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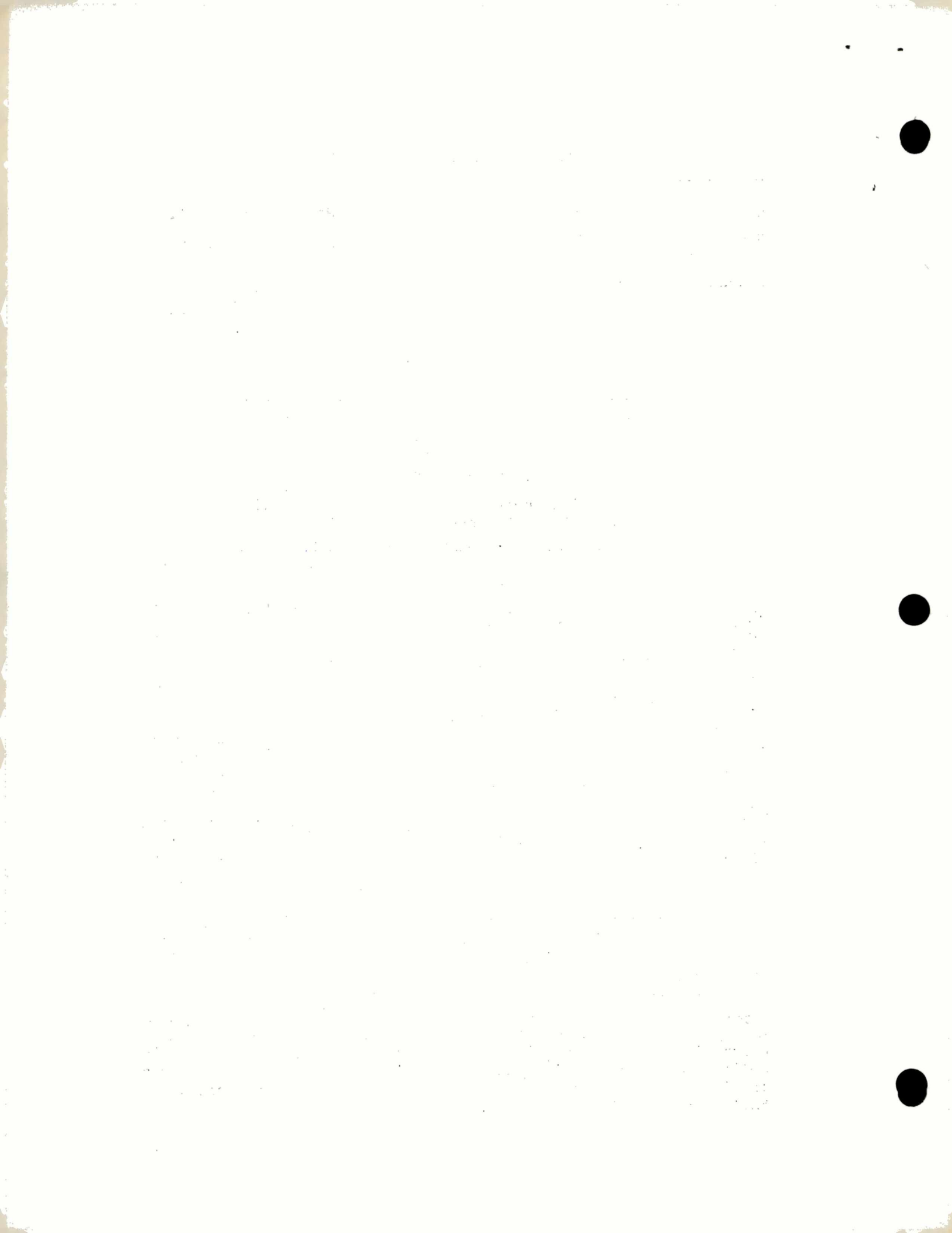
Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Beaulieu, in the Special Political Committee on the Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, on November 14, 1966.

We are entering the last phase of our discussions. This phase calls for all Delegations not to fall back on rigid positions, but to take a conciliatory attitude which will make it possible to achieve a practical conclusion.

From the numerous interventions in our Commission one common concern seems to emerge: the welfare of the refugees. Some Delegates have more than others emphasized this concern, which is fully reflected in the Annual Report of the General Commissioner, but the predominance of this concern in no way implies that they are indifferent to the political aspect of the problem, nor that they are overlooking the significance of several Resolutions, unfortunately still in abeyance. Impressed by the precarious financial situation of the Agency, my Delegation feels that it would be sound practice to give some priority to seeking the means to ensure the financing of UNRWA and to ensure the continued efficiency of the operations.

