



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA OF THE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, will make an official visit to Canada from May 21 to 23, at the invitation of the Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Monique Vézina.

Mr. Hocké was elected to the position of High Commissioner by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1985 and took office on January 1st, 1986. Until his election, Mr. Hocké was Director of Operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Having served with this organization for nearly two decades, Mr. Hocké has first-hand experience of international humanitarian assistance and protection of victims of war.

This visit will be one of Mr. Hocké's first official visits since taking office, and underlines the importance he attaches to Canada, a major donor to refugee assistance programs and a country which has, over the years, provided resettlement for hundreds of thousands of refugees.

During his visit, Mr. Hocké will meet the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister for External Relations, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Minister of State (Immigration), the Canadian International Development Agency, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations helping refugees.

The High Commissioner will hold a press conference on May 22, 1986 at 4:15 pm, at the National Press Theatre, 150 Wellington St., Ottawa.