of assistance to refugees themselves; and, secondly, there is the question of protecting them as a group within the receiving state. As far as assistance goes, who among us will deny that the response must be immediate? To the refugee, his situation is not merely a "problem", but a day by day, if not an hour by hour, fact of life. Assistance may will mean the difference between life and death. It is clear therefore that when appeals for assistance are made to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees that Office must be able to coordinate a rapid and meaningful response without serious shortages or inadequacies intervening. This will not be possible, however, if provision is not made for the new rise in the number of refugees, both in Europe and Africa, referred to by Mr. Schnyder a few moments ago.

But the problem by no means ends with the provision of primary assistance. This indeed is the major task of the High Commissioner, but the question is wider. Whether the refugee eventually returns to his native country, or whether he remains a stranger within the gate, he must be placed in a position where he can make his own contribution, not just to his subsistence, but to that ascending standard of dignity and well being to which we would all