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15/11/1961- 18/07/1962

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15 November 1961

To: Chief of Cabinet

From: Secretary-General

The Chairman of the Asian-African group (Indonesian Ambassador) accompanied by the Ambassadors of Libya and Malagasay Republic, saw me today at 1 p.m. and communicated to me the decision of the group expressing grave concern regarding the fate of 14,000 Algerian political prisoners held captive in France and many more in Algeria itself. The Asian-African group, through its Chairman, wanted me to make an appropriate demarche to the Government of France to put an immediate end to the most severe restrictions imposed on the political prisoners resulting in the hunger strike by them since November 2nd. The delegation also informed me that the Asian-African group proposed to table a draft resolution at the General Assembly session this afternoon appealing to the Government of France to redress the legitimate grievances of the Algerian prisoners by recognition of their status as political prisoners.

I assured them that an appropriate demarche will be made to the Government of France in accordance with humanitarian principles and established international practice to redress the legitimate grievances of the Algerian prisoners.

Please put up a suitable draft cable for transmission to the Government of France today.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/372
27 March 1962

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SERVE ON TRIPARTITE REPATRIATION COMMISSION FOR ALGERIAN REFUGEES

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Felix Schnyder (Switzerland), announced today at a press conference in Geneva that he has agreed to serve on a tripartite commission concerned with repatriation of refugees from Algeria now in Morocco and Tunisia.

An agreement signed in Evian by the Government of France and representatives of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA) provides for the establishment of a tripartite commission, composed of representatives of the French Government, the Provisional Executive of Algeria and the High Commissioner's Office, to plan and organize repatriation of the refugees.

In accepting the invitation to serve on the commission, Mr. Schnyder stated that he wished to do all he could, as required by his mandate, to facilitate repatriation of refugees. He recalled that he had been requested by the resolution of the General Assembly of 18 December 1961 "to use the means at his disposal to assist with the orderly return of those refugees to their homes."

During the last six months his Office, together with the League of Red Cross Societies and the authorities of Morocco and Tunisia, had collected the necessary data to prepare plans for an orderly return, Mr. Schnyder said. Until repartiation can be completely organized, the High Commissioner noted, the relief operation would have to be maintained at its present level. This is particularly important now to keep up the moral and physical health of the refugees, so they will have strength to undertake the arduous task of rebuilding their existence in their homeland.

Many refugees would be returning to areas that have been deserted for many years, Mr. Schnyder pointed out, and most essentials and amenities will be lacking to them. To avoid undue hardship, particularly to children, the High Commissioner felt that additional material assistance will have to be given the refugees at the time of their return. He would be appealing to the international community to enable him to make this effort.

(more)

Mr. Schnyder saw in this repatriation assistance a fitting conclusion to the services his Office, jointly with the League of Red Cross Societies, had been able to render the refugees through the relief operation, which had helped some 250,000 refugees to survive.

The relief action had already received the extensive support of the international community, in which peoples of 65 countries had participated, through governmental contributions or donations, through national Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies, through the action of voluntary agencies operating in Morocco and Tunisia, and through contributions from voluntary agencies and private donors.

Mr. Schnyder paid tribute to the very effective work carried out in the field by the League of Red Cross Societies, and expressed his gratitude for their readiness to maintain their contribution during this final phase.

He said that the relief operation, which had been costing the international community some $7 to $8 million a year and which had succeeded in maintaining the refugees in good health and good spirits, was an example of what could be achieved with comparatively modest means and a demonstration of the value of international humanitarian action carried out on behalf of the international community.

* *** *

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/373
27 March 1962

NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL CONTRIBUTES $15,000
TO ASSIST REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES FROM ALGERIA

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

The Norwegian Refugee Council has contributed $15,000 to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to assist the repatriation of refugees from Algeria now in Tunisia and Morocco. Felix Schnyder (Switzerland), the High Commissioner, announced this first contribution to the specific task shortly after announcing at a press conference this morning his Office's participation in a tripartite commission to effect the orderly return of these refugees to Algeria.*

The Norwegian Refugee Council, in transmitting the gift, expressed the hope that it would serve "as an example to be followed by others."

In acknowledging the contribution, the High Commissioner stated his "deepest gratitude for the timely and generous assistance which the Norwegian Refugee Council continues to make available to refugees in need."

* *** *

*See Press Release REF/372 issued earlier today.

[Original: French]

COPY

Rocher Noir, 9 April 1962

Sir,

I should like first of all to thank you for the way in which you received me and my colleagues at Rocher Noir. I am also very grateful for the opportunity you gave us to visit eastern Algeria, more particularly Bône and Tébessa, and, thanks to the kind but business-like reception by the local authorities, to study some of the problems we face.

As you know, we are concerned with these problems as a result of the invitation to take part in a tripartite settlement of the repatriation of Algerian refugees now in Morocco and Tunisia which was addressed to me during the recent negotiation of the Evian Agreements and which I accepted.

It is with special satisfaction that I noted - in particular at a business meeting on Friday, 6 April, in the office of Secretary-General Roux, attended by Dr. Hamidou, Social Affairs Officer of the Provisional Executive, and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, and others - the unanimity that exists with regard to the basic objective of the Tripartite Commission provided for by the Evian Agreements: to bring about, within the shortest possible time and under the best possible conditions, the repatriation of Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia. I see in this unanimity the best guarantee of the success of the joint undertaking planned by the three members of the Tripartite Commission.

There can be no doubt that in an operation of this kind all unnecessary formalism must be avoided. I have therefore set down in the annex to this letter, essentially out of practical considerations, some principles of action as they seem to have emerged from the contacts that took place.

His Excellency
Mr. Christian Fouchet,
High Commissioner of the
Republic in Algeria
Rocher Noir

/...

I am prepared to appoint my representative in the central Tripartite Commission to be established at Rocher Noir, as well as the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Tripartite sub-commissions that will be set up in Morocco and Tunisia. I think that if the High Commissioner of the Republic and the Provisional Executive in Algeria could also appoint their respective representatives, it would be advisable for the Tripartite Commission to convene within the next few days.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the President of the Provisional Executive in Algeria.

I should like to stress again the importance I attach to this operation of repatriating refugees in Algeria and to express the hope that it can be gotten under way and completed satisfactorily within the shortest possible time.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Felix Schnyder,
United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

/...

