

Mr. Chairman, we have examined with care the High Commissioner's Note of July 9 and find ourselves in broad agreement with his analysis of the situation and with his suggested plan of action. We believe it is particularly important to emphasize the inter-related nature of steps to be taken. One aspect of the solution cannot be separated from the other. The plan will be ineffectual if the countries of exodus: Viet-Nam, Kampuchea and Laos, do not accept their responsibilities. The international community holds them responsible for the fate of all their citizens. Certainly their citizens must be able to exercise the fundamental human right to leave their homeland if they so wish. Canada has repeatedly stressed the obligation of all countries to honour this basic right.

But the governments of the exodus have the paramount responsibility to ensure that departures of their citizens take place in a safe and orderly manner, and without threat or penalty of any kind. The international community rejects as an unconscionable violation of human rights the attempt to expel or otherwise eliminate any ethnic community or any socio-economic group. Only if the countries of origin respond to these humane and just demands will it be possible for the problem to be solved rather than the symptoms merely alleviated. This must be fully emphasized in the summing up of our meeting.

Mr. Chairman, Canada thanks you for calling this meeting. It is a tribute to your high office, and to yourself, that your call has had so large a response. Canada is doing what she can in these dreadful circumstances. May no country leave this hall unable to say the same.