

# Foreign Students

149. The Committee agrees that Canada should continue to welcome foreign students. It endorses the opinion of the National Union of Students that "*The diversity of backgrounds which (foreign students) bring to Canadian universities enriches the cultural milieu*" (0110). Study in Canada is consistent with Canada's endorsement of policies of free movement of people and ideas, and enables us to share our specialized skills. And the Committee recognizes that Canadian students studying abroad outnumber foreign students studying here. It feels that study in Canada enables young people to learn about and develop positive impressions of Canada.
150. If these benefits are to continue, however, the Committee believes that energetic action is required to combat abuses, and to this end recommends that all students be required to obtain valid student visas *before* arriving in Canada. However, the Committee believes that present regulations should be relaxed in one particular: the visa should be valid for the length of the intended period of study in Canada, subject to an annual report to a Canada Immigration Centre with proof that the student has qualified for the next year's program.
151. The Committee notes widespread parental and student anxiety that a large number of foreign students may be displacing some qualified Canadians from many universities and professional schools. In fact, however, the 1974 foreign student enrolment of roughly 32,000 represents less than six per cent of the more than 560,000 total student enrolment in full-time post-secondary education. But, surprising as it may seem, neither the federal nor provincial governments have foreknowledge of or control over the numbers of students accepted by educational institutions in Canada.
152. The Committee believes that there is need for closer scrutiny of colleges and schools accepting foreign students since there is evidence that some institutions are being used simply as a device for gaining entry to Canada. The Committee also suspects that some schools are attractive less for the specialized training which they