

from their inception and, up to March 31, 1972, contributed a total of \$123.8 million to them. Canada's 1971 contribution of \$16,180,000 was the fourth-largest, representing 6.6 per cent of all contributions.

The *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) was established by the General Assembly in 1949, and its mandate has been successively renewed up to December 31, 1974. For the Office's activities, a refugee is defined as a person who has left his native country and does not enjoy the same rights as the citizens of his country of residence. The UNHCR's primary task is to provide legal protection and emergency relief, such as food and medical supplies, to refugees who are not being assisted by other United Nations organizations. In some cases, the UNHCR has, with other United Nations organizations, endeavoured to integrate refugees into their host societies. The High Commissioner's program is administered by an executive committee composed of representatives of 31 states, including Canada, that are members of the United Nations or its Specialized Agencies.

The UNHCR was preceded by a number of other organizations created to help the 2,200,000 refugees in Europe after the Second World War. Immediately after the war, the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (IGCR) was formed to help refugees establish themselves in their country of asylum, return to their native country, or emigrate to another country. In 1946 the International Refugee Organization was established as a United Nations agency to continue this work.

By 1960, almost all the European refugees had been settled, but new groups of refugees had formed in other parts of the world, especially in Africa. By 1971, they numbered nearly one million, mostly from Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Portuguese Guinea, Angola, Mozambique, and the Sudan. In addition to the refugees in Africa, the UNHCR is concerned with other refugees throughout the world; few of them require UNHCR material assistance, but most still require legal protection.

One of the greatest needs for UNHCR assistance occurred in 1971, when up to ten million refugees moved from East Pakistan into India. This number was much greater than the UNHCR had ever before been called upon to help. However, with the aid of India and as a part of an international effort, the Office was able to provide substantial emergency food aid. Canada made a special contribution of \$4.3 million to the UNHCR to help alleviate the plight of these refugees (see Appendix A). Canada also made a contribution of \$1 million in 1973 to a special program undertaken by the UNHCR in 1973 and 1974 to exchange over 200,000 civilians between Pakistan