

foot on shore legally. The Hague Agreement provides for the acquisition of legal status in countries which are parties to the Agreement, provided the refugee seaman has some connection with that country, such as service on its ships.

In announcing Canada's adherence, the Ministers noted that because Canada's treatment of refugees is already in accord with the letter and spirit of the Convention, accession does not add any rights to those already enjoyed by refugees in Canada.

Canada, as a major immigration country, has been deeply involved in the re-settlement of refugees. Since the end of World War II, more than 300,000 have been admitted, and these included many who were unskilled, sick or socially handicapped.

Because past policies have for the most part been designed to help solve the plight of persons displaced as a result of events arising out of World War II, almost all of the refugees admitted in the past twenty years have been of European origin. Coincident with accession to the Convention, greater attention will be given to the acceptance of refugees for settlement in Canada from other parts of the world.