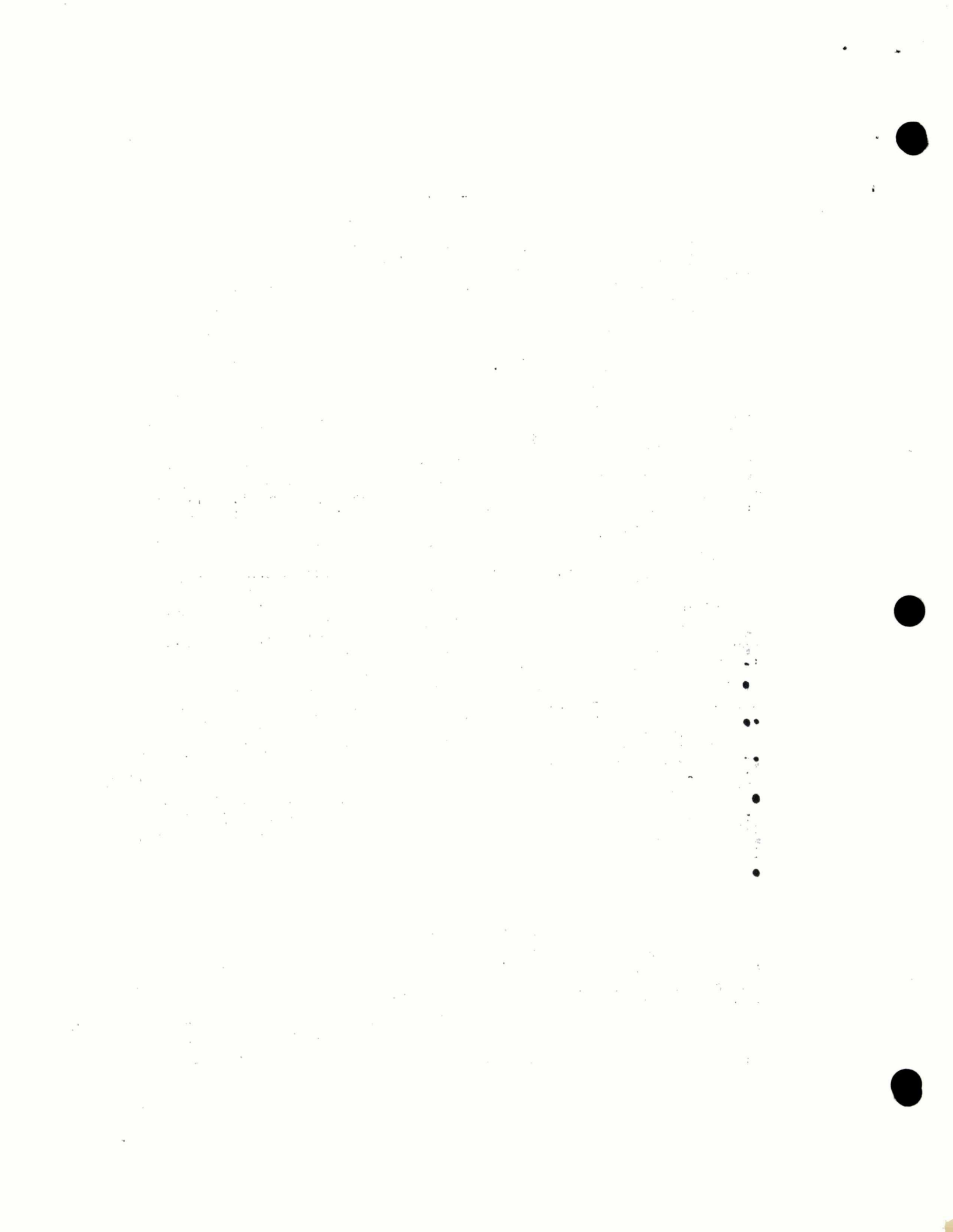
Now that we have reached the end of our discussion, my Delegation feels that it is preferable to state the points of agreement in a Resolution which, while reiterating the basic principles that should determine the political solution of the problem now before us, should also ensure a brighter future for the refugees of Palestine and encourage the member States of this Organization to contribute financially to the Agency. To be fully operative, such a Resolution must command widespread support over and above the various political ideologies since the Palestinian refugee problem involves the interdependence of mankind to which no member of the United Nations can remain indifferent.



