

Immigration levels set

The federal government plans to take in 130,000 to 140,000 immigrants in 1981, Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced in a recent report tabled in the House of Commons.

The level, determined following consultations with provincial governments and a number of non-governmental organizations, is expected to meet Canada's projected labour market needs while maintaining its commitment to family reunification and the resettlement of refugees, said Mr. Axworthy.

"The government remains committed to the policy that Canadian citizens and permanent residents will have the first opportunity to fill jobs and will be assisted to do so through the continuing use of training and mobility programs," explained Mr. Axworthy. "Special task forces now studying the needs of the labour market during the 1980s will not be reporting until next spring. However, the economy will be expanding at a significant rate and projections already available indicate that not all our labour market needs will be met domestically. The recruitment of workers from abroad will continue to be necessary to meet some part of the demand for skilled and technical workers," he added.

Indochina largest source

The plans for 1981 include a projected global intake of 16,000 government assisted refugees. There will be more emphasis on refugees from Latin America and Eastern Europe, although it is expected that Indochina will remain the largest single source. There will also be an increase in the size of the contingency reserve, providing an expanded capacity to respond quickly to new situations that may emerge in the coming year, Mr. Axworthy added. Refugees sponsored by private groups are not included in the figure representing the government's commitment, which means private groups will be able to increase the total number of refugees resettled in Canada.

Until now, immigration levels have been set on an annual basis. Once the special task forces studying labour market needs have completed their work, it is the intention of the government to proceed to a medium-term planning cycle of three years.

CESO helps developing countries

The Canadian Executive Service Overseas (CESO) has provided short-term consulting services for more than 2,000 projects in 70 developing countries in the past 12 years.

CESO, which is designed to assist and advise in feasibility studies, policy review, training programs and "tune up" of indigenous organizations in developing countries, was formed on the initiative of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to contribute to Canada's foreign aid program.

CESO advisers, with many years of training and responsibility, serve without fee or salary for periods of up to six months. The host organization provides accommodation, meals, local transportation and a negotiated amount for incidental expenses while CESO pays air transportation from Canada and return, medical expenses and insurance.

The CESO program has the potential of assisting in the formulation of joint ventures between Canadian industry and organizations of developing countries in co-ordination with CIDA.

Contribution to energy conference



Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Michel Dupuy (left) presents a \$100,000 cheque to M.H. Gherab, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The cheque, presented to Mr. Gherab at UN Headquarters in New York, will facilitate preparations for the conference to be held in Nairobi in August 1981.

Aid to Africa

Canada is contributing \$2 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help victims of man-made disasters in Africa.

Margaret Catley-Carlson, acting president of the Canadian International Development Agency, said \$1 million in cash was being provided to the ICRC immediately and the balance in January subject to federal government approval.

The ICRC is assisting and protecting approximately 350,000 victims of internal and international conflicts in 12 African countries under its mandate of promoting the humanitarian principles of the Geneva conventions.

Protection and assistance to prisoners of war, political detainees and their dependents, the dissemination of the humanitarian principles and promotion of their application by governments are essential components of the ICRC program.

Festival for disabled youth planned for Toronto

The Canadian Bureau for International Education and the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped (COPOH) will co-sponsor the Mobility International Youth Festival to be held in Toronto, August 2-9, 1981.

Mobility International, founded in 1973, is an organization based in London, England. It is devoted to furthering the integration of handicapped people into society through travel and exchange. The festival will be part of Canada's activities for the International Year of Disabled Persons. The theme for the week-long festival is "Living Together - Vive la Compagnie".

Over 300 delegates from more than 20 countries are expected to attend the festival. The program will focus on three areas:

- seminar and study sessions on topics relating to equal participation by handicapped people in society. Among subjects planned for discussion are education, housing, sport and leisure, transportation and public advocacy;
- field visits to agencies and institutions in the Toronto area to experience the life of handicapped people in the area; and
- tours of local attractions including Niagara Falls.