

cessful repatriation to Burma of nearly 200,000 refugees. I think as well of the High Commissioner's co-sponsorship of the Arusha Conference to study the massive refugee problem in Africa. The recommendations of that conference, which were endorsed by the OAU Summit in Monrovia, will have a very direct and practical bearing on the legal status of refugees in Africa and set an admirable example for other regions by their reaffirmation of the fundamental principles of asylum and *non-refoulement*. It is Canada's hope that the Arusha principles will be accepted by as many countries as possible. Furthermore, I believe the endorsement of the Arusha recommendations by the member states of the OAU points up the practical value and usefulness of a more general accession to the major international refugee instruments. In order to facilitate and make more effective the High Commissioner's vital protection role, Canada would encourage all members of this Executive Committee to set an example for the international community by acceding to the convention and protocol and to encourage other countries to do so.

It is regrettable indeed that we must note today the ever-increasing number of serious and complex refugee situations throughout the world. In confronting these great problems, we must all demonstrate in active and practical ways our full support for the High Commissioner and do all we can to enhance the ability of his staff to respond to these increasing pressures. These new refugee problems and the great expansion in the High Commissioner's budget which they have caused, make it even more essential that the High Commissioner engage in a continuing and active consultation with his Executive Committee and with the other major international organizations with which he co-operates. Canada has been appreciative of the institution by the High Commissioner of more frequent consultation with the Executive Committee in the period between its October sessions. Useful meetings at the permanent representative level were held in January and June this year. We would encourage even more frequent and formal consultations most particularly on administrative and financial questions. This necessary consultation might best be achieved by the establishment of a sub-committee on management and finance.

In the past twelve months we have all been shocked by the distressing exodus from the countries of Indochina. We have been concerned as well by the heavy social, political and economic burden which this has placed on the neighbouring countries of first asylum. Canada's own resettlement program for Indochina refugees therefore has been increased ten-fold since the consultations convened by the High Commissioner last December. It has as its objective the resettling in Canada of up to 50,000 Indochinese during 1979-80. I am pleased to note today that the response of Canadians has been very encouraging and indeed exceptional in its openness and generosity — as of the end of September more than 44,000 resettlement commitments. To date close to 15,000 refugees from the countries of Indochina have already arrived in Canada since the beginning of 1979. This progress has only been possible through the co-operation of many Canadian voluntary organizations, private groups of citizens, municipalities, and of all the provinces, several of which have also made contributions to the High Commissioner's programs. We are confident that we will attain our objective of 50,000 Indochinese refugees which represents the most extensive resettlement program in Canadian experience. It is essential to emphasize that this resettlement