Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 876 (1979)[1]

23rd progress report of the Special Representative of the Council of Europe for National Refugees and Over-Population

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having considered the 23rd progress report of the Special Representative of the Council of Europe for National Refugees and Over-Population (Doc. 4394) ;

2. Paying a heartfelt tribute to the work accomplished over a period of twenty-six years by Pierre Schneiter, who until his death in March 1979 identified himself with the action taken by the Council of Europe for the benefit of refugees and migrant workers ;

3. Considering the serious situation created by the sudden death of the Special Representative, as regards both the Council of Europe and also the Resettlement Fund ;

4. Stressing the need to maintain effective coordination of the activities undertaken in the field of migration and refugees within the Council of Europe ;

5. Recalling its Recommendation 835 (1978), on the Special Representative's 22nd progress report ;

6. Considering the convening at Strasbourg in 1980 of the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Migration Affairs, decided upon by the Committee of Ministers on the initiative of the Swedish Government, as well as the decision to associate the Assembly with its work ;

7. Considering that the solution to finding an alternative to emigration may be sought to a large extent in the necessary balanced economic and social development of the emigration countries, which would represent the fruit of effective cooperation of the industrialised countries ;

8. Desirous that the problems arising from migratory movements should be taken into consideration as an important, but special, aspect of the North-South dialogue,

9. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

   9.1. involve the Assembly in seeking solutions to the problems posed by the death of the Special Representative ;

   9.2. ensure that the close links between the Resettlement Fund and the different responsible organs of the Council of Europe are maintained ;

   9.3. encourage extending the list of individual rights within the framework of the Convention on Human Rights ;

   9.4. intensify its approaches to the member governments to secure the signature and ratification of the European Social Charter and the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers;

1. Assembly debate on 4 October 1979 (11th Sitting) (seeDoc. 4395, report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography). Text adopted by the Assembly on 4 October 1979 (11th Sitting).

9.5. develop further the experiment of providing special classes for the children of migrant workers, by increasing their number from eight to thirteen and by stepping up the financial contribution significantly;

9.6. promote co-operation between immigration and emigration countries, both through the measures which need to be taken to facilitate the reintegration of migrant workers into their home countries and prevent clandestine immigration, and through the promotion of the development of the emigration countries.