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CANADA TIGHTENS IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

On July 8, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Jean Marchand, announced in the House of Commons, "a new policy governing those persons who come to Canada as visitors and then endeavour to remain as immigrants, in this way circumventing the normal immigrant channels". A situation now existed, the Minister explained, which amounted to a wholesale circumvention of our normal systems of immigrant selection and control". Mr. Marchand then proceeded to describe how the condition that was to be remedied had arisen and to outline the measures he proposed:

I should explain how the present alarming situation developed. In August 1958, under similar circumstances, a policy was introduced whereby most visitors then in Canada, and seeking to stay permanently, were allowed to do so. Future arrivals were warned that they would be refused permission to stay. Under this policy over 5,000 persons were granted landed-immigrant status and stringent rules were applied to new arrivals. Unfortunately, these rules were found to be overly strict and exceptions began to be made. In 1961, in keeping with a worldwide trend, Canada began to waive visas for visitors from many friendly countries. This greatly stimulated the tourist traffic, but also made it possible for those who were unable, or who doubted their ability, to meet immigrant selection standards to gain entry as tourists.

The Government has no desire to adopt measures that will impede the tourist traffic or impose irksome new procedures for the travelling public. Nor is it desirable to adopt a rigid policy towards bona fide visitors who come here and like our country so much

that they want to stay. But it is essential that solutions to the present problem are found which will deal with the cases now on hand and prevent another recurrence of the problem in a few years' time. Accordingly the Government has approved the following policy:

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First, visitors who have arrived in Canada on or before today's date and who have already applied for permission to stay or who do so by July 25, 1966, will have their applications approved provided:

- (a) They are not within the prohibited classes described in the Immigration Act;
- (b) they did not gain admission to Canada by any fraudulent means other than concealment of their true intentions; and
- (c) they qualify in one of the following categories:
- (i) those who would be acceptable as sponsored or unsponsored immigrants if they were applying as such abroad; or
- (ii) those who have married citizens or legal permanent residents of Canada on or before today; or
- (iii) those who have established a successful legitimate business in Canada; or
- (iv) those who have been steadily employed in Canada for at least eight months; or
- (v) those whose education in their own country is equivalent to ten years successfully completed in our school system.

The Department will deal with these applications as quickly as possible and give most applicants notice of the decision in their cases fairly soon.