



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 48

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1958

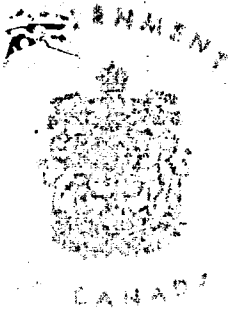
THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SEEK PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF \$290,000, TO BE PAID IN 1959, TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLOSING THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN EUROPE UNDER HIS MANDATE.

AT THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS REFUGEES IN EUROPE WAS CLOSE TO 2.2 MILLION PEOPLE, BUT THIS NUMBER HAS NOW BEEN REDUCED TO LESS THAN 200,000. CANADA CONTRIBUTED NEARLY \$19 MILLION TO THE FORMER INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS DISBANDED IN 1952, AND HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HOPES THAT IF GOVERNMENTS MEET HIS REQUEST FOR INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE CAMPS CAN BE CLOSED BY THE END OF 1960, THUS TERMINATING ONE OF THE MOST URGENT AND COSTLY ASPECTS OF HIS MANDATE.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO SEEK PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF \$60,000 TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) FOR THE PURPOSE OF MOVING EUROPEAN REFUGEES OUT OF CHINA.

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MOST OF THESE REFUGEES ARE WHITE RUSSIANS WHO LEFT THEIR COUNTRY AFTER THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION OF 1917. APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THEM HAVE BEEN MOVED BY ICEM FROM HONG KONG TO OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS, BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEARLY 10,000 STILL REMAIN IN CHINA. OF THOSE, 6,000 HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, CHIEFLY IN AUSTRALIA AND BRAZIL. HOWEVER, AS THESE REFUGEES HAVE LITTLE OR NO FUNDS OF THEIR OWN, INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY IF THEY ARE TO BE ABLE TO MOVE FROM THE MAINLAND OF CHINA TO PERMANENT HOMES OVERSEAS.