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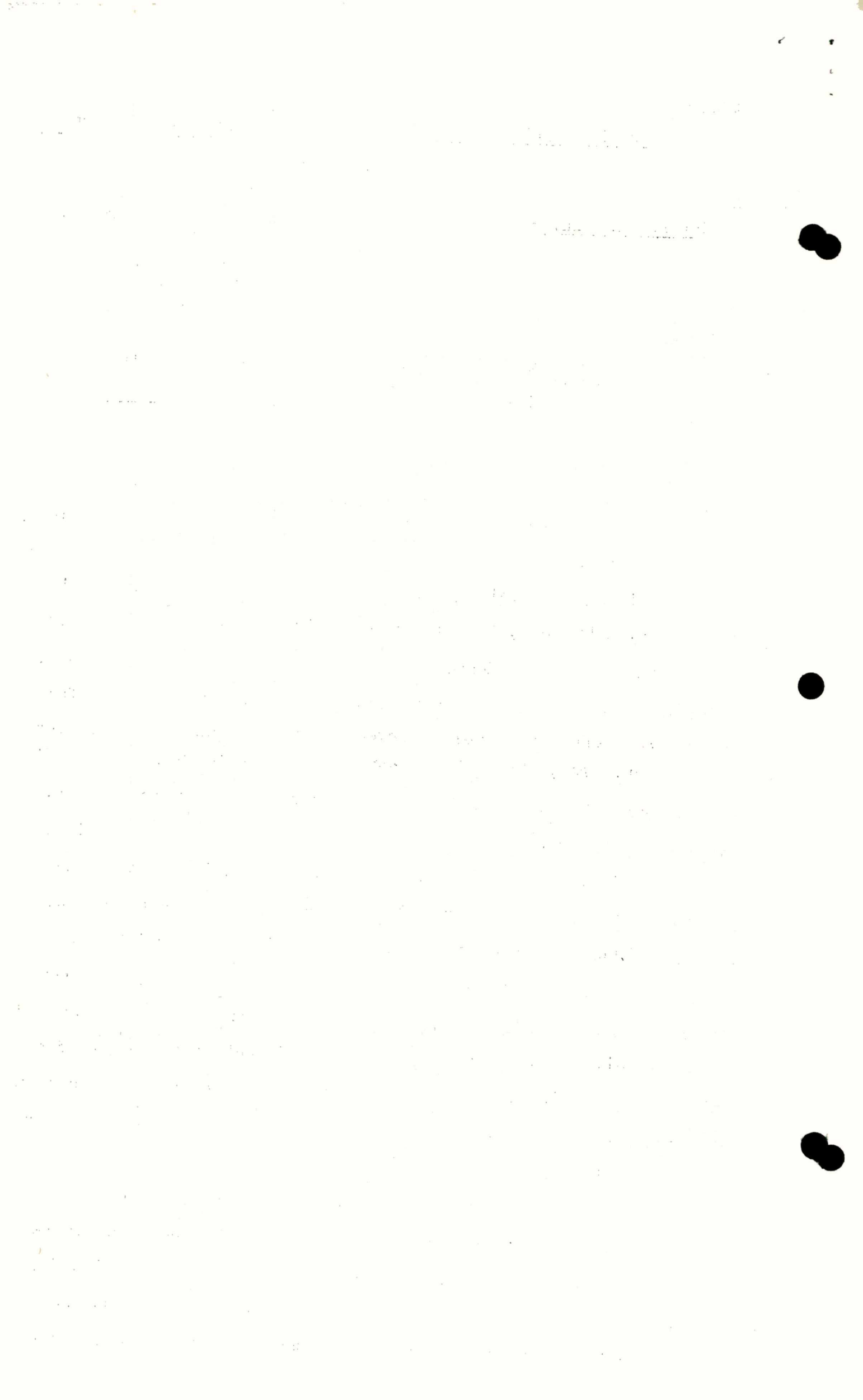
Statement by Mrs. Jean Casselman, M.P., Canadian  
Representative on the Third Committee, on the  
Refugee Items, on November 28, 1961.

Mr. Chairman,

Coming as I do from a country which had admitted since the end of the Second World War some 238,000 refugees, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to speak on this subject this morning. May I commend the High Commissioner, Mr. Schneider, for his exceedingly able and most interesting address to the Committee at our meeting on Wednesday last.

It was not unusual that so many of the refugees, who were left homeless by events during and after the Second World War, should have sought sanctuary in Canada, at a time when Europe had still to recover from the ravages of war. Ours is a country of immigration, to which more than two million immigrants have come to seek new opportunities in the last sixteen years. Among the 238,000 refugees there were some 37,000 Hungarian refugees who came in 1956 and 1957, and more than 25,000 stateless refugees who came in the years from 1953 to 1959. Among the more unusual groups were 1210 orphaned children who were admitted in 1947 and 1948, ten blind refugees and their families who were sponsored by the Canadian Institute for the Blind. Since 1949 we have also admitted a number of refugee students.