ANNEX

1. The Tripartite Commission on Repatriation of Algerian Refugees in Morocco and Tunisia is composed of three members appointed respectively by the High Commissioner of the Republic in Algeria, the Provisional Executive in Algeria and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The seat of the Commission is at Rocher Noir.

2. The tripartite sub-commissions to be established in Morocco and Tunisia would have the seat respectively at Oujda and at Kef. They, and any other sub-commission that would have to be established, would be composed of three members appointed in the same manner as the members of the central Tripartite Commission.

3. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Rocher Noir will enjoy diplomatic immunities and privileges similar to those provided for by the agreement concluded on 18 February 1953 between the French Government and the High Commissioner with regard to the installation and activities in France of the mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The members of the mission, as also the members of the tripartite sub-commissions if any are established in Algeria or if members temporarily visit Algeria, will enjoy a similar status.

4. Preliminary contacts indicate that the French authorities would be prepared to make available to the Tripartite Commission the logistical facilities required for its activities, in particular officers, office equipment, as well as vehicles and transport facilities.

5. The purposes of the Tripartite Commission on Repatriation of Refugees, which will adopt its decisions by common agreement of its members, on a footing of full equality, are to determine the principles and the plan governing the repatriation operation, to co-ordinate efforts in that sphere, to supervise the course of activities, and to report to the three constituting authorities on the repatriation operations when they are completed.

6. In taking part in the Tripartite Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees considers himself essentially as the advocate of international solidarity, acting out of purely humanitarian considerations and excluding, so far as he is concerned, any political considerations.

/...

7. In determining the principles and the programme of repatriation, the Tripartite Commission will be guided by the following general directives:

- Repatriation would begin, effectively at the beginning of May 1962 and would end, so far as possible, before the end of June 1962;

- The resettlement of each village group shall take place, where possible, on the site of the original village;

- In cases in which for military or other reasons resettlement on the original site is not immediately possible, the refugees would be sheltered temporarily as nearly as possible to their original locality.

8. Repatriation operations as such will be carried out in accordance with principles and a programme determined by the Tripartite Commission or by executive organs which are, or will be, at the disposal of the constituting authorities. So far as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is concerned, he will continue to rely more especially, as he indicated when accepting the invitation to participate in the tripartite repatriation operation, on the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which has been the operational partner of the Office of the High Commissioner in the international campaign to assist the Algerian refugees.

9. Subject to subsequent consideration by the Tripartite Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would also be prepared, if such action were necessary or helpful, to call for the assistance of other inter-governmental organizations such as UNICEF, the World Health Organization or the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

10. Each member of the Tripartite Commission will contribute to the best of its ability, to the mobilization of necessary means of action. With the help of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and of the respective Governments, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be concerned with the movement of the refugees up to the Algerian frontier. The High Commissioner is pleased to note that the competent authorities in Algeria would be responsible for the reception of the refugees at the Algerian frontier, the transport of the refugees to the interior of Algeria and, in general, for their resettlement, and that budgetary arrangements have already been made for these purposes. However, the High Commissioner will try to mobilise, at the international level, the medical teams required for the public health inspection of the refugees. He will also make

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available for the repatriation operation the stocks of food at present available under the international programme of aid.

11. Since the responsibility of the Tripartite Commission will necessarily be limited, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will maintain contact with the competent authorities in Algeria in order to give them the benefit of the good offices which the High Commissioner will use for the purpose of transmitting material assistance aimed at facilitating the reinstallation of the refugees.

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Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release REF/375
13 April 1962

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ~~OUTLINES~~ PLANS
FOR REPATRIATING ALGERIAN REFUGEES

(The following has been received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

Agreement has been reached on the main lines of plans to repatriate some 250,000 Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia, Felix Schnyder (Switzerland), UN High Commissioner for Refugees, announced today.

Mr. Schnyder and his Deputy, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, have just returned from Rocher Noir where, in discussions with the French High Commissioner in Algeria and the President of the Provisional Executive for Algeria, the work of the tripartite commission envisaged in the Evian agreements was laid out.

[An agreement signed in Evian by the Government of France and representatives of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic provides for the establishment of a tripartite commission, composed of representatives of the French Government, the Provisional Executive of Algeria and the High Commissioner's Office, to plan and organize repatriation of the refugees (see Press Release REF/372 of 27 March).]

The actual repatriation operation is expected to start early in May and be completed by the end of June. It is anticipated that the Tripartite Commission, whose main task is to ensure the speediest possible repatriation of the refugees under the best possible conditions, will make its headquarters in Rocher Noir. It will be assisted by a number of tripartite subcommissions located in Morocco and Tunisia. Each will be composed of one representative each of the French High Commissioner in Algeria, the Provisional Executive of Algeria, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Members are expected to assume their duties during the latter part of April.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will be particularly concerned with movement of the refugees up to the Algerian border. To control the possible spread of disease, the return flow will be channeled through 10 check-points - four at the Morocco-Algeria border and six at the Tunisia-Algeria border. Medical teams will be stationed at these check-points and will examine all refugees.

(more)

The competent Algerian authorities will be responsible for reception of the refugees at the Algerian frontiers, for their transport within Algeria, and generally for their re-installation in Algeria. Budgetary provisions for these services already have been made.

Mr. Schnyder stressed that he would continue to rely, in the performance of his new tasks, on the effective cooperation of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the host governments of Tunisia and Morocco, with which he has been carrying out the relief operation for these Algerian refugees.

Moreover, the High Commissioner pointed out, his Office and the League are depending on voluntary contributions, from governments, national Red Cross Societies and other voluntary agencies to meet the cost of their parts of this operation and to provide medical and first aid personnel to man the check-points.

In addition, the High Commissioner will use his good offices to secure to the Algerian authorities from international sources the material aid required to resettle the refugees in their old homes -- many of which have been destroyed. A large number of tents will be required as temporary accommodation, and later building materials will be needed. The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will take a particular interest in this part of the operation.

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Press Services
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United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/377
13 April 1962

DEPUTY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
CONFERS IN TUNIS ON REPATRIATION OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will leave Geneva tomorrow for Tunis to study with competent authorities in Tunisia the repatriation of Algerian refugees in that country.

He will be received by President Habib Bourguiba and will also have discussions with members of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic in Tunis.

