

trash,' and the other was the lady giving a piece of bread to a refugee." Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, Andrew Cardozo, said that MP Alex Kindy (PC — Calgary East) was trying to stir up a racist backlash when he said that civil servants were making money out of immigrants and the federal government was guilty of a cover-up relating to the migrants. Mr. Cardozo was also critical of MP Reg Stackhouse (PC — Scarborough West), who said on July 15 that the migrants, who were still being held at CFB Stadacona, should not be allowed to live in "normal Canadian communities" while awaiting a decision on their claims for refugee status. "Mr. Stackhouse, an Anglican minister and the chairman of the [Commons] human rights committee, seems to be riding off to join the dinosaur wing of the Conservative party," Mr. Cardozo said (*Globe and Mail*, July 17).

During the week of July 13 Sher Singh, a Toronto lawyer and a Sikh, was approached by the Department of Immigration to act as an independent, unpaid adviser to the department on the status of the migrants. Mr. Singh said he spoke to them over two days and concluded that their flight from India was justified, that they were not part of any organized terrorist conspiracy, and that they were in fact fleeing arbitrary arrests, killings and terror in India. The young men reported being rounded up in Punjab border towns by police, and described disappearances and deaths of others rounded up with them, Mr. Singh said. He added that he had been surprised that the migrants seemed so happy and grateful to the people who were virtually their jailers at Stadacona, and "that was my starting point where I could understand where the hell they were coming from." Mr. Singh also said that the dearth of refugees accepted from among the Indian Sikhs who had applied for refugee status showed that the government had not given proper weight to information about the persecution of Sikhs in India, especially since the raid on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. Canada had friendly relations with India, so "they don't want to call them refugees because India would be upset if you called them refugees" (*Globe and Mail*, July 21).

Following initial hearings, on July 24 the *Globe and Mail* reported that seven of the migrants would be held for security reasons, two were being held for medical reasons, one had been released on a sponsorship, and the rest would be released as soon as their sponsorships could be arranged. On July 29 ninety-two migrants boarded buses for Toronto, and the others a flight for Vancouver, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported.

The *Globe and Mail* reported on July 29 that the Coalition for a Just Refugee Policy, representing 200 ethnic, church and labor groups, had called upon the UN to investigate the Canadian government's handling of the Asian migrants. The group accused the government of breaching human rights, conducting a misinformation campaign and using the migrants' plight to promote its proposed new legislation, Bill C-55. "The refugees are being used to foster racist hysteria in this country," said a spokesman for the group. "We are left with no choice but to ask a higher body to look into this matter."

Finally, at the request of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Speaker John Fraser agreed to recall the House of

Commons in August in order to debate Bill C-55, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported on August 1. The Prime Minister said he sought the recall because the legislation was needed to protect Canada's immigration system, the report said.

Defence

White Paper Tabled

On June 5 Defence Minister Perrin Beatty tabled in the Commons his department's White Paper on defence policy. The key initiatives in the Paper were (Department of National Defence synopsis of the defence White Paper, June 5):

To create a three-ocean navy by

1. Building six new frigates in addition to the six currently under construction and the four destroyers being modernized
2. Acquiring a fleet of ten to twelve nuclear-powered submarines to operate in the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic
3. Installing a modern, fixed, under-ice surveillance system in the Arctic
4. Developing new sonar systems and acquiring detection array towing vessels for better underwater surveillance
5. Building minesweepers for the Naval Reserve
6. Acquiring new shipborne anti-submarine warfare helicopters.

To reinforce surveillance by

1. Purchasing at least six new long-range patrol aircraft
2. Modernizing the existing fleet of medium-range patrol aircraft
3. Maintaining the strength of CF-18 aircraft and arming them effectively
4. Promoting research, development and deployment of space surveillance systems
5. Investigating the installation of synthetic aperture radar in existing aircraft.

To strengthen territorial defence by

1. Expanding the Canadian Rangers, improving their equipment, training and support
2. Creating new Militia brigades which, together with the Special Service Force and the Canadian Airborne Regiment, would form a task force
3. Providing new equipment and training for territorial defence
4. Creating within the Militia a military vital point guard to secure key installations across the country
5. Establishing a northern training center in the High Arctic
6. Setting up a regional command structure.

To improve the credibility of Canada's contribution to alliance deterrence in Europe by

1. Cancelling our unsuitable commitment to send a brigade group and two fighter squadrons to northern Norway in order to consolidate our commitments on the central front