

mutually agreeable formula and carried forward, on a continuing basis, in a manner which will facilitate the return of both "new" and old refugees in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 2252.

The third question asked by the Commissioner General concerns the expansion of educational facilities for the refugees. My government appreciates that the expansion of educational facilities is desirable but it seems that this will be possible only if special contributions are made for the purpose as suggested in paragraph 60 of the introduction to the Commissioner General's report.

Mr. Chairman, in question 4 the Commissioner General asks us to find a way of providing secure and adequate sources of funds so that UNRWA may carry out the tasks assigned to it by the UNGA. This question is, of course, of the utmost importance. We must realistically face the fact that UNRWA is an Agency which has existed for 18 years and which will have to continue its operations at least throughout the period in which the special representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jarring, is carrying out his task.

In his introduction to the report, the Commissioner General recalls several ideas which have been put forward for stabilizing UNRWA's finances. The first suggestion cited is that some method be found by which refugees would be able to benefit from the property they abandoned in 1948. Efforts to approach the matter of compensation in isolation from the associated principles of repatriation and resettlement have proven unavailing in the past. Since the Special Representative of the Secretary-General has been authorized to look into the entire refugee question, my delegation thinks it would be inappropriate for the Assembly to pursue this matter at the present time.

The second and third ideas mentioned in the Commissioner General's report focus on the possibility of putting either all or part of the budget of UNRWA under the United Nations regular budget. In view of the political factors involved, we doubt that these proposals would command the necessary degree of support.

My Government believes, therefore, that to continue the present voluntary basis of financing for UNRWA is the only resort left to us, inadequate though it may be. There are, of course, ways of reducing the need for withdrawals of the agency's working capital. One which has been suggested and which my Government supports fully is that governments should give priority to the payment of contributions to UNRWA's budget so that the agency can get along on a reduced working capital. In essence, however, the financial problem will only be significantly reduced if the financial base of UNRWA is widened. In the past, the burden of financing UNRWA has been borne by a relatively small number of countries. We would urge, therefore, that those who have not yet contributed consider the possibility of doing so. In the last analysis, a widening of the agency's financial base is the only constructive solution to UNRWA's budgeting problem. It is all the more urgent in present circumstances where the mandate of the Agency is likely to be widened to include some 235,000 additional individuals as a result of the recent hostilities.