

MIGRATION CONFERENCE

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RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PROVISIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE FOR THE MOVEMENT OF MIGRANTS FROM EUROPE

(Adopted at the 13th Meeting, 5 December 1951)

THE GOVERNMENTS adopting this resolution

RECOGNIZE

that there exists a problem of surplus population and refugees in certain countries of Europe, while certain overseas countries offer opportunities for the orderly absorption of additional population;

that the problem is of such magnitude as to present a serious obstacle to economic viability and co-operation in Europe;

that, whereas a general improvement in economic conditions and increased production would provide increased possibilities for employment and settlement in Europe and, by facilitating intra-European migration, would offer a very important contribution to the solution of the problem, an increase in European emigration to countries overseas nevertheless remains another necessary element;

that a close relationship exists between economic development and immigration;

that international financing of European emigration should contribute not only to solving the problem of population in Europe, but also stimulate the creation of new economic opportunities in countries lacking manpower.

that, while technical assistance may make an important contribution to the solution of the economic problems of the underdeveloped countries, the development of all existing or potential possibilities of immigration into these countries also constitutes an important factor for the solution of these problems;

that the present volume of migration is insufficient to meet the needs of emigration countries or to allow full use of the possibilities offered by immigration countries;

that there is need for the pursuit by the appropriate international agencies of all migration activities falling within their respective fields;

that the provision of facilities for the transport of migrants who could not otherwise be moved without such facilities can make an important contribution to increased migration;

that, although the movement of migrants should as far as possible be effected by the normal commercial shipping and air transport services, co-ordination in this field is necessary in order to enable the movement of the largest possible number of migrants by those services, and furthermore to ensure that the I.R.O.'s present shipping facilities are applied to the extent necessary to secure an additional movement of migrants;

that steps should be taken to provide transport facilities for such refugees as may desire and have the opportunity to emigrate from overpopulated countries; and

that, consequently, provisional intergovernmental arrangements between the democratic governments which adopt or may hereafter adopt this resolution are necessary in order to move persons who are attached to the principles to which these governments subscribe and who desire to emigrate to overseas countries where their services can be utilized in conformity with generally accepted international standards of employment and living conditions, with full respect for human rights; and

AGREE

(1- to constitute a "Provisional Inter-Governmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe";

(2) that the purpose of the Committee will be to make arrangements for the transport of migrants, for whom existing facilities are inadequate and who could not otherwise be moved, from certain European countries having surplus population to countries overseas which offer opportunities for orderly immigration, consistent with the policies of the countries concerned;

- (3) that the terms of reference of the Committee will be:
 - (a) to provide and arrange for land, sea and air transportation, as required;
 - (b) to assume responsibility for the charter of such ships operated under the auspices of I.R.O. as may be required;
 - (c) to co-ordinate a shipping programme utilizing commercial shipping facilities to the maximum extent possible and the chartered ships transferred from the I.R.O. to secure those movements for which commercial facilities are inadequate;
 - (d) to take such actions as may be directly related to these ends, taking account of such national and international services as are available;
 - (e) to take such other actions as will be necessary and appropriate to discharge the foregoing functions.

- (4) that among the migrants with whom the Committee will be concerned are included refugees and new refugees for whose migration arrangements may be made between the Committee and the governments of the countries affording asylum;

- (5) that membership in the Committee will be open to governments with a demonstrated interest in the principle of the free movement of persons and which undertake, subject to approval by the proper governmental authorities, to make a financial contribution to the Committee, the amount of which will be agreed to by the Committee and by the government concerned;

- (6) that the Committee will elect its own officers, establish its Rules of Procedure, establish such sub-committees as it may decide (including an inter-governmental sub-committee on the co-ordination of transport), and exercise the powers required to carry out its purpose;

- (7) that the Committee will agree to a plan of operations, a budget, a plan of expenditure and the terms and conditions under which available funds shall be spent, in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) each country of reception will retain control of standards of admission and the number of immigrants to be admitted;
 - (b) only those services will be undertaken by the Committee which are essential to the movement of migrants who could not otherwise be moved;

- (c) the Committee will ensure that its administration is conducted in an efficient and economical manner.
 - (d) any member government making a contribution to the operating fund will be able to stipulate the terms and conditions under which that contribution can be used;
- (8) that the Committee will appoint a Director responsible to the Committee;
- (9) that the Committee shall vest the Director with the powers necessary to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him by the Committee;
- (10) that the Committee will give early consideration to the question of the relations to be established with international, non-governmental and voluntary organisations conducting activities in the field of migration and refugees; and
- (11) that the Committee will examine the need for its continuing existence beyond a twelve-month period.