The draft Resolution A/SPC/L.126 introduced by the Delegation of the USA is worthy of careful consideration. In clear and practical terms the draft considers every important aspect of the problem now before us. Without going into the details of the draft, I should like to consider certain points which, my Delegation feels, define the immediate and major objectives of our discussion. Firstly, it seems appropriate to us to recall paragraph 11 of Resolution 194(III) and paragraph 2 of Resolution 513(VI), both approved by the General Assembly. These paragraphs include provisions for the return of the refugees, either through repatriation or resettlement and compensation. Canada voted for the two Resolutions. We still believe that any political solution of the refugee problem must be based on the principles contained therein. My Delegation calls on all parties directly involved to meet their responsibilities and to implement these Resolutions.

In addition, the draft Resolution calls attention on the financial problems of UNRWA. I think we are agreed that the best way to improve the financial situation of the Agency is through the contributions of a larger number of Governments. In this context, I wish to repeat the appeal made in my last intervention in the debate. We had called upon the Governments contributing to the Board to consider anew the amount of their contributions and upon the Governments who have not contributed to date to consider the possibility of making a contribution. We trust this appeal will be heard. If my understanding of the statements by some Delegations is correct, it would seem that a trend in this direction is noticeable. We are happy to congratulate those countries on their intention materially to assist the Agency. As you know, Mr. Chairman, my country has increased its 1965 contribution from \$1 million to \$1,200,000 Canadian dollars. We have maintained the same level of contribution in 1966. I am gratified to say that in view of our continued interest in the welfare of the Palestinian refugees Canada proposes, subject to Parliamentary approval, to contribute the same amount in 1967.

My Delegation was very interested to note those paragraphs of the Commissioner General's report dealing with the consultations undertaken under Resolution 2052(XX) with the host countries to revise the lists of recipients. Modest advances have been achieved through the co-operation of host countries, but some irregularities remain. However, my Delegation has noted with satisfaction the assurances given by Mr. Michelmore in paragraph 25 of his Report: "the Agency



will continue, in collaboration with the host Governments, to seek possibilities of taking additional steps toward the goal of equitable distribution of relief based on need." The purpose of operative paragraph 6 of the draft is not to deny help to the refugees in any way, but only to ensure a more equitable distribution. For these reasons my **Delegation expressed** the hope that the host countries will not only maintain but increase their co-operation in the efforts of the Commissioner General to this end.

The last operative paragraph refers to the role of the **Palestine Conciliation Commission**. In spite of its failure to find the means to ensure progress in the implementation of paragraph 2 of Resolution 194(III), my **Delegation** remains convinced that no possibility of creating a favourable atmosphere for a solution should be left unexplored. The **Canadian Delegation therefore** supports the invitation to interested **Governments to co-operate** with the **Commission** so that the **Commission** may pursue its efforts in the direction provided for in the **General Assembly Resolution** to the benefit of the interested parties.

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Before closing I should like to dwell on the amendments introduced by Somalia contained in Document A/SPC/L.127. We have listened with attention to the explanations of the distinguished Representative of Somalia, as well as those of the Representative of Pakistan, and we understand his desire to state before the Commission such deep-felt positions. Although some of the amendments do not appear to us to add substantially to the draft, others, particularly the amendments suggested in operative paragraph 7, unfortunately are liable to lead the debate into a deadlock. Consequently my Delegation feels it must vote against the draft amendment on the whole, and expresses the hope that the Delegation from Somalia will not insist on a vote. Such a decision on their part would help to maintain the unanimity we have been successful in achieving on our concern for the welfare of the refugees.

Our Commission also has before it another draft Resolution introduced by Afghanistan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Somalia (A/SPL/L.128). To my Delegation, the operative paragraphs are unacceptable because they are contrary to the elementary principle of international law and assign to the Secretary General a task which is impossible to fulfill.

Mr. Chairman, in the light of this analysis, the Canadian Delegation feels that the draft Resolution introduced by the United States of America, through its practical aspects and devoid as it is of controversial elements, meets the immediate and major purposes of our discussion.

The approval of this Resolution will bear eloquent witness to our activities this year. Consequently, my Delegation will be happy to vote for the Resolution in its original form as it appears in Document A/SPC/L.126 .