Prince Sadruddin's current visit follows an earlier one to Rabat at the end of March for the same purpose and a more recent visit to Rocher Noir when, in company with the High Commissioner for Refugees, Felix Schnyder, he participated in discussions with the French High Commissioner in Algeria and the President of the Provisional Executive in Algeria on the functions of the Tripartite Repatriation Commission foreseen in the Evian agreements.

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Note: Further details on the repatriation problem appear in Press Releases REF/372 of 27 March and REF/375 of 13 April.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
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United Nations, N.Y.

Algerian refugees

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/379
20 April 1962

HIGH COMMISSIONER APPEALS FOR TENTS TO SHELTER REFUGEES RETURNING TO ALGERIA

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva).

Fifteen thousand tents are urgently needed as provisional shelter for refugees in Morocco and Tunisia who will be repatriated to Algeria in May and June, Felix M. Schnyder (Switzerland), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, has reported. He has appealed to the 25 governments represented on his Executive Committee to make them available immediately.

The governments are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Holy See, Iran, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Provision of tents is essential to the start of the repatriation movement, Mr. Schnyder said.* Tripartite repatriation committees, composed of representatives of the French Government, the Provisional Executive of Algeria and the High Commissioner's Office, will begin functioning immediately after Easter.

Some 85,000 refugees are expected to move from Morocco and 175,000 from Tunisia by the end of June, when the repatriation movements are expected to conclude. Many will be returning to areas abandoned for many years. The tents will be put up by them near their villages or as close as possible to their former homesteads, so they will be able to till their land while rebuilding their homes. More than half the refugees are children.

To facilitate the orderly return to Algeria, 10 border crossing points will be established -- four in Morocco and six in Tunisia. These will permit the daily passage of approximately 5,000 persons. The League of Red Cross Societies has agreed to provide international teams of doctors and nurses to man the checkpoints.

The High Commissioner's Office has already provided funds to permit the League to acquire 3,000 tents, now on hand in the United Kingdom, for immediate shipment to Tunisia. Some tents are also available in a league warehouse in Morocco. The League has also addressed an urgent appeal for tents to its member organizations.

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*Press Releases REF/372 and 375 give details on repatriation plans.

1 Thomas

AIDE MEMOIRE

Ambassador Taieb Slim of Tunisia spoke to the Acting Secretary-General about the need for stepping up efforts to look after the Algerian refugees in Tunisia.

The Acting Secretary-General intends to discuss this question with Mr. Felix Schnyder, U.N.H.C.R., who he is due to meet in Geneva on Wednesday 2 May 1962.

C. V. Narasimhan

26 April 1962

cc - Miss Gervais

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/380
27 April 1962

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY AND TENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO HIGH COMMISSIONER'S APPEALS ON BEHALF OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

Contributions of cash and tents to facilitate repatriation of Algerian refugees have been offered by a number of governments, Felix Schnyder (Switzerland), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, announced today.

The contributions are in response to appeals addressed by Mr. Schnyder to the 25 governments on his Executive Committee and to similar appeals by the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies to their member agencies.

The Government of Denmark has responded with a contribution of $14,500 in addition to $14,500 offered by the Danish Refugee Council. The Holy See has sent $10,000 and the Turkish Chamber of Commerce, $2,222. Earlier, the Norwegian Refugee Council had announced a contribution of $15,000 (see Press Release REF/373).

Some 1,000 tents have been offered by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Finland (30), Greece (400), Poland (40), Turkey (200), the United Arab Republic (300) and Yugoslavia (120). India has promised an unspecified number.

Provision of tents has been described as essential to the start of the repatriation movement, since many of the refugees' former homes have been destroyed. A first consignment of 500 tents from the 3,000 reported available in the United Kingdom* is now on the way to Algeria, and the League has made 975 tents available from its stock in Morocco.

* *** *

*Press Release REF/379

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
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(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Note No. 2584
3 May 1962

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

WPIX-TV TO TELEVISE UNHCR/RED CROSS FILM ON ALGERIAN REFUGEES

Yul Brynner is Narrator

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, New York.)

"Man is to Man," a 28-minute filmed documentary of the relief operation for Algerian Refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, will be telecast over WPIX-TV this Sunday, 6 May, at 1 p.m.

Yul Brynner, Special Consultant to the High Commissioner, is narrator of the film, produced by the High Commissioner's Office and the League of Red Cross Societies. "The two organizations have carried out jointly since 1959 a massive program to provide sustenance and shelter to 200,000 Algerian refugees, whose presence in Tunisia and Morocco placed a heavy burden on those countries," the High Commissioner's office in New York stated in announcing plans for the telecast.

The plight of the 100,000 children who make up half the refugee population will be shown in scenes depicting special measures to protect their health.

(The High Commissioner's Office and the League are cooperating also in repatriating these refugees to Algeria, as reported in Press Releases REF/372, 375 and 379.)

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Press Services
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United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/381
8 May 1962

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ESTABLISHES TEMPORARY INFORMATION SERVICES IN TUNISIA AND MOROCCO

Preparations for Repatriation of Algerian Refugees Under Way

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with the League of Red Cross Societies, has established temporary information services in Morocco and Tunisia to assist journalists, television crews and others interested in covering the repatriation movement of 250,000 Algerian refugees.*

The repatriation of these refugees from Morocco and Tunisia, scheduled to begin this month, will be the most important refugee movement organized by the international community since the end of World War II, the UN High Commissioner's Office states.

Stanley Wright, Chief of the Information Service of the High Commissioner's Office, began to organize press services in Tunis yesterday (7 May). With him will be a press representative of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Mr. Wright's headquarters will be at the UN Information Center, Tunis, and he will have a sub-office at Le Kef, seat of the Tripartite Subcommission.

In Oujda, seat of the Tripartite Subcommission for Morocco, Mr. Yassin El-Ayouty will spend two months as Information Officer for the repatriation movement from Morocco. Mr. El-Ayouty has been seconded from his post at the UN Information Service in Geneva. (He may be reached c/o Mr. Jurg Vitanni, Hotel Terminus, Oujda.)

Movement Plans Described

A census has been made of all the refugees to establish their areas of origin, the High Commissioner's Office has reported. The central Tripartite Commission** will coordinate movement to the areas of the refugees' homesteads. The Subcommissions in Le Kef (Tunisia) and Oujda (Morocco) will issue local directives for movement of refugees toward assembly areas and will supervise the border crossing points.

