Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 43 (1953)[1]

Reply to the report on the activities of the Office on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the situation of the refugees who at its concern

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly has examined with particular satisfaction the second Progress Report submitted to it by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the position of the refugees under his care.

The Assembly wishes to express its appreciation for the communication of this Report which, thanks to its scope, the clarity of the explanations provided and the full account of what has been done, has provided the Assembly with a clear picture of the problem, the importance of which it has repeatedly stressed.

In that they extend to almost every continent and affect a number of different nationalities, and that they include the encouragement of emigration, assistance to indigent and " hard-core " refugees, professional rehabilitation, and the elaboration of housing programmes, the activities of the High Commissioner may be said to cover every field.

Despite, however, the efforts and enquiries which have been made, the resources available to the High Commissioner do not, unfortunately, appear to be commensurate with the many and varied tasks he is called upon to fulfil. Compared with the funds needed, only negligible sums were, for instance, made available to him in order to alleviate the tragic plight of the Far Eastern and European refugees.

The Assembly therefore expresses the wish that adequate funds be placed at the disposal of the High Commissioner to enable him to continue to carry out his most important duties.

The Assembly desires to pay special tribute to the voluntary organisations which, in pursuance of their praiseworthy humanitarian aims, have carried out particularly encouraging experiments in this field. It is through their good offices that, as administrator of the funds of the Ford Foundation, the High Commissioner was, despite his many other tasks, enabled to make a positive contribution to the work of assistance on behalf of the refugees.

1. This Resolution was adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth Sitting, on 26th September, 1953 (see Doc. 218, Report of the Committee on Populalion and Refugees).