



Canadian Statement in Third Committee,  
November 30, 1965,  
by Professor R. St.J. Macdonald

Mr. Chairman,

It is with pleasure and a sense of honour that the Canadian delegation now introduces the resolution contained in document L.1310.

As a member of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme for Refugees we have always admired the work of the High Commissioner. Though we are mindful of the fact that primary and continuing responsibility for coping with the refugee problem rests with the host state, we have always regarded the High Commissioner as a catalyst, as indeed he regards himself, and it is with this in mind that we not only welcome him but also congratulate him upon the excellent work described in his report.

There is something especially poignant about the position of the refugee, Mr. Chairman; and in this connection I will do no more than quote the words of Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity. Speaking to the 13th Session of the Executive Board, he described as "shameful" and "immoral" the situation which arises "when a man, fleeing from natural or political disaster, finds himself confronting other men, and is told that he is not wanted".