

uncertainty and distress these people urgently require - now more than ever - the care and assistance which the Agency is able to bring them within the scope of its financial and operational means.

We therefore welcome the Agency's decision to continue its services during the current emergency. We believe this work should - indeed must - continue, for experience has shown that the plight of the refugees become more acute in periods of crisis. This humanitarian work may require the Agency to seek the co-operation of the de facto administering power but this would be a matter of practical necessity and in no sense any form of recognition of the existing state of affairs. To the same end - that is, to provide the essential relief services of the refugees - we urge strongly that those authorities co-operate with the Agency and in particular to ensure that the Agency's personnel and its legitimate operations are not interfered with.

Mr. Chairman, I have taken time to touch upon the main questions that have been raised in this year's annual report of the Director of UNRWA, in the belief that these questions are of such urgency that they cannot be passed by. My Delegation sincerely hopes that our deliberations at this session regarding this item, conducted with a full sense of responsibility for the future of hundreds of thousands of persons, have contributed towards the solution of a most grave problem.

---

S/C