As a part of our contribution to World Refugee Year the Government relaxed the criteria under which refugees could be admitted, so that the normal occupational and age factors were not applied to refugees. Private organizations were permitted to sponsor the applications of refugees who

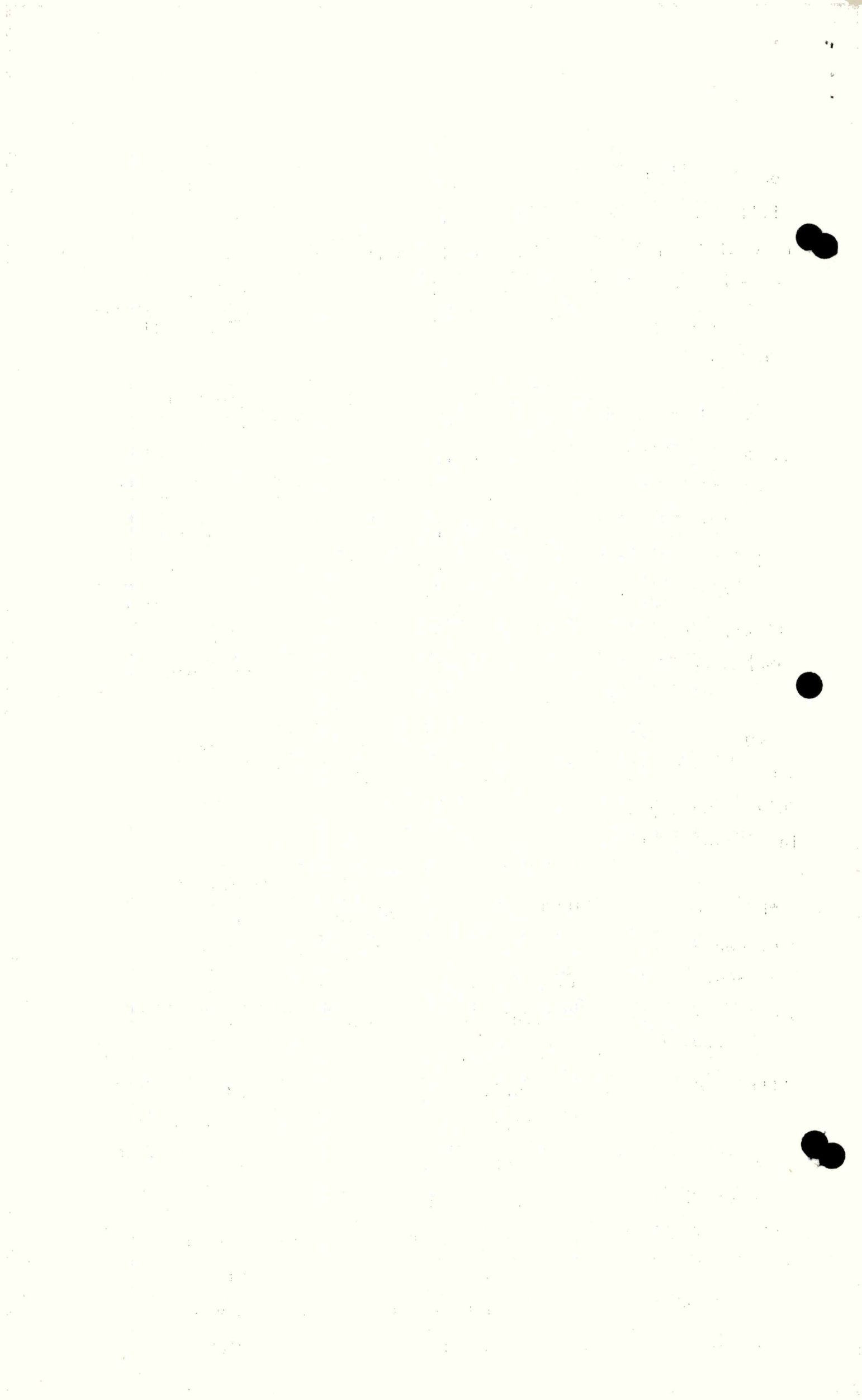


were ill or disabled. Canada also made available an extra million dollars worth of wheat flour to UNRWA to aid the Palestinian refugees. This was in addition to our annual grant of \$500,000 in cash and a million and a half dollars in the form of wheat flour; that is to say a total of 3 million dollars.

