

No. 54/26/UN 9/3 UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

Text of a statement made on October 13, 1954, by Mr. Roger Chaput, Canadian Representative in the Third Committee of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda Item 27 - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Note: The text of the resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

The Canadian Delegation is in general agreement with the objectives outlined in the High Commissioner's report and with those of the joint resolution tabled by the eight powers. The High Commissioner and his staff are to be commended for their work in endeavouring to alleviate the sufferings and improve the lot of refugees who, whatever the original cause of their present fate may be, are, and will remain, human beings. We are particularly grateful to the High Commissioner for having suggested to us in concrete terms the lines along which a permanent solution of the problem of the refugees within his mandate may be achieved.

It is the earnest hope of the Canadian Government that the carrying out of the High Commissioner's recommendations will at long last dispose of a problem with which the United Nations has concerned itself over a long period of time. In this connection, the Canadian Delegation wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to the increasing evidence that the targets of some international aid programmes which have already secured the unequivocal approval of the Assembly may prove greater than the financial support which Member states as well as non-Member states have been willing to provide. United Nations sponsorship of a programme for assistance to refugees would not, in our view, be in the interests of either the refugees or of the United Nations if it turns out in the end that adequate financial support is not forthcoming.

Canada is one of the countries which has been able to assist the United Nations refugee programmes in the past, both by receiving a substantial number of refugees and by making financial contributions. As members of the Committee may be aware, since the High Commissioner's report was issued, the Canadian Government has made a further contribution of \$50,000 to the High Commissioner's programme this year, in addition to a contribution of \$50,000 to the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration. For the benefit of those who may have been misinformed in this connection, I should like to point out here that the refugees entering into Canada enjoy the same status as immigrants from other countries; that prospective immigrants to Canada, other than refugees, exist in sufficient numbers to meet the requirements of Canadian immigration policy and that consequently the Canadian

Government does not and cannot have any interest in the maintenance of refugee camps as a reservoir for cheap labour, as intimated earlier in this Committee. Needless to say, refugees coming to Canada, like any other immigrants, are absolutely free to return to their first country of asylum or to emigrate to any other country if they so wish.

The Canadian Delegation considers that the implementation of the eight-power resolution is a step in the right direction towards the permanent settlement of the refugee problem. My government approves the proposal that the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds should seek financial resources to permit the carrying out of the High Commissioner's programme and hopes that the efforts of the Negotiating Committee on this score will prove more successful than has recently been the case in other programmes. On the question of the advisory organ, the Canadian Government will welcome any arrangements which will lead to a more effective system of supervision, particularly if this should be required in the light of future developments in the High Commissioner's programme.

For these reasons the Canadian Delegation will lend its support to the eight-power resolution. The Canadian Government regrets that consideration has not yet been given to the question of its contribution to the High Commissioner's programme for 1955. Canada's approval of the eight-power resolution, and in particular of the extension of the activities of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds to cover the High Commissioner's programme, should not be regarded therefore as constituting an undertaking to contribute to the refugee programme which may be approved by the General Assembly. The final decision taken by the Canadian Government in this matter will be very much influenced by the extent to which other governments, including potential major contributors, are prepared to make funds available for this programme.

Voting Results Following is the text of the resolution (U.N. Doc. A/2759) adopted by the Third Committee on October 18, 1954, by 40 votes in favour (including Canada) to 5 against, with 10 abstentions.

Text of Resolution

The General Assembly,

Having considered the problems of refugees within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the light of his report to the General Assembly at its ninth session,

Having noted with satisfaction the work accomplished for refugees,

Noting that in spite of the efforts made there is little hope that - at the present rate of repatriation,

resettlement, or integration - a satisfactory solution to these problems will be reached within a reasonable period of time;

Considering that while the ultimate responsibility for the refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner falls in fact upon the countries of residence, certain of these countries have to face particularly heavy burdens as a result of their geographical situation, and some complementary aid has been shown to be necessary to accelerate the implementation of a programme for permanent solutions;

Recalling resolution 728 (VIII) of the General Assembly and resolution 549 (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the programme outlined in the report of the High Commissioner contains a number of constructive elements for an effective attempt at achieving a permanent solution to the problems of certain groups of the refugees who are the concern of the High Commissioner, having special regard to family groups,

1. Authorizes the High Commissioner, in accordance with his Statute, to undertake a programme designed to achieve permanent solutions within the period of his current mandate for the refugees included within the proposals in his report to the General Assembly at its ninth session (A/2648, Chapter IV, Section 4, and A/2648/Add.2, paragraphs 1 to 11);

2. Requests the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to negotiate with the Governments of Member and non-Member States for voluntary contributions towards a fund based on the proposals of the High Commissioner (the amount to be determined by the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee at its next session), to be devoted principally to the promotion of permanent solutions, and also to permit emergency assistance to the most needy cases, such fund to incorporate the fund authorized by the General Assembly in resolution 538 B (VI);

3. Authorizes the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds for the purposes set forth in Paragraph 2 above;

4. Requests the Economic and Social Council, not later than its nineteenth session and in the light of proposals to be submitted to it by the High Commissioner upon the advice of his Advisory Committee, either to establish an Executive Committee responsible for giving directives to the High Commissioner in carrying out his programme and for exercising the necessary controls in the use of funds allotted to the Office of the High Commissioner or to revise the terms of reference and composition of the Advisory Committee in order to enable it to carry out the same duties;

5. Requests the High Commissioner to prepare, for presentation to the inter-governmental body mentioned in paragraph 4 above, detailed proposals for projects designed to achieve permanent solutions, including plans for adequate financial or other contributions from sources within the countries of residence;

6. Requests the Governments concerned, in the negotiation of agreements with the High Commissioner for the projects for permanent solutions under this programme, to give assurances that they will assume full financial responsibility should any of the refugees within the scope of the programme still require assistance at the end of the stipulated period;

7. Urges Member and non-Member States to cooperate with the High Commissioner to the fullest extent in this programme;

8. Requests the High Commissioner to include in his annual report a statement on the measures which he has taken under the terms of the present resolution.

1. Authorizes the High Commissioner, in accordance with his Statute, to undertake a programme designed to achieve permanent solutions within the period of his current mandate for the refugees included within the proposals in his report to the General Assembly at its ninth session (A/5448, Chapter IV, Section 4, and A/5448/Add.2, paragraphs 1 to 11);

2. Requests the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to negotiate with the Governments of Member and non-Member States for voluntary contributions towards a fund based on the proposals of the High Commissioner (the amount to be determined by the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee at its next session), to be devoted principally to the promotion of permanent solutions, and also to permit emergency assistance to the most needy cases, such fund to incorporate the fund authorized by the General Assembly in resolution 538 B (VI);

3. Authorizes the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds for the purposes set forth in paragraph 2 above;

4. Requests the Economic and Social Council, not later than its nineteenth session and in the light of proposals to be submitted to it by the High Commissioner upon the advice of his Advisory Committee, either to establish an Executive Committee responsible for giving directives to the High Commissioner in carrying out his programme and for exercising the necessary controls in the use of funds allotted to the Office of the High Commissioner or to revise the terms of reference and composition of the Advisory Committee in order to enable it to carry out the same duties;

Addendum for
External Affairs
Supplementary Paper No. 54/26/UN9/3

(Please attach to original)

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

The General Assembly in plenary session on October 21 adopted by a vote of 44 in favour (including Canada) to 5 against (Soviet bloc) with 8 abstentions the resolution which had been approved in the Third Committee on October 18.



