

Vietnamese victims of typhoons and flood damage. At the beginning of 1978, in response to the exodus of refugees from Vietnam, Canada created a program to resettle 50 refugee families a month from Vietnam. Adequate as this response seemed in early 1978, the increase in the refugee outflow from Vietnam in the last four months of 1978 called for more extraordinary measures and the Canadian Government announced at the end of the year that 5,000 Vietnamese refugees would be accepted in 1979.

The South Asia subcontinent lies below an "arc of instability" that extends from Indochina to the Middle East and beyond. Regional political complexities have added urgency to the active involvement of the subcontinental countries in such issues as the North-South Dialogue and disarmament.

The visit to Canada in the autumn of 1978 of the Indian Minister of State for Commerce was a step on the way to refurbishing an old and friendly relation. It has been agreed that discussing future directions in this association both in Ottawa and in New Delhi would be of positive benefit to both countries.

The internal difficulties in Pakistan have caused concern in Canada. The Canadian Parliament passed a resolution requesting that President Zia-ul-Haq grant clemency to spare former Prime Minister Bhutto's life.