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Contradictions in UNHCR as refugee displacement reaches historic levels

By Melanie Renaud, The New York Times



UNHCR delegates debate the current situation regarding Syrian refugees in hopes of finding a solution. “There are more refugees today than at any point since the second world war. This is unacceptable,” says the delegate of Russia.

The delegate adds that the “Russian federation remains steadfastly committed to fighting terror and violence through out the world that forces people to flee their homes.” Russia has taken in refugees with the intent that they will move back to their homes once the terror has ended. The delegate of India opposed to the statements of Russia, “refugees are immigrants.” The delegate of India believes that incoming refugees have no intentions of going back to Syria.

The delegate of New Zealand says, “We want refugees to have dignity and a sense of belonging.” The delegate expressed they want to end the refugee crisis – even though they are only taking 750 refugees annually. When asked about the contradictions of their statements, the delegate of New Zealand replied on behalf of the well being of the refugees – each refugee is guaranteed a home, education, and social services. “It’s better to take 750 than 1 million and have our refugees not able to afford food,” New Zealand’s delegate explains.

On the other hand, the country of Lebanon is concerned with the lack of funding for refugees in the Middle East. The delegate of Lebanon says they are running out of space. Thirty per cent of the population in Lebanon are refugees. “It can’t be a regional solution, we simply don’t have the room. We need to work for a global solution,” Lebanon’s representative adds.

Currently, the United States is not accepting refugees due to the temporary ban. However, the U.S. does encourage countries to create opportunities for refugees. “We’re excited to come up with comprehensive solutions,” says the delegate of the United States.

ICJ Press conference reveals bias truths

By Elyette Levy, Fox News



Today marked the beginning of the CaniMUN committee sessions. Fox News was able to attend International Court of Justice (ICJ) committee, who hosted a press conference this afternoon.

In the ICJ committee, the chosen case was the one of the Republic of Iran v. United States of America. In this committee, the Justices had gotten proof from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a US government agency, that the Central Bank of Iran had been funneling money into a Luxembourg account, from which the funds were transmitted to Lebanese party and terrorist organization Hezbollah. The members of the committee had established that, in accordance with a 1955 ICJ treaty, the Court had jurisdiction over the case.

The debate was, however, that the CIA was a biased source, since American institutions benefitted from the veracity of this source. Therefore, it had “to be taken with a grain of salt”, as Justice Bradley claimed. They had not, however, found any other sources to back that of the CIA, giving the Justices little reason to distrust the CIA.

The United Nations General Assembly Discusses Disarmament and Nuclear Proliferation

By Seeba Chaachouh, CBC/ Radio Canada

Delegates in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) discussed the topic of disarmament in small and developing countries, while proposing different approaches on how to start disarming them. The delegate of the United States of America suggested that while focusing on disarmament and nuclear proliferation in developing countries, the U.S. also wants to start funding programs for those nations to help them develop their social and educational spectrums.

The delegate of Canada discussed his plan to stop the distribution of small arms, reduce corruption, and introduce cross-border cooperation, as well as starting an economic integration program. "With (...) economic integration in the future for developing countries, there is a bright future of cooperation, of development, and most certainly of the disarmament just as was done in Europe less than 70 years ago," said the delegate of Canada.

The delegates of New Zealand, Russia and the United Kingdom voiced their stance on the topic. The delegates of the United Kingdom and Russia were both in favour to gradually disarm smaller, developing countries. "I want to do it [disarmament] very gradually, I don't want it to be complete disarmament and it has to take place overtime," said the delegate of the U.K. The delegate of New Zealand said that they also have similar goals and that even gradual change is considered as change. However, their interest is focused on passing small resolutions that can be easily implemented.

"We are hoping that this weekend we will be able to pass a motion that will set some norms and regulations, as well as strengthen programs that help small nations, especially nations with conflicts to develop," explained the delegate of New Zealand.

Le Liban et la Nouvelle-Zélande : divergences entre développé et en voie de développement

Par Jenna Rossi, Le Monde

OTTAWA - La Nouvelle-Zélande, au sein du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés, propose des actions pour faire face à la crise des réfugiés. Par contre, certains pays voisins du conflit, dont le Liban, sont incertains de l'efficacité de ces propositions. La Nouvelle-Zélande dicte que «[...] Plusieurs réfugiés qualifiés se retrouvent à ne rien faire en attendant des visa, ce qui leur est injuste. Ils peuvent être productifs et aider leur entourage.»

En effet, la Nouvelle-Zélande, comme plusieurs pays dont les États-Unis et la Russie, se fie principalement aux méthodes de financement afin d'aider à améliorer la qualité de vie des réfugiés au Moyen-Orient. Ceci dit, le délégué dit entendre les plaintes du Liban et croit qu'entre la délocalisation des réfugiés et le financement de la part des pays développés, «il doit y avoir une modération entre les deux».

«Nous devons attaquer la racine de ces problèmes. [...] nous devons promouvoir plus d'opérations de maintien de paix.», dit le représentant Néo-Zélandais. Le Liban, un pays en voie de développement ayant accepté 2 millions de réfugiés dans son pays d'une population de 4 millions, croit que la dépendance actuelle sur les pays du Moyen-Orient est irréaliste. « Le fait est qu'au Liban, nous avons aussi notre propre population de laquelle il faut s'occuper, mais nous devons divulguer un montant croissant d'argent afin d'aider les réfugiés.»

Les pays en voie de développement de la région, incluant la Jordanie et le Liban se trouvent effectivement à dépenser de très large portions de leur PIB pour l'accueil aux réfugiés, ce qui n'est pas le cas pour les pays développés. Selon le Liban, les pays du HCR devraient «pouvoir distribuer un pourcentage égal de [leurs] PIB afin d'aider la crise.»

Bref, le Liban dit entendre les opinions et les propositions de la Nouvelle-Zélande et des pays développés, mais soutient que «plus doit être fait».

Russia unites with the United States over disarmament

Nykole King, Russia Today

During the General Assembly today, the delegate of the Russian Federation and the United States stated their united front on the reduction of small nuclear arms. They will continue to push for more regulations on trafficked weapons, especially in states that are conducive for terrorist organizations. Agreement on this topic comes after both states acknowledge that their past tensions during the arms race cannot continue. Moving past mutually assured destruction to international cooperation is the best way to repair political ties and resolve armed conflict.

This move has been out of character for the Security Council members as the delegate of China and Germany has also agreed to support this pact. Germany believes that once superpowers commit themselves to the reduction of nuclear arms then small states will follow.

When asked how they will enforce disarmament, the delegate of Germany said that states should be willing to follow the example, but sanctions may be used. The delegate of the United States said that the General Assembly should target the trafficking of arms in developing countries where some states are more likely to house terrorist organizations. The delegate also stated that the international community must support development in these states in order to reduce the influence of terrorist organizations. The first order would be to regulate the sale of arms globally.