

Gawalewicz, past president of the Canadian Polish Congress, agreed, saying, "In my opinion, you can't be loyal to more than one country." Enrico del Castello, executive director of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, however, did not agree. "The origins of people should not be formally denied," he said. "It's a step in the wrong direction" (*Ottawa Citizen*, July 4).

Immigration

New Refugee Legislation

The government continued to receive criticism during this 2-month period for Bill C-55, introduced in May, aimed at establishing a new refugee determination process (See "International Canada" for April and May, 1987). In the Commons on June 11 Dan Heap (NDP — Spadina) charged that the proposed new system would not produce consistent decisions because there would be no process to review decisions made by an independent refugee board that the legislation would create. Junior immigration minister Gerry Weiner replied that his department had opted for a "good quality hearing" instead of a review process. In response to a charge that potential refugees who were returned from Canada to "safe third countries" would be endangered, Mr. Weiner said that Canada would have "arrangements" with third countries to ensure people's safety. Mr. Heap asked whether the arrangements would be "public, iron-clad agreements," to which Mr. Weiner replied, "We never said we would have iron-clad agreements. But under the arrangements we have with those countries, their records on human rights must be as good as ours before we return someone, or we would be violating our international treaty obligations."

On June 16 the *Montreal Gazette* reported that Mr. Weiner had reacted to criticism from refugee support groups and immigration lawyers by saying that the groups "represent a minority of the Canadian population," pointing to a *Toronto Star* survey which had indicated that 83 percent of Canadians supported Bill C-55. Mr. Weiner also said that if the US could not guarantee that a Central American refugee claimant "will be allowed to remain there until his hearing is held in Canada, then we're not going to send him back [to the US]." The Minister also promised that "if there's even a thread of a chance" that a person is a legitimate refugee, he would go on to the second review level, an oral hearing by two board members "who would then make a full determination," the *Gazette* reported.

Only ten members of the PC caucus turned up on June 16 for a meeting with a delegation of church representatives, including Anne Squire, moderator of the United Church of Canada, Archbishop Gilles Ouellet of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, George Cram of the Anglican Church's World Relief and Development Fund, Michael Schelew of Amnesty International, and Lorne Waldman of the Coalition for a Just Refugee Policy. The group expressed disappointment in the turnout for their presentation of an alternative to Bill C-55, and added that "we got the impression that they have already made up their minds." Mr. Waldman, a Toronto lawyer, said, "It seems a lot of the

Tories don't really understand what the bill is about. They think it cracks down on abusers without preventing real refugees finding a haven in Canada. If the legislation goes through as is, a lot of legitimate refugees will be turned away at the border" (*Globe and Mail*, June 17).

The *Ottawa Citizen* reported on June 26 that the second reading of Bill C-55 would be delayed until the Commons returned following the summer recess. The report also said that some MPs were suggesting that the bill would be allowed to die and that the government would prepare a new bill or a greatly modified version.

Arrival of Asian Migrants

In the early morning hours of July 10 174 people arrived near Yarmouth on the south shore of Nova Scotia, walked several kilometers to a country highway, and began to shout "Refugees" to passing drivers. The RCMP were called and, after eating food brought to them by local residents, the migrants, who appeared to be Sikhs, were taken by bus to Halifax. They had arrived in the midst of a thick coastal fog following reports of a strange boat off the coast (*Globe and Mail*, July 11).

On July 12 Immigration Minister Benoit Bouchard said that under the existing legislation the migrants could not be deported, even if they were not genuine refugees. He said it was too early to determine whether they were refugees, and that the incident emphasized the need for the government's proposed refugee-determination legislation, Bill C-55. Dan Heap (NDP — Spadina) said that the government should not deny refugee status to the migrants just because they might have used false documents or travelled through another country to get to Canada. "If he is a real refugee, the fact that there was some trickery used to get out of the other country and into Canada is not to be held against him," Mr. Heap said (*Globe and Mail*, July 13).

While the migrants spent their first night in Canada at CFB Stadacona in a military gymnasium, two men were arrested at Halifax International Airport on July 12 in connection with their arrival in Canada. At the same time, a freighter suspected of having carried the migrants was arrested off the Nova Scotia coast. The *Amelie* was boarded by Coast Guard and RCMP and taken to Halifax (*Ottawa Citizen*, July 13).

On July 14 the two arrested men, Rolf Nygren, a Swede living in Spain, and Jasvir Singh of England, were fined \$5,000 each and sentenced to one year and three months in jail respectively. Both men had pleaded guilty to helping the Indian migrants enter Canada illegally (*Globe and Mail*, July 15). A third man, who had acted as skipper of the *Amelie*, was convicted of aiding and abetting an illegal entry into Canada. Castor Lasalle of Spain was fined \$2,500 and sentenced to thirty days in jail. Charges against two other Spanish crew members were dropped (*Globe and Mail*, July 16).

On July 17 Immigration Minister Benoit Bouchard said that his department had received an overwhelmingly negative response to the arrival of the Indian migrants. "Ninety-nine percent have said, 'Send them back,'" he said. But he added that there were "two pictures of the story, two images . . . the minister has to deal with." They were both from Nova Scotia, "one was the guy with the sign reading 'Go home,