

support the UNHCR in updating international refugee programs and coming to grips with outstanding policy questions, such as the definition of "refugee" under international agreements and the rights and responsibilities of host countries. (page 107)

Response

Canada continues to look for vacancies in the senior positions of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and will keep pressing the UNCHR to give Canada adequate representation in the organization. In any case, Canada intends to take an active role in supporting the UNHCR in updating international refugee programs and coming to grips with outstanding policy questions.

Conclusion/Recommendation

90. We strongly urge Canadian support for refugee income generation projects, such as the one for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, to assist refugees to be as self-supporting and productive as possible while seeking their repatriation or permanent resettlement. (page 107)

Response

Canada supports the extension of income generating projects for Afghan refugees in Pakistan and will elsewhere encourage and support similar projects which have the concurrence of the host.

Afghanistan

Conclusion/Recommendation

91. The committee recommends that Canada continue to give high priority to providing humanitarian and medical assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan and that it strongly support the efforts of the International Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in particular. In its bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, Canada should take every opportunity to raise the issue of Afghanistan and make clear that Soviet occupation and devastation of that country constitute a serious obstacle to improved relations. (page 108)

Response

Canada will continue to respond favourably to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the International Red Cross' programs for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. During the current fiscal year, CIDA provided \$4 million to the UNHCR and \$475,000 to the ICRC. In addition, \$14 million worth of food aid was delivered to Afghan refugees. At the same time, Canada does not hesitate to remind the Soviet Union of Canadian views on Soviet actions in Afghanistan. Two recent instances where Canada made known its views on Afghanistan were the speech made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1986 and the visit of the Soviet Foreign Minister to Canada in early October 1986.