

# PRESS RELEASE



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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27, 1965.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today announced that subject to approval by Parliament, Canada will make<sup>a</sup> contribution of \$350,000 to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for 1966. This represents an increase of \$60,000 over the 1965 Canadian contribution of \$290,000 and will make Canada the second highest contributor to UNHCR.

UNHCR was established in 1951 as a successor to the International Refugee Organization. It is an integral part of the United Nations and its administrative expenditures are financed under the UN budget. UNHCR programmes are financed through voluntary contributions from governments and private sources. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

UNHCR provides international protection for refugees within the High Commissioner's mandate and seeks permanent solutions to their problems by facilitating their voluntary repatriation or assimilation with new national communities.

The increase of \$60,000 in Canada's contribution will assist UNHCR in meeting its current financial needs. In the last few years, the nature of the world "refugee problem" has undergone a basic and profound change. The major problem area has shifted from Europe to Africa. The fact that the new countries of asylum are less wealthy than the old ones means that the financial burden

has increasingly become an international one.

Canada's contribution to UNHCR is another concrete manifestation of the continuing strong support which the Government and the people of Canada have given to the United Nations and to its social, economic and humanitarian activities, and their appreciation of the invaluable work which the High Commissioner does to help relieve the plight of refugees.