(more)

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*See Press Releases REF/372, 375 and 379.

**The Tripartite Commission comprises representatives of the French Government, the Provisional Executive of Algeria and the High Commissioner's Office.

The Algerian Red Crescent Society, in cooperation with the Moroccan and Tunisian Red Crescent Societies and local authorities, will bring together in the various assembly areas refugees belonging to the same villages. There they will be vaccinated and their transport to established border crossing points arranged.

At the crossing points, identities will be checked and the League of Red Cross-Red Crescent health teams will check vaccinations and the general health of the refugees, after which the convoys will continue to their destinations. In principle, the convoys will consist of 500 persons per checkpoint each day. Since most of the refugees come from frontier regions along the Moroccan and Tunisian boundaries, the journey to their former villages is expected to take only one to two days.

Because of the war operations, many villages may have been partly or totally destroyed, and tents therefore must be set up to provide provisional shelter. Since the refugees cannot hope to become self-supporting until next year's harvest, organization of basic food distribution is also under way. The tents and food will be provided through the joint UNHCR/League operation carried out since 1959 during the refugees' sojourn in Tunisia and Morocco.

* *** *

(Note: Requests for information about the repatriation movement can be addressed to the UNHCR Information Service in Geneva, to UNHCR, New York, to the Director of Information of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, or to either of the information posts in Morocco and Tunisia. The press officers are not spokesmen for the Tripartite Commission, their role being limited to facilitating contacts and visits to the field in cooperation with the competent authorities.)

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/382
10 May 1962

SWEDISH GROUP TO PROVIDE MILK FOR ALGERIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

The Swedish Section of the Lutheran World Federation today advised the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Felix Schnyder, that it would provide funds to finance operational costs of milk stations for Algerian refugee children for "so long as the need exists." The church agency had already contributed $115,987 to cover these costs for the first four months of 1962.

Acknowledging "with deepest gratitude" this decision by the Swedish Section of the Lutheran World Federation, Mr. Schnyder noted that during 1961 the agency had contributed $214,416 for the same purpose.

The High Commissioner stressed that Algerian refugee children "would continue to receive milk as long as they are in Morocco and Tunisia" and that "special milk distributions are also planned at assembly points close to the Algerian border prior to actual re-entry of the refugees" to Algeria.

Present milk stations in Morocco and Tunisia, established as part of the joint relief operation carried out since 1959 by the High Commissioner's Office and the League of Red Cross Societies, are likely to be required until at least July, Mr. Schnyder noted. However, once repatriation begins, there will be a gradual reduction in the number of beneficiaries. The continued readiness of the Swedish Section of the Lutheran World Federation to support "this vital program" was therefore of "major importance," the High Commissioner said.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release REF/383
10 May 1962

GOVERNMENTS AND RED CROSS SOCIETIES ASSIST IN REPATRIATION OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

A series of contributions to assist the repatriation of Algerian refugees from Tunisia and Morocco was announced today by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Felix Schnyder.

A firm offer of 10,000 tents has been received from the American Red Cross, in response to recent appeals by the High Commissioner and the League of Red Cross Societies for this essential item.

The Federal Government of Switzerland announced a contribution through Red Cross channels of $17,361 toward the repatriation operation.

The appeals have also met with a ready response in the United Kingdom. Edward Heath, Lord Privy Seal, announced today in the House of Commons that the United Kingdom Government proposed, subject to parliamentary approval, to purchase approximately 500 family-size tents at a cost of $23,500. An advance will be obtained from the Civil Contingencies Fund to make possible immediate purchase through the British Red Cross Society.

Mr. Schnyder reported that his Office and the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies had also recieved firm offers of tents from Red Cross Societies of the USSR (400) and the United Arab Republic, which offered 400 tents in addition to 300 promised earlier.*

* *** *

*See Press Release REF/380.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/384
10 May 1962

REPATRIATION OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES IN MOROCCO BEGINS

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva).

Arrangements for repatriation of Algerian refugees in Morocco have progressed sufficiently to permit dispatch of a first, experimental convoy of 200 refugees, it was announced today by the Tripartite Repatriation Subcommission in Oujda, Morroco.* A local representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is a member of the Subcommission.

Today's action will be followed by normal movement, probably beginning 16 May, in accordance with plans laid down earlier.**

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* The Tripartite Subcommission comprises representatives of the French Government, the Provisional Executive of Algeria and the High Commissioner's Office.

**See Press Releases REF/379 and 381.

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Algerian Refugees

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Press Release REF/392
18 May 1962

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMS CONTINUES DISCUSSION OF AID TO REFUGEES IN TUNISIA AND MOROCCO

(The following has been received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva).

Action taken by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the League of Red Cross Societies in providing shelter and sustenance to 250,000 refugees in Tunisia and Morocco was praised by members of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program yesterday in Geneva.

Speakers in the discussion also welcomed the beginning of the repatriation movement of these refugees. The 25-member Executive Committee, which carries out the High Commissioner's programs, began its present meetings in Geneva on 14 May.

A number of members, expressing hope that the repatriation operation would soon reach a successful conclusion, urged that international aid to the refugees should not cease with their entry into Algeria. They noted that the UN General Assembly, in a resolution last year,* called upon the High Commissioner's Office to facilitate the resettlement of these refugees in their homeland.

Felix Schnyder, the High Commissioner, said that the relief action had "helped save human lives and to preserve good will and courage among the refugees." Now that repatriation had begun, Mr. Schnyder stressed, it was essential that the refugees start their new lives with all the energy and optimism they would need.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Deputy High Commissioner, noted that, as a result of the Evian agreement,** this major refugee problem was now in process of being solved in the "most satisfactory way, namely, repatriation." However, the repatriation operation was a costly one, he noted, and, apart from transportation costs, the High Commissioner's Office already had committed or spent over $400,000 towards the program.

Repatriation from Morocco had already begun, Dr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, noted in a statement to the Executive Committee. Movements from the Tunisian side would probably begin in about two weeks, Dr. Beer said. He emphasized that the refugees would still need a great deal of assistance after they had returned to Algeria, and he expressed hope that the international

*Resolution 1672 (XVI).
**See Press Release REF/375.

