

adopted by the High Commissioner. They wished also that the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council be called upon to define, not specific categories of refugees, as this might have a restrictive effect, but to draft a general definition of the status of refugee.

8. Material assistance. The United States Delegation did not wish mention to be made, in the resolution, of the possibility that any other kind of assistance would be provided by the High Commissioner outside of legal protection. They were afraid that this may give rise to false hopes to the persons concerned. They argued also that this aspect of the refugee problem had been taken care of by IRO and should not be the concern of the proposed Office. The French position, on the other hand, was that the problem of material assistance, especially with regard to the "hard core" category of refugees, will continue to exist. The High Commissioner should, therefore, be given the authority to administer any assistance funds that might be placed at his disposal by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, or by private organizations. The French pointed out that Resolution No. 248(IX)A of the Economic and Social Council, envisaged the possibility that assistance funds may be put at the disposal of the United Nations by the General Assembly, for the benefit of certain classes of refugees.

9. Appointment of the High Commissioner. The United States Delegation favoured the direct appointment of the High Commissioner by the Secretary-General. They were concerned that the election of the High Commissioner would affect adversely his relationship with the Secretary-General and would, therefore, be conducive to administrative inefficiency. The French, on the other hand, look upon the High Commissioner as an official whose humanitarian functions calls for the highest prestige and stature. He would not have this prestige if he were appointed by the Secretary-General in the same manner as other officials of the United Nations. They argued that the purpose in establishing a separate High Commissioner's Office, (rather than an office within the United Nations Secretariat), would be defeated if the High Commissioner were to be appointed directly by the Secretary-General.

10. In the general statement which she made before the Committee on November 12, Senator Wilson endorsed the principle of the French resolution embodying the Secretary-General's recommendation that a separate High Commissioner's Office be established. This solution appeared desirable because a separate refugee office would be a constant reminder to the members of the United Nations of the importance of the problem of refugees, and because the close relationship envisaged between the proposed High Commissioner's Office and the United Nations Secretariat would make it easy, at a later stage, to incorporate the continuing elements of this problem into the Secretariat.

11. She also emphasized the necessity for the General Assembly, at its current session, to reach agreement on the functions of the proposed Office. Her remarks on this point were prompted by the United States informal proposal, at an early stage of the debate, to merely ask the Secretary-General to prepare a draft resolution for the next session of the Assembly outlining the functions and the organization of the Office.