



CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 15
OCTOBER 26, 1960.

Press Office
750 Third Avenue
YUkon 6-5740

Statement by Mrs. H.H. Steen, Canadian Representative
on the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
Committee, on Wednesday, October 26, 1960.

The Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr. Chairman:

Last year the General Assembly appealed to governments, and through them to voluntary non-governmental organizations and the general public, to make extra efforts during World Refugee Year to improve the situation of refugees. This year we have been privileged to hear from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees one of the most encouraging reports on the effect which this appeal has had in reducing the problems of refugees to manageable proportions and in some cases in eliminating them entirely. That report brings out very clearly the immense achievements possible when the international community concert its efforts to alleviate human suffering.

Thanks to the efforts of the High Commissioner, we have travelled a long way in dealing with the "refugee problem". By the end of 1960 the total number of non-settled refugees in Europe including those living in camps and outside camps will have decreased to 75,000. Of the 13,800 who will be in camps at the end of the year, the majority--10,500--will qualify for the Camp Clearance Programme which is now financially guaranteed. It is encouraging to hear that the High Commissioner's Office intends to "prod and push" until the remainder are out of camps.

This striking achievement in clearing the camps and re-settling refugees was made possible because, during World Refugee Year, a determined assault was made on this aspect of the general refugee problem. As its part in this concentrated effort to close European camps, the Canadian Government announced in the General Assembly last year that it would waive normal immigration requirements and admit to Canada a substantial number of tuberculous

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES
(INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES)

SECRET
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1950

REPORT ON DELIVERIES

From Office
120 Third Avenue
London E.C. 3

Statement by the Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of Refugees, at the Annual Meeting of the Commission, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11 October 1950.

The Report of the International Commission for the Protection of Refugees

Mr. Chairman:

Last year the General Assembly requested the Commission to report to you on the work of the Commission during the year 1949. In this report I shall attempt to give you a general overview of the work of the Commission during the year 1949. I shall also attempt to give you a general overview of the work of the Commission during the year 1950.

The Commission was established in 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Its mandate is to protect the rights of refugees and to assist them in their efforts to obtain permanent solutions. The Commission has since its establishment been engaged in a wide range of activities, including the provision of financial assistance, the organization of resettlement programmes, and the provision of legal and administrative assistance.

In 1949, the Commission continued its work in these various fields. It received a total number of applications for refugee status of 15,000. Of these, 10,000 were accepted as refugees. The Commission also received a total number of applications for resettlement of 5,000. Of these, 3,000 were accepted for resettlement.

The Commission also continued its work in providing financial assistance to refugees. It received a total number of applications for financial assistance of 10,000. Of these, 7,000 were accepted for financial assistance.

In addition, the Commission continued its work in organizing resettlement programmes. It received a total number of applications for resettlement of 5,000. Of these, 3,000 were accepted for resettlement.

The Commission also continued its work in providing legal and administrative assistance to refugees. It received a total number of applications for legal and administrative assistance of 10,000. Of these, 7,000 were accepted for legal and administrative assistance.

In 1950, the Commission continued its work in these various fields. It received a total number of applications for refugee status of 15,000. Of these, 10,000 were accepted as refugees. The Commission also received a total number of applications for resettlement of 5,000. Of these, 3,000 were accepted for resettlement.

The Commission also continued its work in providing financial assistance to refugees. It received a total number of applications for financial assistance of 10,000. Of these, 7,000 were accepted for financial assistance.

In addition, the Commission continued its work in organizing resettlement programmes. It received a total number of applications for resettlement of 5,000. Of these, 3,000 were accepted for resettlement.

The Commission also continued its work in providing legal and administrative assistance to refugees. It received a total number of applications for legal and administrative assistance of 10,000. Of these, 7,000 were accepted for legal and administrative assistance.

refugees and their dependents who had been living in camps. Under the original scheme, a total of 344 persons consisting of 100 tuberculous refugees and their families were brought to Canada. Provincial governments co-operating in this programme undertook to pay most of the costs of medical treatment in sanatoria while the Federal Government paid all other costs including transportation to Canada and maintenance of families until they were reasonably able to support themselves.

