

Through the efforts of the refugee programmes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the IRO and the UNHCR, the number of refugees in Europe had been reduced from about 2,200,000 in 1946 to 10,000 in 1967. One of the most significant events in 1966 was the final closing of the remaining refugee camps in Europe. In that year, a total of over 4,000 refugees were settled, leaving only about 7,500 "old" refugees yet to be settled. The number of newly-recognized European refugees, who are mostly young and in good health and thus relatively easy to resettle, also dropped in 1966 - to approximately 6,700 compared to the figure for the preceding year. However, in 1965 the High Commissioner took on added responsibilities by bringing assistance to new groups of refugees, particularly in Africa, where the total number within its purview is over 200,000 (early 1967 estimate). The improvement of the situation in Europe has been made possible to a large extent by the contributions of governments to the United Nations and its related programmes, World Refugee Year (WRY) and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). During WRY (June 1959 to June 1960), 97 countries, including Canada, took part in the campaign and contributed more than \$83 million (U.S.). The Canadian Government's contribution to WRY was \$1 million in wheat flour to UNRWA and up to \$600,000 for the admission, in three movements, of 325 tubercular refugees to Canada, who have now been treated in sanatoria and resettled. These refugees were accompanied by 501 dependents. In addition to the movement of tubercular refugees, Canadian participation in WRY resulted in the admission to Canada of over 5,000 refugees, including 1,097 from camps in Italy and Germany.

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees was established in 1949 to provide relief and rehabilitation for about 950,000 Arab refugees who lost their homes and their means of livelihood as a result of the Palestine hostilities of 1948-49. Owing to natural population increase, these refugees now number more than 1.3 million. To this number must be added the 350-400,000 "new refugees" created by the June 1967 Middle East hostilities. The Agency was set up to co-operate with local governments in direct relief and works programmes in the Middle East and to consult these governments on measures to be taken until such time as international assistance for relief and works programmes were no longer available or the refugees were able to exercise the choice between repatriation and compensation offered to them by resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations. As originally envisaged, the Agency's mandate was to run for a limited period. However, political considerations have impeded plans for solving the refugee problem and the General Assembly has found it expedient to renew the mandate several times. It was last renewed to June 30, 1969.

To finance its various current activities, UNRWA needs about \$39 million annually. Owing to increasing demands for relief, health and educational services and to rising costs in the countries where the Agency operates, it has in recent years faced serious financial difficulties. Accordingly, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA has urged regular contributors to continue granting assistance and has appealed to others to help in meeting the Agency's needs.

Canada has customarily ranked high among the regular annual contributors to UNRWA. In total contributions since 1949, Canada stands third, behind the United States and Britain, the two major contributors. For the fiscal year