

committee vote on the paragraph concerning the Palestine Conciliation Commission, the Canadian view being that the language used in previous years (merely calling for co-operation between the Commission and UNRWA) would have been preferable; while Canada was in agreement with the purpose underlying the clause, it was not clear that the clause would, in isolation, facilitate a solution. There was no paragraph vote in the plenary session.

Canada's contribution to UNRWA consisted, as in 1958, of a normal cash grant of \$500,000, and of a special \$1,500,000 gift of Canadian flour. Canada is currently third among the 37 countries contributing to UNRWA. The United States pays about 70% of the Agency's expenses.

### **Aid for Refugees**

On January 1, 1959 the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF) which had terminated the previous day was replaced by a new Programme of the High Commissioner for Refugees. The new programme is administered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees under the guidance of an Executive Committee composed of representatives of United Nations member governments. During 1959 the Chairman of the Executive Committee was the Permanent Representative of Canada to the European Office of the United Nations, who presided over the three sessions of the Executive Committee which were held in Geneva during 1959.

The mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees, as established by the United Nations General Assembly, includes responsibility for "international" refugees in Europe. At the beginning of 1959 the refugees in Europe in need of international assistance numbered about 160,000, of whom 130,000 were living in unsettled conditions outside refugee camps and close to 30,000 were living in camps. By the end of 1959 the numbers of these refugees had been reduced to about 90,000 unsettled refugees outside camps and 21,000 remaining in camps. These refugees are located primarily in Austria, Germany, Italy and Greece.

The High Commissioner for Refugees has under his mandate several thousand unsettled refugees in the Middle East, but he is not responsible for the approximately one million Arab refugees from Palestine who are assisted by an entirely separate United Nations Agency, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The High Commissioner is also vested with responsibility for about 8,500 refugees of European origin in China who are being re-settled elsewhere under a programme carried out jointly by the High Commissioner and the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration. Although the High Commissioner has no formal mandate in connection with the one million Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, he has been authorized by the General Assembly to exercise his good offices to encourage international assistance to this refugee group which is being cared for by the Government of Hong Kong. The General Assembly has also empowered the High Commissioner for Refugees to continue his efforts to encourage assistance to some 200,000 refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco who are not within his formal mandate. The High Commissioner is therefore co-operating with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which are carrying out an assistance programme among the refugees from Algeria.

One of the major concerns of the High Commissioner for Refugees in 1959 was the World Refugee Programme which was scheduled to begin in June 1959 and end on June 30, 1960. The idea of a world refugee year was proposed in the United Nations by the United Kingdom and on December 5, 1958 a resolution calling for such a year received the support of a majority