

as individuals to establish themselves in the economic life of the area wherever they may settle. We therefore urge the Director to explore fully the existing possibilities in the field of vocational and agricultural training. We would recall especially in this connection the Director's comment that the present lack of opportunity for young people to participate in vocational training and self-employment projects is even more tragic in terms of human waste than the need for improved food and shelter. We think this is particularly significant because it brings with it disappointments, frustrations and blighted hopes, the unhappy consequences of which must be far-reaching indeed.

I turn now to the financial aspects of our problem. I am glad to note in the Director's report that the financial position in 1958 was better than during the previous year when the Agency was forced to eliminate or curtail entire sections of its programme. We are also pleased that in 1959 six additional countries pledged themselves to join the list of contributors to the Agency. However, the report makes it clear that the position is far from satisfactory. It points up two basic financial facts which should not be passed over in silence. First, the members of the United Nations individually have not given the Agency enough money to perform all the tasks which the United Nations collectively has assigned to it. Secondly, only 28 of the 82 member governments of this organization made contributions to the work of the Agency in 1958. These facts speak for themselves and I will not dwell on them other than to say that no operation can function properly without adequate and preferably wide-based financial support.

The central question to be decided at this time, in our estimation, is whether the General Assembly agrees with the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNRWA be continued pending the re-integration of the refugees into the economic life of the Middle East either by repatriation or by resettlement. My Delegation is very concerned at the continued absence of a solution to this problem. Year after year - and this is the eleventh year - we have considered this problem without moving much beyond the necessity to prolong what was originally considered to be a temporary relief organization. We continue to hope that the nations most immediately concerned will find it possible to begin taking real steps, however small, in the direction of a basic political settlement of the underlying problem. In our view any step that would help ensure a better life for the refugees would serve to foster stability throughout the Middle East. However, pending such developments, humanitarian and practical considerations impel us to continue to give aid to the refugees and we firmly believe that the best agency to carry out the task is the present United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees. Therefore Mr. Chairman, we shall be prepared to consider supporting the continuation of the Agency. We do, however, think it desirable that any recommendation concerning extension be coupled with an understanding that the whole situation would be kept under review. We noted that the distinguished Delegate from the Netherlands mentioned two years as a suitable lapse of time and we understand that certain other delegations are thinking in terms of a somewhat longer period. Whatever the period, such a review - which might once again be prepared by the Secretary-General - would logically pay particular attention to whether UNRWA's operation should be continued, altered or terminated, in the light of the political, economic and psychological aspects of the problem at that time, as the Secretary-General sees them. We are mindful of the fact that during its annual considerations of the report of the Director, the General Assembly is competent, and perhaps obliged, to review these questions but we think that a thorough consideration of the question is more likely to result if, as this year, we are given the additional stimulus of an independent high level survey.