

namely, to facilitate the task of the agency set up by the United Nations to assist these refugees. It is this perspective that the following remarks should be interpreted.

Since 1950 Canada, through her Government and private organizations, has not failed to support the Agency unsparingly, both by governmental contributions in commodities and funds and by voluntary contributions from philanthropic groups. We hope these various kinds of assistance have contributed in some measure -- and this is our essential aim -- to the needs of the refugees in the fields of food, health and education. Regarding the professional training of young refugees, the Canadian Government is happy to have been able to participate during the World Refugee Year in the establishment of the training centre at Sibirin, which like other centres run by the Agency, provides instruction and training to at least a part of the present generation of Palestinian refugees without which they could not assist their community. Canada is happy to join its efforts to those of other governments who have provided equipment for these schools, assisted in their construction, or made scholarships available for their graduates.

I turn now to the future, and shall deal with two points raised in the Commissioner General's report: the financing of UNRWA activities and the renewal of its mandate.

Regarding the financial state of the organization, Mr. Michelmore has stressed the seriousness of the situation and pointed out the grave consequences for UNRWA's humanitarian work with the refugees and the unfavourable repercussions affecting the peace and stability of the Middle-East should this situation not be improved. The Commissioner General has indicated a certain number of measures which have been taken to effect budgetary savings. However, it has become quite clear that these steps alone are inadequate. Up to now the financial burden has been shared by a certain number of countries which over the years have regularly contributed to the Agency's budget. We feel obliged to acknowledge here the exceptionally generous nature of the contributions provided to the Agency by the United States and Great Britain. In addition to these contributions and to those of other donors, the highly important contributions of various kinds provided by the host countries should be mentioned. We should also note the participation of international organizations, namely UNESCO and WHO. No less important cooperation is afforded by several private organizations.