

I will now turn briefly to the detailed proposals contained in the Special Report of the Director and the Advisory Commission and in the draft resolution which is before the Committee. The Canadian Delegation will support the proposal that the mandate of the Agency be extended for five years. We recognize the difficulties faced by the Agency as the result of its year-to-year existence and we agree that a five-year period should allow the Director to plan the Agency's activities more satisfactorily. However, I must make it clear, in supporting this extension of the Agency's mandate, that the Canadian Government is unable to ask parliament to make any financial commitment for more than one year at a time. Our decision to make further contributions each year will be in future dependent largely on the extent to which progress is made each year in reducing UNRWA's relief commitment.

We have noted that one of the recommendations made in the Special Report of the Director and the Advisory Commission is that the Director, in consultation with the Advisory Commission, be authorized to employ some of the rehabilitation fund for participation in general economic development programmes of the governments of the area, provided that in each case arrangements can be made with the governments concerned to ensure that the number of refugees who will become self-supporting as a result of the total development programme in question will be broadly commensurate with the financial contribution of the Agency. This recommendation does not appear in the draft resolution, but I should like to make the comment on it that our delegation agree to the proposal with the hope that the money so spent will result in a proportionate reduction in the funds now required for the relief programme.

I now come to the resolution which is before the Committee. The Canadian Delegation will support this resolution, although I propose to comment on one or two points in it. The third paragraph of the preamble refers to paragraph 11 of resolution 194 and notes that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in this paragraph has not been effected and that the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern. We think that the resolution would have better reflected the realities of this difficult situation if it had noted as well as the failure to make satisfactory progress toward rehabilitation and re-settlement in which we believe that an important part of the eventual solution must be found. In this connection, we have noted carefully the situation described in paragraph 35 of the Director's annual report in which he refers to some of the difficulties faced in undertaking rehabilitation projects.

We also have some doubts about operative paragraph 6 of the resolution. The present wording of this paragraph seems to assume that relief should be extended to additional claimants, while we should have preferred to leave open the question whether such extension is necessary pending the study of the situation and the report on it by the Director, as requested in this paragraph. If the draft resolution is put to the vote in its present form, we shall vote for the resolution as a whole but, if there should be a paragraph by paragraph vote, we shall abstain on operative paragraph 6.