

benefited from the regular programmes his office had carried out since 1955. These did not include the emergency programmes such as that now being carried out among the refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco. He indicated that real progress had been made in camp clearance and, by the beginning of 1960, the number of refugees in European camps had been reduced to 21,600, from the 30,000 estimated to be living in them at the beginning of 1959. In the early months of 1960, the number has been further reduced, and this process is expected to continue at a rapid rate throughout the year. The closing of all camps in Italy and Greece is now in sight. By the end of 1960, it is hoped that the refugee camps in Austria will have been cleared. During 1961, it will be the objective of the High Commissioner to make final arrangements for emptying virtually all refugee camps under his mandate in Germany, although some of those may not be closed until somewhat later. At the present time, there are more than 100 such camps of direct concern to the High Commissioner in Greece, Italy, Austria and Germany.

#### **Unsettled Refugees**

In addition to the refugees housed in camps, there are, under the High Commissioner's mandate in Europe, some 90,000 unsettled refugees living elsewhere. Among both groups there is a large proportion of persons who suffer from a handicap of some sort. Of the unsettled refugees outside camps it is estimated that approximately 30,000 are burdened with a physical or social handicap for which they will require special assistance during the process of rehabilitation. Many of this group are living in unsatisfactory conditions that are little better than those endured by the refugees remaining in camps. With the virtual elimination of the European refugee camps by the end of 1960, the High Commissioner expects that he will be able to concentrate more of his efforts in Europe on assistance to unsettled refugees, particularly those with handicaps, living outside the camps. At the same time, it appears probable that the progressive reduction of the European refugee problem as a whole will permit the High Commissioner to devote a greater share of his resources to the struggle against major refugee problems elsewhere in the world.

The High Commissioner has reported encouraging progress in carrying out the emergency programme undertaken in co-operation with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the relief of refugees from Algeria in Tunisia and Morocco. The number of these is more than 200,000. For the most part they are women, children and elderly men. Since most of the refugees hope ultimately to return to their homes in Algeria, the assistance programme is one of maintenance and shelter rather than of permanent resettlement. Because of a marked increase in donations earmarked for the programme of assistance to them, the High Commissioner has been able to report that the grave situation of last summer and fall, particularly as regard the children, has shown definite improvement. Pending a final solution of the problem of these refugees, the High