

other countries, seems a small price to pay if it will maintain order among these homeless people—plus reducing the amount of suffering they undeniably are undergoing.

Attachment

Draft Memorandum for the Record¹

Washington, January 13, 1959

SUBJECT

U.S. Position in UNHCR Executive Committee on Assistance to Algerian Refugees

On January 13, 1958 representatives of WE, W/MSC, AF, OES and ORM held preliminary discussions on the U.S. position on the question of UNHCR assistance to Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco scheduled for discussion at the First Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program. The following factors were considered:

[Here follows background information on the situation.]

After discussing the above factors, it was agreed that the U.S. position should include the following:

1. that the question of eligibility for Algerian refugees should not be discussed by the Executive Committee. The High Commissioner has already made such determination which has been generally substantiated by General Assembly Resolution 1286 (XIII);²

2. that the Executive Committee should take note of General Assembly Resolution 1286 and in implementation thereof authorize the High Commissioner to appeal for funds from governments for humanitarian assistance to Algerian refugees eligible under his Mandate (failure to authorize an appeal would probably result in the U.S. being the only contributor. Moreover, it is anticipated that Tunisia will insist on at least an appeal).

3. that should the question of the High Commissioner's 1960 program arise, the U.S. delegation should assume that assistance to Algerian refugees will be continued as a separate chapter in the UNHCR plan of operation for 1960.

4. it is most important that assistance to Algerian refugees be approached strictly as a humanitarian measure and that any political interpretation or connotation be avoided,

5. every effort should be made to smooth the way for this plan by prior discussions with other interested delegations and, if possible, with the Tunisian Government

¹ Confidential. Drafted by Lawrence

² See footnote 4, Document 284