

The High Commissioner's role was at first a non-operational one, limited mainly to the protection of refugees. In 1952, however, he was authorized to appeal for funds to enable emergency aid to be given to the most needy groups of refugees within his mandate. Funds raised by this decision were contributed to the United Nations Refugees Emergency Fund (UNREF). In 1954 this fund was incorporated in a new voluntary fund, the United Nations Refugee Fund (UNRF), whose programme was aimed principally at the promotion of a permanent European refugee solution by assimilation within European countries and the promotion of emigration to other countries.

On January 1, 1959, the UNREF was replaced by a new programme of the High Commissioner for Refugees, administered by the Office of the High Commissioner under the guidance of an Executive Committee composed of representatives of United Nations member governments. Canada has been a member of this Committee since 1957, and chaired it in 1965. From 1951 to 1968, Canada contributed over \$3.8 million to the UNHCR, and it donated \$650,000 in 1956-57 to the Canadian Red Cross for assistance to Hungarian refugees. In 1966, the Canadian Government increased its contribution to \$350,000 from the previous figure of \$290,000.

Through the efforts of the refugee programmes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, the IRO and the UNHCR, the number of refugees in Europe had been reduced from 2,200,000 in 1946 to 10,000 in 1967. In the course of 1967 about 13,500 new refugees entered European countries. In view of the influx of new refugees there was an increase in the substantial burden created for certain European countries. One of the most significant events in 1966 was the final closing of the remaining refugee camps in Europe. In that year, a total of over 4,000 refugees were settled, leaving only about 7,500 "old" refugees yet to be settled. The number of newly-recognized European refugees, who are mostly young and in good health and thus relatively easy to resettle, also dropped in 1966 -- to approximately 6,700 compared to the figure for the preceding year. However, in 1965 the High Commissioner took on added responsibilities by bringing assistance to new groups of refugees, particularly in Africa, where the total number within its purview is over 286,000 (early 1968 estimate). The improvement of the situation in Europe has been made possible to a large extent by the contributions of governments to the United Nations and its related programmes, World Refugee Year (WRY) and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). During WRY (June 1959 to June 1960), 97 countries, including Canada, took part in the campaign and contributed more than \$83 million (U.S.). The Canadian Government's contribution to WRY was \$1 million in wheat flour to UNRWA and up to \$600,000 for the admission, in three movements, of 325 tubercular refugees to Canada, who have now been treated in sanatoria and resettled. These refugees were accompanied by 501 dependents. In addition to the movement of tubercular refugees, Canadian participation in WRY resulted in the admission to Canada of over 5,000 refugees, including 1,097 from camps in Italy and Germany. As of July 7, 1969, Canada has also admitted 11,165