(more)

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/396
4 June 1962

PROGRESS CONTINUES IN REPATRIATION OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES FROM MOROCCO

(The following was received here from the Information Officer with the Tripartite Repatriation Subcommission, Oujda, Morocco.)

Some 20,000 Algerian refugees had been repatriated from Morocco by 31 May, just 23 days after inception of the repatriation program in that country, it was reported today by Yassin El-Ayouty, Information Officer at Oujda, Morocco.

Some 85,000 refugees are expected to move from Morocco and 175,000 from Tunisia by the end of June, when the repatriation movements are expected to conclude.*

Moroccan authorities have granted permission for 30,000 refugee-owned animals, including 1,000 camels, to return to Algeria. Thus the situation in Berguent and El-Aicha has improved, after an interruption of one week in repatriation through those towns, Mr. El-Ayouty reported.

(Note: Photographs of the refugee operation are available from Jean Gorman, UN High Commissioner's Office, Ext. 2196.)

* *** *

* Press Release REF/379 of 20 April.

CVN/nt

8 June 1962

Dear Mr. Schnyder,

I acknowledge with many thanks your kind letter 13/1/31 TUN/MOR/REP dated 28 May on the subject of Algerian refugees.

I note with interest that there is a possibility of the participation of other United Nations Agencies in assistance to the Algerian refugees returning to their country. I shall be grateful if you would keep me informed of further developments in this area.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

Mr. Felix Schnyder
United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

cc - Mr. David Owen
Miss Gervais

UNITED NATIONS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

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OFFICE DU HAUT-COMMISSAIRE
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

13/1/31 TUN/MOR/REF

Télégrammes : HICOMREF
Téléphone : [illegible]

Palais des Nations
GENÈVE

28 May 1962

Dear Mr. Thant,

Further to my cable of 23 March, I would like to bring you up to date on recent developments regarding the repatriation of Algerian refugees. As you will have heard already, I visited Rocher Noir in the beginning of April where I had an opportunity to discuss with the High Commissioner of the French Republic and the President of the Provisional Executive of Algeria the practical arrangements for the repatriation of these refugees. The results of our discussions were summarised in two identical letters to the French High Commissioner and to President Farès - a letter which I showed to you in Geneva. I take pleasure in enclosing a further copy of this text for your information.

In the meantime, the repatriation operations from Morocco have already started and up to to-day some 13,000 refugees have returned to Algeria. The operation from Tunisia will start within a few days and it is hoped that the majority of the refugees will have returned by 1 July in order to participate in the Referendum.

I should also like to draw your attention to point 9. of the Annex to the letter to Mr. Pouchet and Mr. Farès where reference is made to a possible participation of other United Nations Agencies. In this connection I would inform you that the delegate for Social Affairs in the Provisional Executive, Mr. Hamidou, will visit Geneva on 4 June and has expressed to my Representative on the Tripartite Commission in Algeria the desire to meet representatives of United Nations Specialised Agencies. I have therefore arranged for such a meeting with representatives of FAO, ILO, TAB, UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO in my Office next Monday.

I have, of course, informed the European Office of this meeting.

With best personal regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Félix Schnyder
United Nations High Commissioner
for refugees

Mr. U. Thant,
Acting Secretary General,
United Nations,
NEW YORK.

[Original: French]

COPY

Rocher Noir, 9 April 1962

Sir,

I should like first of all to thank you for the way in which you received me and my colleagues at Rocher Noir. I am also very grateful for the opportunity you gave us to visit eastern Algeria, more particularly Bône and Tébessa, and, thanks to the kind but business-like reception by the local authorities, to study some of the problems we face.

As you know, we are concerned with these problems as a result of the invitation to take part in a tripartite settlement of the repatriation of Algerian refugees now in Morocco and Tunisia which was addressed to me during the recent negotiation of the Evian Agreements and which I accepted.

It is with special satisfaction that I noted - in particular at a business meeting on Friday, 6 April, in the office of Secretary-General Roux, attended by Dr. Hamidou, Social Affairs Officer of the Provisional Executive, and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, and others - the unanimity that exists with regard to the basic objective of the Tripartite Commission provided for by the Evian Agreements: to bring about, within the shortest possible time and under the best possible conditions, the repatriation of Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia. I see in this unanimity the best guarantee of the success of the joint undertaking planned by the three members of the Tripartite Commission.

There can be no doubt that in an operation of this kind all unnecessary formalism must be avoided. I have therefore set down in the annex to this letter, essentially out of practical considerations, some principles of action as they seem to have emerged from the contacts that took place.

His Excellency
Mr. Christian Fouchet,
High Commissioner of the
Republic in Algeria
Rocher Noir

/...

I am prepared to appoint my representative in the central Tripartite Commission to be established at Rocher Noir, as well as the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Tripartite sub-commissions that will be set up in Morocco and Tunisia. I think that if the High Commissioner of the Republic and the Provisional Executive in Algeria could also appoint their respective representatives, it would be advisable for the Tripartite Commission to convene within the next few days.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the President of the Provisional Executive in Algeria.

I should like to stress again the importance I attach to this operation of repatriating refugees in Algeria and to express the hope that it can be gotten under way and completed satisfactorily within the shortest possible time.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Felix Schnyder,
United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

/...

ANNEX

1. The Tripartite Commission on Repatriation of Algerian Refugees in Morocco and Tunisia is composed of three members appointed respectively by the High Commissioner of the Republic in Algeria, the Provisional Executive in Algeria and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The seat of the Commission is at Rocher Noir.

2. The tripartite sub-commissions to be established in Morocco and Tunisia would have the seat respectively at Oujde and at Kef. They, and any other sub-commission that would have to be established, would be composed of three members appointed in the same manner as the members of the central Tripartite Commission.

3. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Rocher Noir will enjoy diplomatic immunities and privileges similar to those provided for by the agreement concluded on 18 February 1953 between the French Government and the High Commissioner with regard to the installation and activities in France of the mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The members of the mission, as also the members of the tripartite sub-commissions if any are established in Algeria or if members temporarily visit Algeria, will enjoy a similar status.

4. Preliminary contacts indicate that the French authorities would be prepared to make available to the Tripartite Commission the logistical facilities required for its activities, in particular officers, office equipment, as well as vehicles and transport facilities.

