

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

have been of the greatest importance. He has had, it is most gratifying to note, the help and co-operation of many governments.

His other broad task has been to seek permanent solutions for the refugee problem by assisting governments and private efforts. Needless to say that permanent solutions - whether repatriation - or integration in national communities where the refugees are living - or migration abroad - can only be solved by governments. Repatriation, it must with sadness be said, is not a solution for many of these unfortunate people. Quite obviously - and we were glad to hear it stressed by the High Commissioner for Refugees - repatriation is the ideal theoretical solution. I do not think it appropriate now to go into the difficult question of the Palestine refugees which is a special problem and which will be the subject of discussion in another committee. With respect to the extreme views which have been put forward in this Committee and so often before by certain European countries that repatriation is the simple solution for this problem and indeed that there is no problem at all, I do not think that much comment is required. The vast problem with which we are faced is due to a fear of going home. Every man loves his country and would go home if he were sure of freedom there. Clearly what is required is not to attack the High Commissioner because he does not force people to go home against their will but rather for the governments concerned to create conditions which would ensure that their citizens may freely travel abroad and return freely home without fear.

Much has been done in the past to enable refugees to migrate and start a new life in new countries, and my own country has been privileged with others to play its part in helping to solve at least some part of the refugee problem in this way, and many former refugees are now good citizens and happy citizens of Canada. The High Commissioner's contacts with governments to promote the admission of refugees remain important as does the close liaison with organizations directly concerned with migration.

I must, I fear, divert a moment in dealing with this aspect of the High Commissioner's work, to comment briefly on the references made by the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union to refugees in Canada. I would like to thank the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union for his mention of Canada's part in receiving refugees. Perhaps his comments were not so kindly meant, but for our part we feel that any reference to Canada's acceptance of refugees merely serves to bring out the point that we have in fact in this field engaged in a work which is a good work and which the world will recognize as such. We have welcomed many to our shores and we will welcome many more who will find a happy and free life in our country. Some come from strange quarters to seek asylum as events in past years and recent events have shown. We doubt that those who criticised us can really believe what they say and we think that they would perhaps be sorry themselves to feel that if their fortunes should change at home the doors of free countries would be closed to them.