

held in Geneva in April 1981, raised over \$550 million (US) in assistance and brought the problems of African refugees to world attention. Canada was a major contributor, announcing \$22.4 million in the form of contributions to UNHCR programs and emergency food aid. These contributions covered refugee situations in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti, Uganda, Chad, Zaire and Angola. In other regions, Canada also made major contributions: \$7.4 million to Palestinian refugees, \$10 million to Afghan refugees, \$0.5 million to Central American refugees and over \$6 million to relief operations in Indochina. The latter contribution brought to over \$23 million Canadian assistance to this area since 1979.

Canada's global response to those refugees requiring resettlement has been in recent years, on a per capita basis, unmatched in the world. In 1981, further Indochinese refugees were resettled, bringing to over 70,000 the number admitted since 1979. Also, large numbers of Polish refugees were resettled. Under the 1981 refugee plan, about 15,000 refugees were admitted to Canada, principally from Indochina and Eastern Europe, but including areas such as Latin America and Africa.

The Department's special adviser on refugees continued to serve as its representative on the Refugee Status Advisory Committee during 1981. Decisions were made on 2,080 claims for refugee status in Canada, of which 407 or 19.6 per cent were accepted in accordance with Canada's obligations under the 1951 UN convention. The special adviser represented the Department on an interdepartmental advisory group responsible for the processing of sponsorship requests of political prisoners and dissidents abroad. In consultation with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, the Department undertook to review Canada's relations with the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM). At present, Canada has the status of observer on the committee.

Arising from Canada's concern regarding the seriousness of mass refugee situations, Canada has been one of the principals at the UN in pursuing political initiatives designed to address some of the fundamental aspects of these serious phenomena. In 1981, Canada continued to promote its 1979 initiative in the Commission on Human Rights concerning human rights and massive exoduses which was designed to focus the attention of the international community on the relationship between human rights violations and the massive exoduses of refugees. This led in 1981 to the commissioning by the UN of the study on the question, which it is hoped, will be the first step towards dealing with this difficult problem. Canada was also the co-sponsor of an initiative, by the Federal Republic of Germany in the UN General Assembly, which is examining ways and means to avert flows of refugees and consider internationally-acceptable guidelines to accomplish this goal.

Family reunification

The Department was involved in a further series of official representations on family reunification which the Canadian government made to other governments, particularly in Eastern Europe. Success was achieved