5. The purposes of the Tripartite Commission on Repatriation of Refugees, which will adopt its decisions by common agreement of its members, on a footing of full equality, are to determine the principles and the plan governing the repatriation operation, to co-ordinate efforts in that sphere, to supervise the course of activities, and to report to the three constituting authorities on the repatriation operations when they are completed.

6. In taking part in the Tripartite Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees considers himself essentially as the advocate of international solidarity, acting out of purely humanitarian considerations and excluding, so far as he is concerned, any political considerations.

...

7. In determining the principles and the programme of repatriation, the Tripartite Commission will be guided by the following general directives:

- Repatriation would begin, effectively at the beginning of May 1962 and would end, so far as possible, before the end of June 1962;

- The resettlement of each village group shall take place, where possible, on the site of the original village;

- In cases in which for military or other reasons resettlement on the original site is not immediately possible, the refugees would be sheltered temporarily as nearly as possible to their original locality.

8. Repatriation operations as such will be carried out in accordance with principles and a programme determined by the Tripartite Commission or by executive organs which are, or will be, at the disposal of the constituting authorities. So far as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is concerned, he will continue to rely more especially, as he indicated when accepting the invitation to participate in the tripartite repatriation operation, on the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which has been the operational partner of the Office of the High Commissioner in the international campaign to assist the Algerian refugees.

9. Subject to subsequent consideration by the Tripartite Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would also be prepared, if such action were necessary or helpful, to call for the assistance of other inter-governmental organizations such as UNICEF, the World Health Organisation or the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

10. Each member of the Tripartite Commission will contribute to the best of its ability, to the mobilisation of necessary means of action. With the help of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and of the respective Governments, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be concerned with the movement of the refugees up to the Algerian frontier. The High Commissioner is pleased to note that the competent authorities in Algeria would be responsible for the reception of the refugees at the Algerian frontier, the transport of the refugees to the interior of Algeria and, in general, for their resettlement, and that budgetary arrangements have already been made for these purposes. However, the High Commissioner will try to mobilize, at the international level, the medical teams required for the public health inspection of the refugees. He will also make

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available for the repatriation operation the stocks of food at present available under the international programme of aid.

11. Since the responsibility of the Tripartite Commission will necessarily be limited, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will maintain contact with the competent authorities in Algeria in order to give them the benefit of the good offices which the High Commissioner will use for the purpose of transmitting material assistance aimed at facilitating the reinstallation of the refugees.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release REF/397
18 June 1962

ISRAEL AND NORWAY CONTRIBUTE TO ALGERIAN REFUGEE AID

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has announced recent contributions from the governments of Israel and Norway toward the relief and repatriation of Algerian refugees.

More than 200,000 Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco benefit from the operation, carried out jointly by the High Commissioner's Office and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Israel's present contribution of $5,000 follows a donation in 1959 of goods in kind valued at $1,507. Norway's special donation of $14,000 toward Algerian refugees is over and above that country's contribution of $98,000 to the High Commissioner's regular programs. In addition, contributions exceeding $300,000 have been sent by the Norwegian Refugee Council to assist Algerian refugees.

Announcing these latest donations toward the North African operation, Felix Schnyder, the High Commissioner, said he was "impressed, gratified and greatly encouraged" by the way the international community continued to support this "purely social and humanitarian venture."

* *** *

CR.13 (4-59)

ROUTING SLIP

Comments for the record should not be written on this slip. REFERRAL SHEET PT.108 should be used instead.

TO: Secretary-General

	APPROVAL		YOUR INFORMATION
	MAY WE CONFER?		AS REQUESTED
	YOUR SIGNATURE		FOR ACTION
	NOTE AND FILE		REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE
	NOTE AND RETURN		PREPARE DRAFT
	YOUR COMMENTS		ATTACH RELATED PAPERS

DATE:	FROM: C. Carpenter

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS - UNATIONS NEWYORK - ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

FILE NO.: PO 230 ALGE

COPIE

..... and has the honour to transmit herewith, at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a copy of a letter dated 18 June, on the question of assistance to Algerian refugees, which the High Commissioner has sent to all Member Governments through their representatives at Geneva.

The enclosed copy of the High Commissioner's letter, together with a copy of the budget, is being sent for the information of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations. Document A/5132, to which reference is made in the second paragraph of the High Commissioner's letter, is not enclosed, as this document has already been distributed.

COPY

18 June 1962

18 June 1962

Sir,

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, my Office has for the past four years endeavoured to afford effective assistance to refugees from Algeria in Morocco and Tunisia. Under the most recent of those resolutions (resolution 1672 (XVI)), the High Commissioner's Office is called upon to play a signifi- role in the present particularly important phase of repatriation of Algerian refugees.

In this connexion, I venture to draw your attention to the attached interim report which I have just sent to the General Assembly (document A/5132). This document contains all the necessary information on the development of UNHCR's activities in North Africa. It has hitherto been possible to carry on this work - a manifestation of international soli- darity - only through voluntary contributions and this will also apply in the future.

You will remember that in June 1961 I already had occasion to appeal to all governments, Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies for support in this work of international assistance undertaken by the High Commissioner's Office in conjunction with the League of Red Cross Societies. Thanks to the favourable response of many governments and the resultant effort of solidarity up to early 1962, it has been possible to cover the cost of this joint action for approximately one year.

While a more detailed financial statement may be submitted later, for the time being I shall simply mention the funds needed to provide the refugees with the assistance they will require until the end of this year, after they have returned to their douars. A statement of the sums involved is attached to this letter. I should merely like to add the following explanatory remarks.

The cost of the repatriation operation has been estimated at only $600,000. It has been possible to keep it at that low level because it covers only the financial needs of the High Commissioner's Office in its joint action with the League of Red Cross Societies, the financial par- ticipation of its partners in the Tripartite Commission being covered by the large appropriations provided by the French Government.

.../...

This sum of $600,000 includes $200,000 earmarked for the purchase of tents. In this connexion, it should be noted that a large proportion of the tents needed to provide the refugees with temporary shelter on arrival at their homesteads have been provided free of charge by many governments and national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The $200,000 required for the purchase of about 4,000 more tents have also already been covered by voluntary contributions from certain governments.

