

adjoining countries, the nazis kidnapped hundreds of thousands of children from their homes and cast them adrift on the continent. UNRRA workers have been able to find only 10,000 of them, most of whom have now lost their native language and their desire to return home. As children will, they remember only dimly their past associations. Their lives will have to be rebuilt from the very foundation.

What is to be done with this tragic residue of men, women and children? Return to their homes is out of the question for a variety of reasons. In many instances their homes and possessions have been destroyed, through military operations. In other instances their property has been acquired, legally and otherwise, by people who refuse to restore it, even if legal title could be established. Still others, notably Poles, Ukrainians and Baltic peoples who make up the majority of the displaced persons, cannot go back because of hostility to the governments which prevail in their homelands. Often this is aggravated by fear of violence and even death, if they return.

The Jewish displaced persons, who number approximately fifteen per cent of the total, suffer most of these disabilities. They do not want to go back to the homelands, and they are not now wanted. Their homelessness poses an especially sad problem, because the war left tragic residue of anti-Semitism in Europe.

To settle this problem, the general assembly of the united nations has approved the formation of the international refugee organization which will come into existence formally, we hope, when the constitution has been approved and signed by the fifteen member states whose contribution to the operational budget is not less than seventy-five per cent of the total, which has been tentatively set at \$160 million.

The international refugee organization must be prepared by June 30 of this year to take over the work of settling displaced persons previously carried out by the various bodies I have mentioned. What is Canada's position in all this? Our position has been ably presented before the general assembly of the united nations by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin). Our view throughout the discussions was that the question of refugees can be solved only through cooperation among all the united nations to the fullest possible degree, and we have consistently supported the formation of the international refugee organization. In this connection I quote the words of the minister:

... with the clear understanding that we will play our full part as a member state of the international community.

We take as our major premise these four points on which general agreement has been reached:

1. The problem of refugees is an international responsibility;
2. Repatriation should be carried out to the fullest extent possible;
3. No genuine refugee should be forced to return to his place of origin against his will; and
4. No aid should be extended to war criminals, quislings or traitors.

This last point is of paramount importance. The basis of our approach is on humanitarian principles, and traitors and Quislings are certainly not entitled to look to us for mercy and assistance. In addition, if such people were false to their countries of origin, what assurance should we have that their attitude toward their land of adoption would be any less reprehensible? We have no room for political turn-coats or economic opportunists. Our sole desire is to extend the helping hand of humanity to those who deserve our aid. Our doors will be forever closed to those who backed the wrong horse and betrayed their own countries.

Most important of all, we must do our utmost to make the international refugee organization a reality and not a polite fiction which will save our consciences and leave the great human problem unchanged. To date, as the minister has pointed out, despite our fine words, scarcely a single refugee has been actually aided by the united nations. Words in themselves solve nothing. We must get on with the great social task before us.

We are in agreement upon one fundamental principle. The refugee problem which is an inevitable legacy of war is an international problem and it must be given an international solution. The united nations, on the basis of their available space and their economic stability, must be prepared to offer immediate haven to a million refugees. We must all do our share. Already the South American countries have announced their willingness to participate. Brazil has expressed the desire to take 120,000; Paraguay is calling for agricultural workers, including 5,000 Ukrainians, and will take professional workers up to fifteen per cent of the number of practising in that country. Venezuela will accept 10,000 families, amounting to from 30,000 to 50,000 persons. Chile has appropriated \$20 million for immigration. Argentina will take 50,000 a year up to 4,000,000, and Colombia has announced that she will accept displaced persons. What I think will interest the house more is the fact that Britain has announced that she will