

PROBLEM OF REFUGEES

A vital step forward in the achievement of durable peace and stability in the Middle East is to ensure that justice be done to the Palestinian refugees. These people for too long have been the losers in the tragic conflict of interests in the area. The problem is, however, of such magnitude that only a combination of methods can produce a solution. It would be an illusion to go on believing that the problem of refugees will simply be solved on the basis of their return to Israel. Similarly, Arab states could not be expected to shoulder alone the burden of resettling and integrating in Arab countries those refugees who might make this choice. An international effort in a United Nations context directed at regional economic development in the Middle East and related to resettlement is a prime requirement, which members of the UN have an obligation to consider. Canada is prepared to play its part in such an international effort....

RISE IN LABOUR FORCE

Employment rose during April and May by an estimated 284,000 to 7,409,000, an increase above the average for this time of year. Unemployment declined less owing to an unusually large inflow to the labour market. At 304,000 in May, total unemployment was 61,000 lower than in April. The labour force increased by 223,000 to 7,713,000, during the month.

The labour force at 7,713,000 in May was 330,000, or 4.5 percent, higher than the figure for last year. Employment was up 273,000 over the year and unemployment was up 57,000.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment levels in all regions reflected the upswing in seasonal activity across the country.

During April and May, farm employment rose by 96,000 and non-farm employment rose by 188,000. Both these increases were above average for this time of year.

Some 137,000, or almost half the April-to-May increase in employment, was among persons under 25 years of age. Employment of persons 25 years of age and over increased by 147,000. For the 14-24-year group the gain was above average for the time of year; the increase was about average for those 25 years and over.

Employment was higher this year in community, business and personal service (142,000), transportation, communication and other utilities (53,000), manufacturing (48,000), and trade (33,000). There was a relatively small year-to-year decline in construction employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment declined by 61,000, to 304,000 during April and May. The drop was less than usual for the season, reflecting in part a larger-than-usual influx of students into the labour market. Unemployment among persons 14 to 19 years of age increased by 14,000 during the month. Among those 20 years of age and over, unemployment declined by 75,000, a somewhat smaller-than-usual decrease.

The unemployment total of 304,000 was 57,000 higher than in May 1966. Of this total, 236,000 were men and 68,000 were women. Unemployment was higher than the figure recorded a year ago for both groups.

Of the total number of unemployed, 207,000 or 68 per cent, had been unemployed for less than four months. Some 57,000 had been unemployed for four to six months and 40,000 for seven months or more.

Total unemployment in May represented 3.9 per cent of the labour force compared to 3.3 per cent in May 1966 and 3.7 per cent in May 1965. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in May 1967 was 4.3 per cent.