Other payments recently made by some governments will also enable the High Commissioner's Office partially to meet the most urgent expenses. Nevertheless, to ensure the financing of this humanitarian action as a whole it is essential for all governments that are prepared to take part in this effort to give it their support forthwith and for those of them that have recently contributed to re-examine the amount in the light of the overall needs described here.

It should be noted in this connexion that, for the reasons set forth in the attached interim report, the assistance it is proposed to give in the frontier areas of Algeria will benefit not only the refugees, but also other groups of the population who find themselves in an equally difficult situation. In order to take account of the wishes expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 1672 (XVI), the High Commissioner felt that he could not do better than appeal for universal support of this wider action undertaken by the League, on which the well-being of those who will cease to be refugees on regaining their homes will ultimately depend.

I earnestly hope therefore that the needs of the repatriation operation and of the follow-up assistance programme can be entirely covered by government contributions. The sums required amount to $2,600,000, which we hope will be supplemented by contributions in kind to the value of $5,760,000. Contributions can be sent either to the High Commissioner's Office or, particularly in the case of contributions in kind, to the League of Red Cross Societies.

I need hardly emphasize the importance of enlisting the help of the international community in order to ensure the success of this work until the end of the year, because it is quite impossible in the present circumstances to know how much the Algerian authorities will be able to earmark for this purpose out of the annual contribution of 1,000 million New Francs allocated by France to the development in Algeria.

I do not doubt for a moment that all the countries which have already given their generous support to this effort of human solidarity are now

.../...

most anxious for the work to be brought to a successful conclusion and will therefore be prepared to place the funds needed for the purpose at the disposal of my Office.

We shall thus be able, after having helped these refugees to survive, to ensure that they are not abandoned to their fate at the very time when they are preparing to resume a normal life in their own country.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Felix Schnyder
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

BUDGETARY ESTIMATES

Item	Number or quantity	Est. purchase price cif - Algerian port	Value of est. donations in kind	Est. cash requirements
		US $	US $	US $
I. Repatriation Operation - (i.e. expenses to be borne by UNHCR and League of Red Cross Societies)				
Medical teams	-	-	-	$ 65,000
Additional field personnel	-	-	-	$ 100,000
Purchase of tents	-	-	-	$ 200,000
Purchase and operating costs of additional vehicles	-	-	-	$ 40,000
Departure centres	-	-	-	$ 10,000
Transport of refugees (including insurance)	-	-	-	$ 85,000
Contingency reserve	-	-	-	$ 100,000
	Sub-total			$ 600,000
II. Assistance after repatriation for the period 1 July to 31 December 1962				
Relief Supplies				
Wheat	43,200 tons	3,450,000	3,450,000	-
Edible oils	1,800 tons	900,000	900,000	-
Pulses	1,800 tons	270,000	270,000	-
Powdered milk	1,350 tons	400,000	400,000	
Sugar	1,600 tons	160,000	140,000	20,000
Soap	450 tons	90,000	-	90,000
Blankets	150,000 pieces	300,000	100,000	200,000
Used clothing	1,000 tons	500,000	500,000	-
Purchase of cloth and local manufacture of traditional clothing	200,000 pieces	300,000	-	300,000
Provision of temporary shelter		300,000	-	300,000
Supplementary services				
Equipment of milk stations	300	30,000	-	30,000
Dispensaries and provision of supplementary medicaments	-	160,000	-	160,000
Immediate resettlement assistance				
Provision of simple hand tools, seeds, reconstruction material group-work projects, self-help, etc.		600,000	-	600,000
Supplementary Transport (including maintenance and operating costs of Red Cross vehicles)		100,000	-	100,000
Administrative costs		200,000	-	200,000
	Sub-total	7,760,000	5,760,000	2,000,000
	GRAND TOTAL	7,760,000	5,760,000	2,600,000

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY UNHCR FOR THE ALGERIAN

REFUGEE PROGRAMME

DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 15 JUNE 1962[a]

In US $

Governments	Paid	Pledged	Promised	Total
Belgium	45,000[b]	-	-	45,000[b]
Denmark	14,478	-	-	14,478
Ghana	-	3,000	-	3,000
Greece	-	-	2,000	2,000
Holy See	10,000	-	-	10,000
India	3,667[c]	2,633[c]	-	6,300[c]
Israel	5,000	-	-	5,000
Norway	-	14,000	-	14,000
Sweden	48,328	-	-	48,328
United Kingdom	10,715	-	-	10,715
United States	600,000	-	-	600,000
Total	737,188	19,633	2,000	758,821

a/ Contributions made through the League of Red Cross Societies do not appear in this list.

b/ Included as pledge in 1961 figures.

c/ Contribution in kind included in 1961 figures.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
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Press Release REF/398
21 June 1962

AID SOUGHT FOR 600,000 ALGERIANS

UN High Commission for Refugees and League of Red Cross Societies Launch Joint Appeal for $8,360,000 Program in Resettlement Areas

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

The repatriation of Algerian refugees from Tunisia and Morocco cannot be dissociated in its final phase from the needs of local populations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the League of Red Cross Societies stated in a joint announcement issued on 20 June. The two organizations are participating in arrangements for the orderly return of these refugees in accordance with the Evian agreements.

Felix Schnyder (Switzerland), the High Commissioner, has appealed to governments, members of the United Nations, and specialized agencies for their support in providing a program of material assistance to some 600,000 Algerians in areas near the Algerian-Moroccan and Algerian-Tunisian borders, where most of the refugees are resettling. At the same time, the League of Red Cross Societies has appealed to national Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Red Sun Societies for their support of this operation.

The cost of the program is estimated at $8,360,000, of which $2,600,000 is required in cash and the balance of $5,760,000 in kind. The operation envisages a basic feeding program, establishment of 500 milk distribution centers for children, and provision of medical care, temporary shelter, clothing and blankets. It is hoped that simple hand tools and seed can also be provided, and some individual and community projects launched, so as to hasten the moment when these sections of the population can become self-supporting.

Deputy High Commissioner Cites Problem

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, recently spelled out "the three R's" of the Algerian refugee problem -- "relief, repatriation and reinstallation."

(more)

Relief and repatriation are "well on the way," Prince Sadruddin noted, but "we must now look ahead to the first steps toward reinstallation." He pointed out that persons uprooted from the border areas would face the same problems as refugees returning to those sections and therefore also would need aid. Prince Sadruddin recalled that the areas involved had been evacuated four years ago because of military operations; therefore, the land had remained untended, buildings and wells have crumbled, and crops, he said, were "non-existent."