As a result of the encouraging experience in treating these tuberculous refugees and integrating them into the Canadian community, it was decided to extend the programme. Thus a total of 553 refugees including 211 afflicted with tuberculosis arrived in Canada from European camps under the special and extended programmes.

To assist the High Commissioner further in his efforts to clear the camps, the Canadian Government initiated another special refugee immigration scheme to admit from camps in Italy over 800 refugees who had met regular health and other criteria but who lacked sponsors. Some of these refugees had spent as long as five years in camps. In admitting these refugees, the Canadian Government provided such help as was required to enable them to become established and self-supporting in Canada.

These special contributions to the re-settlement of refugees living in camps is, of course, separate from the normal immigration of refugees to Canada. Every year since 1945 there have been thousands of refugees admitted to Canada from European camps and outside camps. It is difficult to give an accurate figure because Canada has followed the policy of admitting all new arrivals as immigrants without establishing a special category or label of "refugee". Very often the documents submitted by the new arrival do not indicate clearly whether he is a refugee or not. It is possible therefore that we have considerably underestimated the figure when we calculate that 250,000 refugees have been admitted to Canada since World War II.

In addition to this normal immigration of refugees, Canada has, for a number of years, permitted the sponsorship of handicapped refugees who did

Faint, mirrored text visible through the paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is illegible due to low contrast and ghosting.

not meet the normal criteria for entry into the country. Thus, relatives or certain church agencies have been able to sponsor specific refugee families from Europe. Last autumn, the categories of eligible sponsors were broadened for the period of World Refugee Year so that private individuals, voluntary organizations and municipal and provincial authorities could act as sponsors for handicapped refugees. Early this year, the Government decided that this arrangement would be extended beyond the end of World Refugee Year. The interest in private sponsorship has not ended with World Refugee Year and a considerable number of refugees are being admitted to Canada in this way. It seems probable, therefore, that the private sponsorship programme will permit a significant contribution to be made to the High Commissioner's programme of camp clearance and re-settlement of European refugees.

By ensuring the closing of the European camps, the international community has come a long way in dealing with the refugee problem. We have, however, quite a way yet to go. The High Commissioner has outlined in his report, the programmes which must now be given priority so that the task of finding permanent solutions to refugee problems can be completed. He has laid particular emphasis on meeting the material and psychological needs of the non-settled refugees living outside camps, especially the physically and socially handicapped. He has stressed the vital importance for the mental well-being of refugees, of international legal protection which would enable refugees to share with others the right to work, to travel, to choose their own futures--the right, in other words, to live as normal a life as can be expected of men who have experienced the indignity of prolonged dependence on help from others. In addition, he has indicated the necessity of continuing to provide relief to the 200,000 Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, and to seek re-settlement opportunities for the refugees of European origin still living in the Far East.

At the present hopeful stage, there is every reason for governments and private organizations to continue their efforts on behalf of refugees in the hope of achieving permanent solutions in at least some areas of the world. It has been the Canadian Government's consistent policy to support the High Commissioner for Refugees. As an indication of its continuing interest in

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work done during the year. It is followed by a detailed account of the various projects and schemes undertaken, and a summary of the results achieved. The report concludes with a statement of the financial position and a list of the members of the committee.

The committee has the honor to acknowledge the assistance rendered by the various departments of the Government, and the cooperation of the public in the execution of the work. It is a pleasure to state that the work has been carried out in a most efficient and economical manner, and that the results are highly satisfactory.

The committee has the honor to recommend that the Government should continue to support the work, and that the public should be encouraged to cooperate in the execution of the work. It is a pleasure to state that the work has been carried out in a most efficient and economical manner, and that the results are highly satisfactory.

seeing his programmes achieve their objectives, the Canadian Government has decided, subject to Parliamentary approval, to make another financial contribution of \$290,000 in 1961 for the High Commissioner's programmes.

It has also been conducting a thorough study of the International Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in recent months to determine whether it will be possible for Canada to become a party to it.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of my Delegation for Dr. Lindt's tireless efforts in searching for solutions to refugee problems. We share the regret expressed by other delegations that he will be leaving his position as High Commissioner for Refugees at the end of this year and we wish him continued success in his next assignment.

Thank you.

