

(c) *The Immigration in the countries of the Middle East* (Document EC/14, and Resolution EC/22 also herewith).†

3. I think it unnecessary to elaborate on the contents of the documents specifically mentioned in the foregoing and which are attached† for ready reference with copy of the Draft Report of the Secretariat,† except to outline the phases of the proceedings which led to the adoption of the Resolution EC/22 concerning the immigration of Jewish Refugees into Palestine.

4. As heretofore, four copies in English and two in French of the complete documentation on the activities of the Committee during the Session under review, will be forwarded to you by IRO, as soon as they are available. The Summary Records will show the line of argumentation propounded by the members of the Committee who participated in this debate.

5. When the question came up in the forenoon of 26th January, the statements made by the United Kingdom and the United States delegates reflected the same divergent viewpoints in evidence at the Second Session of the Committee held at Rome last December. The United States, Australian and Chinese representatives declared their intentions to approve the Report and Recommendations of the Director-General EC/14, and it was a foregone conclusion that the Venezuelan representative had instructions to do likewise. The other delegations would not do so unconditionally. The Chair was determined that a transactional solution had to be found which could meet unanimous approval, or at least as broad a majority as obtainable.

6. The overall principle of IRO's responsibility for the resettlement of eligible refugees to Palestine was not contested. There are budgetary provisions limiting the financial assistance which can be rendered. The essential point was to ascertain that any action to be undertaken by IRO would not interfere with the peace negotiations by the Conciliation Commission in the Middle East. With this aim in mind, and after private consultations, I prepared a Draft Resolution (Document EC/20 enclosed)† which was in full accord with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 16 of 22nd January† (sent to Rome). There is no foundation in this action for the allegations made by the Canadian Jewish Congress referred to in your telegram No. 13 of January 26th.†

7. This Draft Resolution was tabled as a proposal emanating from the delegations for Canada, Belgium and Norway, at the beginning of the afternoon meeting of 26th January, when both the delegates from France and the United Kingdom stated their reasons for rallying to this proposal. However, it was opposed by the four other members of the Committee. By the end of that meeting, the French representative effected a sudden volte-face and declared that he would adopt the Director-General's Recommendations provided assurance were given that the thousands of Jewish refugees in France on transit permits would receive priority of movement to Palestine. The Director-General voiced then some measure of agreement to the request of the French delegate who confirmed his change of attitude, thus reversing the situation. As it was getting late, the meeting was adjourned and consideration of Resolution EC/20 postponed.