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CANADA RELAXES IMMIGRATION RULES

In her statement on January 19 regarding Canada's new set of immigration regulations, Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, dealt in the following words with the important section concerning the "admissible classes" of immigrant:

"...The most important provision of the new Regulations is Section 31, which is in fact the core of Canada's immigration policy. The new Regulation 31, replacing Section 20 of the former Regulations, lays primary stress on education, training and skills as the main condition of admissibility, regardless of the country of origin of the applicant. If a person can qualify on these grounds and has sufficient means to establish himself in Canada until he finds employment, or, alternatively, is coming forward to approved employment, or with suitable plans for self-establishment in Canada, he or she is admissible, subject only to the normal requirements of good health, good character and so forth. This means that any suitably qualified person, from any part of the world, can be considered for immigration to Canada entirely on his own merit, without regard to his race, colour, national origin or the country from which he comes. This is a substantial advance over the former Regulations in that the selection of immigrants, in so far as selection on the basis of skills is concerned, will be done without discrimination of any kind.

ACCEPTABLE CANADIAN SPONSORS

"Likewise, if a person has the requisite skills and potential ability to establish himself in Canada, he or she may also be sponsored by a parent, parent-in-law or fiancée already in Canada provided the sponsor is a Canadian citizen. The Canadian sponsor must be able to provide care and maintenance for such immigrant until the latter is able to look after himself. The sponsorship at the Canadian end takes the place of the requirement that the immigrant himself must have sufficient means, or alternatively, firm employment or self-employment opportunities.

"Sub-section (c) of Section 31 provides for the admission of a somewhat wider list of immediate dependents and close relatives. It applies not only to sponsors who are Canadian citizens but also to persons other than Canadian citizens who have been legally admitted to Canada for permanent residence and who wish to bring forward a mother, father, husband, wife, grandparent, fiancée or an unmarried minor child. This provision is of universal application; its principle effect will be to improve the position of persons from countries which have received less favoured treatment in the past, by the inclusion of grandparents and fiancées in the admissible categories of dependents and by the elimination of age-limits with respect to fathers and mothers.