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Statement by Mrs. Jean Casselman, Canadian Representative at the 1961 Pledging Conference on Contributions to the Programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mr. President,

In Canada we have always had a warm and special regard for refugees, some 238,000 of whom have sought sanctuary on our shores in years since the Second World War. It would have been difficult for us to do otherwise when they have made so large a contribution to the continuing development of our country. We have never had in Canada any refugee camps or hostels, and have been particularly careful that refugees should not be designated as a separate group, different in any way from other citizens, whose privileges and responsibilities they share.

One of the most heartening sections of the excellent report submitted to us this year by the High Commissioner for Refugees, was that in which he noted the progress which his Office has made in its camp clearance programme for European refugees. The High Commissioner has now set aside the necessary funds to provide for his camp clearance programme. We can all, I think, take considerable pride in the fact that after all the long years of patient effort on the part of organizations like UNRWA, the IRO, the UNHCR, and of the countries from which we come, that the end may now be in sight.

Despite the many encouraging developments which the High Commissioner has pointed out in his Report, there is still much more to be done. We cannot afford to slacken our efforts until the task is finished. As he has indicated, there are also