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SEVENTEENTH SESSION

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STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MISS HELEN MARSH,
CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE THIRD COMMITTEE
ON THE QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE FOR REFUGEES ON
NOVEMBER 19, 1962.

Mr. Chairman, _____

Throughout its history, Canada has been fortunate in not being afflicted to any great extent by grave refugee problems. To my mind this fact explains perhaps why my compatriots and the Canadian Government have shown such a willingness and a desire to bring relief to the plight of refugees in various parts of the world. 1962 has been no exception, and I should like to review briefly the leading part played by my country in the search for these solutions which High Commissioner Schnyder has so thoroughly described to us.

During 1962, Canada maintained its past policy of co-operating with the High Commissioner's programme to find permanent solutions to the outstanding refugee problems in Europe. Unsponsored refugees from this area were therefore accepted without numerical limitation. Particular and increasing emphasis was given to the difficult-to-resettle cases which are of particular concern to the High Commissioner.

Our normal immigrant selection criteria were relaxed, as had been the case during and since World Refugee Year, in order to permit any refugee with reasonable prospects of employment in Canada to migrate regardless of age, occupation or minor physical handicaps. The educational and occupational requirements established under the new Canadian Immigration Regulations were also interpreted with special leniency in the case of these refugees. Those who failed to meet even these limited standards were considered under the private sponsorship scheme or the Canadian Government handicapped refugee programme.