

Office of the UNHCR

On November 22, 1967, the General Assembly adopted a resolution extending the term of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for another five years from January 1, 1969. As the problem of refugees appears to have become a persistent feature of the international scene, the Assembly requested the High Commissioner to pursue his activities of protection and assistance, and to continue to make every possible effort to facilitate the repatriation, local integration or re-settlement, on a voluntary basis, of the refugees within his mandate, bearing in mind the ever-increasing number of refugees in Africa. The Assembly invited the UNHCR to continue to report to and be guided by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme with regard to refugee situations, in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference. Finally, the resolution urged countries to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and the 1967 Protocol.

World Social Situation

The debate on this item was opened by a most comprehensive and informative report from the Director of the Social Development Division. Also discussed under this item was the programme of integration and co-ordination to be carried out by the Commission for Social Development, aided by five special rapporteurs, of the various activities in the field of social development undertaken by member states and the specialized and operational bodies within the United Nations.

A resolution indicating approval of the way in which the Commission for Social Development was handling its most difficult task was adopted unanimously, even though, by implication, it laid much of the responsibility for the continuing unfortunate situation in the less-developed countries to the industrialized nations, irrespective of their ideological persuasion.

Other Items

Among the matters which the Committee was unable to deal with substantively were racial discrimination, housing, building and planning, town-twinning and freedom of information. These will be carried over to the twenty-third session of the Assembly, as well as the question of punishment of war criminals.

Fourth Committee

Both the Fourth Committee and the plenary session, as is usual, dealt with colonialism; southern African problems were foremost in the discussion of these items. The General Assembly, in plenary session, considered the inability of the Council for South West Africa, established in May 1967, to gain access to the territory and take over its administration. The Assembly