Announcing repatriation figures, the High Commissioner reported that by 18 June 32,600 Algerian refugees had returned home from Morocco and 38,028 from Tunisia, of an estimated total of 200,000 in those countries.

* *** *

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release GA/2527
REF/399
21 June 1962

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MONGI SLIM (TUNISIA), ON AID TO ALGERIAN REFUGEES

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the General Assembly to the document distributed, under the symbol A/5132, by the Secretary-General on 11 June 1962 at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This document consists of an interim report on the repatriation of the Algerian refugees, which has become possible as a result of the Evian agreements, proclaiming the cease-fire in Algeria. These agreements in fact opened the way to the return of the Algerian refugees to their own homes and they established a tripartite Repatriation Commission, of which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a member, to organize the return of the refugees to their homes in Algeria in the best possible manner.

It is this happy event which has led the High Commissioner to submit an interim report to member states, setting forth the conditions, jointly agreed on in the tripartite Commission, in accordance with which the repatriation of refugees coming from Tunisia and Morocco has been taking place since the beginning of May 1962, and explaining what are his pressing needs in order to complete his mission.

The members of the General Assembly will recall that on 18 December 1961, during the first part of the present session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1672, confirming its earlier resolutions, and requesting the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of these refugees and to use the means at his disposal to assist and ensure their orderly return to their homes and also, if it should be necessary, to consider facilitating their resettlement in their homeland as soon as circumstances permit.

In the interim report, document A/5132 of 11 June, the High Commissioner, stressing the magnitude of the task upon which he has been engaged since the adoption of the Evian agreements, makes an appeal* to all states members of our Organization,

(more)

* Additional information about the appeal for aid to Algerian refugees appears in Press Release REF/398, issued today.

to endeavor to assist him and to provide him voluntarily with the resources which will enable him to bring to a successful conclusion this great humanitarian task which the General Assembly has laid upon him in a number of resolutions and particularly in resolution 1672 (XVI), a task which he and his colleagues have been carrying out with a total devotion to which I should like to pay a tribute.

I should like to hope that this appeal will be heeded and that the international community will continue to provide voluntary assistance in such volume that it will be possible honorably to close a painful chapter in our recent history.

* *** *

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release REF/401
26 June 1962

REPATRIATED ALGERIAN REFUGEES PASS 100,000 MARK

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

More than 100,000 Algerian refugees have now been repatriated, Felix Schnyder (Switzerland), UN High Commissioner for Refugees, announced today.

Mr. Schnyder expressed the hope that if the present repatriation rate is continued, the majority of more than 200,000 refugees, who for many years had been living in Tunisia and Morocco, would be back in Algeria by 1 July 1962.

Since the end of April, representatives of the High Commissioner's Office have sat on the Tripartite Commission and Subcommissions* charged with repatriation of Algerian refugees. The Office has been assisted by representatives of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In addition to moving refugees, delegates of the League of Red Cross Societies have been in charge of transportation of tents, food distribution, and the orderly operation of departure centers through which 10,000 refugees pass each day.

Since 4 May, Red Cross and Red Crescent medical teams, made available by 13 national Red Cross Societies, have been providing other necessary medical care. Medical personnel will remain until repatriation is completed.

* *** *

*See Press Release REF/372

UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release REF/403
3 July 1962

AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTES TO REPATRIATION OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES

Cash Gift Will Purchase 200 Tents for Returnees

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva).

Australia has contributed $9,260 to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the purchase of 200 tents for Algerian refugees now repatriating to their homeland.

R. W. Furlonger, Permanent Representative of Australia to the European Office of the United Nations, noted in a statement on 2 July that Australia's gift was in response to the High Commissioner's recent appeal on behalf of Algerian refugees.* In view of the urgent need, Mr. Furlonger said, his government preferred making a cash contribution, which would enable the High Commissioner to purchase the tents immediately, instead of waiting for shipment from Australia.

Felix Schnyder, the High Commissioner, expressed his gratitude for Australia's "prompt and realistic response" to his appeal, and his appreciation of this newest demonstration of Australia's "warm and sincere interest" in the work of his Office.

* *** *

*See Press Release REF/398.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
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Press Release REF/405
18 July 1962

REPATRIATION OF ALGERIAN REFUGEES ALMOST COMPLETE

(The following was received here from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.)

Of the more than 200,000 Algerians who had sought refuge in Morocco and Tunisia, more than 165,000 have now returned to Algeria, Felix Schnyder (Switzerland), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, announced in Geneva today. Since the first organized crossing, on 10 May, 115,000 refugees have returned from Tunisia and 50,000 from Morocco.

The work of the Tripartite Repatriation Commissions set up by the Evian agreements* is thus nearing its end. Subcommissions operating at Oujda, Morocco, and Le Kef, Tunisia, ceased operations on 15 July, in accordance with a decision of the Central Repatriation Commission at Rocher Noir, Algeria. The Repatriation subcommission at Laverdure, east Algeria, also has ended its activities.

Arrangements have been made in Tunisia to permit the return of stragglers through Le Kef, where a team composed of Algerian authorities and a delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies will be stationed until 20 July. Similar arrangements will continue until 25 July at Oujda, Morocco, when several thousand refugees are due to return. After this date, Algerians still in Morocco and Tunisia may return to Algeria through normal channels.

High Commissioner Urges Support of Scheduled Aid Program

Noting that the refugees have been supplied with a month's stock of provisions on their departure from Tunisia and Morocco, Mr. Schnyder drew attention, however, to the international relief program to benefit the repatriates and other needy members of the population in the frontier areas of east and west Algeria which will begin toward the end of July and will be carried out by the League of Red Cross Societies.

Mr. Schnyder has estimated that the relief operation would cost $8 million, including $2,600,000 in cash and the balance in kind.

(more)

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* See Press Release REF/372 of 27 March.

Mr. Schnyder expressed his gratitude to governments, to the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies and their national affiliates, and to the "divers organizations" which, through their direct assistance or through contributions in cash or kind, have made it possible to carry out the repatriation program quickly and under good conditions, despite the very short preparation period available. Mr. Schnyder particularly stressed the great assistance given this work by the governments and Red Crescent Societies of Morocco and Tunisia.

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