

CHAPITRE XI/CHAPTER XI  
POLITIQUE D'IMMIGRATION  
IMMIGRATION POLICY

858.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, August 24, 1961

COMMENTARY ON THE PROPOSED REVISION  
OF THE IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

You have asked for our comments on the proposed revision of the Immigration Regulations, for the next meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, which I understand will take place at 9.30 a.m. today. We are restricting our comments to Regulations 18, 19 and 20 as these would appear to be the only Regulations which might affect our relations with other Commonwealth countries or with foreign countries. The other sections of the Regulations deal mainly with the administration of the Act in Canada. (I believe that you have a copy of the revised Regulations.)

2. There has been a complete change of Regulation 20 defining the groups of admissible immigrants. Under the existing regulations four groups of persons in order of preference were named;

(a) Citizens of the old Commonwealth countries, Ireland, France and the United States who may enter almost without restriction,

(b) Citizens of Western Europe or refugees from Europe who may enter under sponsorship or placement for employment by the Immigration authorities,

(c) Citizens of some Middle East countries or of any country of Europe (mostly Soviet-bloc) or of North, Central or South America who are relatives of a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada by whom they are sponsored,

(d) Citizens of any other country (Africa and Asia) who are close relatives of a Canadian citizen or of a permanent resident of Canada who sponsors their admission.

3. Under the Revised Regulations, the only limitation on admission is general assimilability and employability (irrespective of citizenship or country of origin). In addition, under Regulation 20 (b) the close relatives of Canadian citizens would be admitted and, under Regulation 20 (c) the close relatives (more strictly defined) of legal residents of Canada.

4. These regulations mean that there would no longer be any limitation on admission to Canada for reasons of citizenship, colour, class, race or creed provided only that the prospective immigrants meet the requirements of employability and sufficient means for maintenance until established or accepted by the Director of Immigration either for placement in employment or for establishment in a business, trade, profession or in agriculture. I understand from Immigration officials that there would be no Ministerial discretion to refuse applicants if they met the required conditions. The only practical limitation on the proposal, according to the information I have been able to obtain, would be the availability of security screening (and immigration processing) facilities. For example, there would be no security