

assessment set out in the Immigration Regulations of 1967. However, provision is made for the admission of refugees who do not achieve the minimally-required 50 units of assessment under the usual selection factors as long as established information indicates that there is sufficient private or government assistance available to ensure the applicant's successful establishment in Canada.

It is often remarked that Canada's response to major international crises is much better known to the public than the continuing regular refugee program, under which an annual average of 2,000 refugees has been admitted for permanent residence in Canada. This program commenced with the United Nations World Refugee Year in 1959 and continued up to the mid-1960s. On the other hand, international crises requiring immediate attention continue to erupt with characteristic suddenness and unpredictability. Statistics indicate, however, that Canada's response to these crises appears to have been more generous in the 1950s and the 1960s than in the 1970s.

In more recent years, Canadian refugee policy appears to have exhibited considerable restraint with respect to the admittance of refugees. The most recent example is Prime Minister Trudeau's reluctance to admit Rhodesian refugees. Partly responsible have been the special-assistance costs associated with resettling refugees in Canada, particularly during a period of recessionary trends and financial restraints. Over the years, prevailing economic conditions and the special needs of each refugee situation have determined the nature and extent of this Government assistance.

#### **Co-operation espoused**

Canadian Government policy on the refugee issue has always espoused close co-operation with national and international agencies in responding to refugee crises. One underlying criticism of Canadian refugee policy, however, has been the theoretical premise that Canada's most potent contribution in providing resettlement opportunities is to concentrate on helping large numbers of people who will require relatively little assistance rather than coming to the aid of small numbers of people requiring substantial economic assistance. Indeed, the statistics vividly reflect this feature of Canadian refugee policy. Approximately 10 per cent of all immigrants admitted to Canada since 1946 were refugees or members of oppressed minorities.

It is commonly considered that the actual and potential number of refugees on

a global basis show signs of increasing rather than abating. Recent wars of liberation, border disputes, tribal conflicts, and internal political upheavals have contributed largely to the temporary or permanent displacement of many thousand of individuals. Thus, Canada's international responsibilities in this area ought to reflect the humanitarian considerations that have been applied in the past. This is particularly important since the only certainty in this avenue of the future is that the prospects for refugee crises will continue. A fundamental requirement in the evolution of future refugee policy would, therefore, require considerable flexibility and speed in responding to international crises in an enlightened and effective manner. It is, indeed, imperative that future refugee policy should be closely aligned with Canada's foreign-policy objectives and on a par with Canada's image as a benefactor among the international community of nations.

#### **Overlap**

In conclusion, there is no doubt in the author's mind of the significant overlap between immigration policy and foreign policy. This is particularly true in such areas as international co-operation, foreign aid, issues related to the brain drain, refugee policies, and programs for dealing with global population pressures.

Furthermore, it would seem that future immigration policies will attempt to maintain the balance between the English- and French-speaking communities by encouraging immigrants from French-speaking countries or those regarded as "franco-phonisables". Although these may appear to be creditable policies, caution should be exercised in case such policies are construed as discriminatory and "trigger" socio-political pressures from other ethnic groups that may in time lead to further aggravations with international ramifications.

Another immediate sphere of concern is the weakness of international law in dealing with the jurisdictional aspects of international migrations. One of the glaring anachronisms of our time is the failure of the current definition of a refugee to take account of the current circumstances of international strife.

Finally, it would seem to me that it is imperative that we afford due consideration to the international consequences and repercussions resulting from Canadian domestic policies. One hopes that the soon-to-be-proclaimed Immigration Act will deal with the concerns outlined in the foregoing analysis in a satisfactory manner.

*Increased  
restraint  
in admitting  
refugees*