

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(SEVENTEENTH SESSION)

Release on Delivery

Press Release No. 15
Press Office
750 Third Avenue
YUkon 6-5740

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CANADIAN PLEDGE OF CONTRIBUTION
TO THE PROGRAMMES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
DELIVERED BY MISS HELEN MARSH IN PLENARY
ON NOVEMBER 27, 1962

Mr. President,

In his report to the General Assembly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has drawn attention to the fact that his Office is passing through an important phase of its development. He explained that the main features of this phase are threefold: firstly, the completion of the work undertaken by the office on behalf of the Algerian refugees; secondly, the assumption of new tasks elsewhere in Africa; and, thirdly, the prospect of an early liquidation of the residual problem of the "old" European refugees.

Canada considers this evolution to be of great importance and to reflect the ever increasing interest of the international community in The humanitarian problem of assistance to refugees. My government also believes that this development of the Office is a direct consequence of the results which it has achieved throughout its existence. Indeed the Office has proved to be a dynamic organization capable of taking initiatives and of carrying them to their final conclusion. It has also proved to be an efficient organization which has refused to undertake tasks clearly beyond its capabilities in order not to endanger the progress of its programmes. Furthermore it has demonstrated a clear vision of its objectives and an ability to devise a flexible approach for dealing quickly and effectively with new refugee situations. This flexible approach, in turn, has permitted the High Commissioner to use the contributions received from our various Governments as a stimulus to obtain other donations from international organizations and

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voluntary agencies.

The views of my country on this subject prompted my Delegation to take a lead in consulting with a number of other Delegations in order to ensure that the mandate of the Office would be renewed beyond January 1, 1964, for a further period of five years along the same lines as before and with similar terms of reference. My distinguished colleagues in the Assembly, here, will be aware that the draft resolution which was tabled by the Canadian Delegation in company of 14 other delegations and which was later co-sponsored by 12 more delegations was approved recently by the Third Committee.

Having taken such a decision it is therefore logical that the members of this distinguished Assembly would wish to provide the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees with the funds necessary to the pursuit of his objectives. The Canadian Government is therefore proud to contribute once more to this humanitarian project and to pledge, subject to Parliamentary approval, a contribution of TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY THOUSAND CANADIAN DOLLARS to the Programme.

It is the hope of the Canadian people that this contribution may lighten the burden of the refugees who are now under the care of the High Commissioner. It is also their hope that the action of this Assembly in renewing the mandate of the High Commissioner's Office and in promoting this pledging Conference will bring to these refugees a ray of hope which will make their lives more bearable and will augur better days for their future.

