



CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

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STATEMENT BY MR. A. R. SMITH, M.P., TO
GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS
ON CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA

The Pledging Conferences for contributions to the United Nations Refugee Programmes, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East this morning and the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees later this afternoon, are among the most important meetings which take place during the course of the General Assembly. Both of these United Nations agencies are preoccupied with the solution of refugee questions which are the unfortunate legacy of war and political upheaval. My Delegation has always laid great emphasis on the necessity of strong and widespread support for these extra-budgetary agencies set up to deal with these great humanitarian problems. I think that we are all of us here agreed that it is one of the fundamental duties of our United Nations Organization to make effective provision for assistance to those members of the human community who, for a multitude of reasons, have lost their homeland. Our objective is, of course, to help the refugees help themselves, and we therefore approve the emphasis which is being placed on improvement of educational facilities, and especially vocational training, directed towards the rehabilitation of the refugees. We in Canada have always regarded the refugee not as an object of pity but as a potential contributor to the development of the welfare and culture of whatever country in which he now lives.

During the past year we have witnessed a unique and outstanding example of international cooperation for humanitarian needs in the special extra effort made by more than 70 nations for World Refugee Year. In particular, the success of this Special Programme was in a great part due to the unceasing efforts of the Director of the Relief and Welfare Agency