

also opposed to the expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations because of the principle involved and because the United Nations has more opportunity to exert its influence with South Africa in the organization.

No opportunity was given to vote clause by clause because a resolution was put through by a very small majority providing that the only vote could be on the resolution as a whole. Canada, for example, would have voted in favour of the clause calling for the setting up of a committee. . . .

Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration

On November 13, Mr. Green made the following statement:

. . . In view of recent press reports concerning Canada's withdrawal from the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, it seems advisable to set out the reasons which led to Canada's decision to resign. ICEM, of course, is not a United Nations body but is a committee of some 30 governments. I might add that Canada is not the only country to withdraw from the organization. Sweden resigned last year. Canada's decision to withdraw was taken only after a most careful review of all relevant factors, and was concurred in by the various departments concerned.

Canada was one of the founding members of ICEM, which was formed in 1951 to meet the problems created by refugees and non-refugee surplus populations in Europe after World War II. At that time there were large numbers of European refugees living in camps awaiting resettlement opportunities. The problem of non-refugee surplus populations was still critical for a number of European countries, where it tended to be one of the factors impeding economic development. ICEM facilitated the transport of refugee and non-refugee migrants from European countries with surplus populations to countries overseas welcoming increased immigration. In the years from 1951 to 1961 ICEM played a very useful role in the resettlement overseas of refugees and migrants.

However, toward the end of World Refugee Year in 1961 when, under United Nations auspices, an intensified effort was made to deal with refugee problems, it became apparent that the refugee problem had been substantially reduced. There are now just a few thousand refugees living in camps, and it is expected that these will be resettled in the very near future. In North America and Europe and elsewhere there are signs that we are returning to a more normal activity in the field of migration. The European economy now seems capable of absorbing most of the surplus population in that continent without international assistance.

As far as Canada is concerned, we prefer — and I think this has been the policy down through the years — to rely on bilateral arrangements and on our own immigration facilities. In normal times Canada is not persuaded that national migration requires or justifies by itself the existence of an international agency. This is the essence of the reason why Canada is withdrawing.