

no longer must spend all its efforts on disaster relief, but can turn to encouraging the nations to provide long-term measures for child protection and welfare.

This is what the U.N. is trying to do in all the fields where it offers assistance to meet human needs. Help the nations that need help to help themselves, not so much for the moment as for the long pull ahead. This is the core of the U.N.'s philosophy of human service. But there are certain areas of human misery where suffering is so great and need so challenging that the U.N. must postpone long-range programs for deeds of immediate mercy.

One of these areas in which human misery still afflicts appalling numbers is that of the refugees. Someone, having these millions in mind, has called this "The century of the homeless man." Every refugee is a potential center of bitterness and hatred to poison the whole world situation. It has been estimated that between 50 and 60 million people have fled from their homes during the past decade and a half. Great numbers have died on the war-littered roads and great numbers of the survivors are still without a permanent new home or work.

Where have these refugees come from? From every place where war has raged. Numbers fled from the Baltic republics when the Russians swept over them early in World War II. Numbers are survivors of the Nazi concentration camps in Germany and Austria. More than 10 million were of German ancestry, and for that were expelled from countries in which their families had lived, often for as long as two or three centuries. These prefer to speak of themselves as "expellees" rather than refugees, but they are just as homeless and desperate.

(In West Germany today, one person in every five is an expellee. They are forced to live in the homes of the West Germans, where the personal relationships are steadily worsening by the over-crowding. Few of them have been able to find more than temporary work or temporary housing, for an already heavily populated and highly industrialized region such as West Germany cannot take in 10 million additional inhabitants except on a temporary basis. West German authorities are worried about what could happen if these 10 million expellees united in a political party behind some rabble-rousing demagogue. The rest of the world has reason to worry likewise.)

Numbers of the refugees are to be found in Asia. Eight hundred thousand Arabs who formerly lived in what is now Israel barely keep alive in the refugee camps which surround that country. There are refugees in Pakistan and in India, miserable souls who fled for their lives during the religious massacres which took place when the partition went into effect. There are thousands of Chinese refugees in Hongkong, on Formosa and scattered in teeming Malaysia and Indonesia. The little Republic of Korea is packed and running over with refugees who have fled southward from the communist tyranny in the north.

Starting in 1947, for nearly five years the United Nations dealt with the refugee problem through its International Refugee Organization. During that period it resettled more than a million families of displaced persons and refugees in new homes, repatriated approximately 73,000