

12. As for the definition of refugees, Senator Wilson said that for all practical purposes the IRO definition could be used but that in order to achieve the necessary flexibility it would be necessary to add to the High Commissioner's responsibility any group or category of refugees specifically designated by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council. With regard to the question of material assistance, she stated that whether we want it or not this problem will continue to confront us. Provided that any such assistance was carried on a separate budget, collected on a voluntary basis from all responsible governments, with the specific approval of the General Assembly or ECOSOC, there could not be any objection to enabling the High Commissioner to administer such funds as may be placed at his disposal.

13. The question as to the best method of bringing into consultation the interested non-member governments with the High Commissioner's Office, has remained unsettled and will receive further consideration by ECOSOC. The Canadian suggestion that representatives of these countries be invited to ECOSOC as observers was objected to by the French Delegation on the ground that the status of observer was insufficient in order to enable these representatives to perform functions of advisers. The United States Delegation favoured further consideration being given to this matter.

14. The procedure to be followed regarding the appointment of the High Commissioner was the subject of considerable discussion. Fundamentally this debate reflected the United States conception that the proposed office should only have an administrative status while the French Delegation conceived the office more or less along the lines of the League's Refugees Office directed by Nansen. The Canadian Delegation instructions were that the High Commissioner should be appointed by the Secretary-General. In the informal discussions that took place, however, a compromise solution was reached which would have had the High Commissioner nominated by the Secretary-General and elected by ECOSOC. The U.K. Delegation also favoured this solution. As, on the other hand, the Canadian Delegation had voted in favour of the election of a High Commissioner for Libya, we finally rallied to the French alternative. In the text of the French resolution, as it was finally adopted, the High Commissioner is nominated by the Secretary-General, and elected by the General Assembly as a result of a last-minute amendment proposed by the Lebanese Delegate.

15. In order to complete this epitome of the Canadian position regarding this matter, I should like to mention briefly the various resolutions and amendments on which vote was taken on November 15.

(1) Byelorussian S.S.R. draft resolution (A/C.3/L.25). This resolution sought to censure the repatriation policies of IRO. Canada voted against the whole and each paragraph of this resolution which was rejected by 7 yes, 15 no and 22 abstentions. The Arab countries abstained on this resolution.

(2) Lebanese amendment (A/C.3/L.30), to the draft resolution submitted by France and the United States. Canada voted for paragraph one and paragraph two of this amendment. Paragraph one added one preamble to the French-United States resolution, recognizing the United Nations responsibility for the international pro-