

benefits of accumulated experience in technical assistance work. At the same time, member countries will doubtless wish to consider the implications of the integration of international experts into national administrations.

As of December 31, 1956 over 80 Canadian experts were employed on technical assistance assignments abroad by the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and nine trainees were studying in Canada under United Nations fellowships and scholarships. Under Colombo Plan arrangements 42 Canadian experts were on technical assistance assignments abroad and 190 trainees were studying in Canada.

Aid for Refugees

A refugee is defined by the United Nations as a person who has left the country of his normal residence because of fear of persecution, and since the end of the Second World War the number of such refugees in Europe has been reduced by emigration, re-establishment, or voluntary repatriation from a total of 2.2 million persons to about one million persons who look to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for legal protection. Of these one million persons, approximately 250,000 are in need of some material assistance. Most of these 250,000 refugees are in Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy and some 70,000 of them including sick, aged or physically handicapped persons, are still living in refugee camps. In addition, it is thought there are about 14,000 refugees of European origin in China.

Immediately after the Second World War the task of helping refugees was given to a United Nations Specialized Agency, the International Refugee Organization (IRO)¹. When the problem became more manageable in size and the great post-war urgency was past, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)² took over in 1951 IRO's task of assisting refugees and providing legal protection for them. The High Commissioner does not engage directly in operational activities, but aids refugees by providing voluntary agencies and governments with advice and funds to assist in carrying out such projects as housing, hospitalization and vocational training for refugees.

At the ninth session of the General Assembly in 1954, the High Commissioner for Refugees stressed the continuing seriousness of the refugee problem and proposed a comprehensive four-year (1955-58) programme to promote permanent solutions for the problem; the four-year programme would, of course, continue to provide emergency aid in destitute and problem cases. The General Assembly commended this programme, authorized the High Commissioner, then Dr. J. G. van Heuven Goedhart, to undertake it, and approved the establishment of a special United Nations Refugee Fund (UNREF). All governments were asked to support this Fund. It was estimated that the four-year programme would cost about \$16 million and the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds was asked to solicit \$4.2 million for 1955 and \$4.4 million for 1956 from governments for UNREF. More than three-quarters of UNREF was to be used to

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1948*, pp. 134-136, and also *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 106-108.

²The UNHCR is not responsible for the nearly one million Arab refugees left homeless as a result of the 1948 hostilities in Palestine. These Arab refugees are the concern of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNWRA). See above pp. 58-59.