As a further contribution to World Refugee Year the Government set up a \$600,000 Special Fund to bring to Canada three groups of tubercular refugees from the refugee camps in Europe. The Federal Government paid transportation and maintenance costs for one year or until such time as the family became established. The provincial governments provided medical care and treatment in sanatoria for the refugees. All told there were 826 of these refugees of whom 325 were tubercular. The tubercular refugee programme was much more successful than could have been anticipated, in that the refugees adapted readily to their new environment and established themselves in a comparatively short time. By July of this year only 43 of the refugees still remained in the sanatoria.

The refugees who came to Canada were resettled with remarkably little difficulty and they have made a very considerable contribution to the continuing development of our country. We do not have refugee camps or hostels in Canada and have been careful that they should not in any way be labelled as a separate group. They have the same responsibility and enjoy the same privileges as any other immigrants.

It would be difficult to read the High Commissioner's report without being aware of the complexity and range of the tasks which devolve upon his office. In the view of my delegation the report presents an able analysis of the work of the High Commissioner's Office. It is especially heartening to note the progress which has been made during the last year toward closing the refugee camps in Europe. As the High



Commissioner told us in his statement the other day, although there remain some thousands of refugees, who are gradually being resettled, it can now be said with some assurance that the end is in sight. When we recall the great masses of refugees in post-war Europe, this is a very considerable achievement. The High Commissioner's Office has now set aside the necessary funds to complete its camp clearance programme. My delegation has been much impressed by the efficiency with which the High Commissioner and his officials have carried out their work, and we are particularly pleased to support the draft resolution, contained in document L.962. We hope that every delegation will be able to support it.

I should like now, Sir, to comment very briefly on the problem of Angolan refugees in the Congo. The organizations providing assistance for these unfortunate people - among which I understand are UNICEF, WHO, CARITAS and the League of Red Cross Societies - have a difficult task, and they are to be commended for the way in which it is being done. My delegation is glad to note that the High Commissioner has a representative in the Congo, and I am sure that his presence there will do much to facilitate still further the task of bringing the necessary supplies to the refugees. We also hope that the day will not be too far distant when the refugees will be able to return to their homes, and that they will be given, by the authorities there, every assistance in re-establishing themselves. My delegation would like to commend the distinguished delegate from the Congo (Leopoldville) on the useful and highly satisfactory draft resolution L-960, which he has submitted to the Committee, and to assure him that my delegation intends to vote in favour of it.

The High Commissioner's Office, in cooperation with the League of Red Cross Societies, is providing basic supplies for the Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco. My delegation

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

In the second section, the author outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze the data. This includes both manual and automated processes. The goal is to ensure that the information is both reliable and up-to-date.

The third part of the report details the results of the analysis. It shows a clear upward trend in the data over the period covered. This is attributed to several key factors, including improved operational efficiency and increased market demand.

Finally, the document concludes with a series of recommendations for future actions. These include investing in new technology to streamline processes and continuing to monitor the market closely for any changes.





is happy to note that the League has reached a decision to continue its aid programme until next September. As the distinguished delegates from Morocco and Tunisia have told us in their statements, the provision of assistance to the refugees is a hard burden to bear, particularly at this time when there are so many other demands upon their resources, in order to bring about the continued economic development of their respective countries. We are glad that the High Commissioner is to continue to utilize his good offices. Until some settlement of the Algerian problem has been achieved, which will permit the refugees to return to their homes, it is essential in the opinion of my delegation, that we guard against the possibility of the refugees themselves becoming one of the elements of contention involved in the settlement of this problem. The resolution on the Algerian refugees submitted by the 19 powers in document L-961 seems to my delegation a practicable and balanced one, and my delegation will vote in favour of it.

There are a number of other groups of refugees to whom the High Commissioner proposes to lend his good offices. For small countries, whose resources are scarcely adequate to provide for all of their own immense needs, the additional burden of providing for refugees is particularly difficult to bear. If such refugee groups can become a productive part of the economy, this seems to us a desirable solution.

It is most appropriate that this Committee should deal with the refugee items, for they involve essentially humanitarian problems. It is a sad commentary on our times that refugees have become one of the continuing problems with which we must deal. The arduous task of devising a solution for such problems is all too often long, frustrating and extraordinarily complicated. In the meantime, the plight of those who have fled from ill-fortune in the lands from which they

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came is very difficult indeed. To find the necessary funds to provide even for their most basic needs is not easy, and living as many of them do in squalor and misery, there must remain for some only a desperate hope that somehow they may become again useful members of society. The existence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees is one of the reasons why they manage in their adversity to retain that hope. I wish to assure you, Sir, that Canada will continue to play its part in supporting the Office of the High Commissioner and other organizations, engaged in this vital work, with the firm conviction that by our common efforts we can do much to alleviate the suffering of these unfortunate people.

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