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Statement on Palestine Refugees by
Mr. Arthur Smith, M.P., Canadian
Representative on the Special Political
Committee, on Friday, November 18, 1960

Mr. Chairman:

The Canadian Delegation wishes to congratulate the Director and his staff on a year's efficient and valuable work as reflected in this orderly and lucid report. It is apparent that the Agency has carried on its activities not only with diligence and conscientiousness but also on the basis of an intelligent and sympathetic appreciation of the many facets of the refugee problem.

It is clear that in the fulfillment of its functions during the past year, as throughout the preceding years of its existence, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency has had to face formidable practical difficulties. Budgetary considerations have continued to restrict the standards of relief to a subsistence level; and it is a tribute to the efficiency of the organization that in these difficult circumstances progressive improvements have been made in housing facilities, and the health of the refugees has continued to be well maintained. It is a sobering reflection that even in the provision of these basic relief services, the Agency's efforts are so closely circumscribed by financial considerations.

There are disquieting features, too, when we come to examine again the problems faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the field of rehabilitation. The Director has sketched for us, in restrained but nevertheless explicit terms, the disturbing picture of many thousands of refugee youth approaching and reaching maturity each year, with very little opportunity to