

HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Refugees and human rights

Canada, a major contributor to humanitarian assistance, allocated \$52 million to help refugees in 1981. Through such agencies as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Canada's food or cash aid went to refugees in Africa, Pakistan, Indochina and Central America.

There are approximately ten million refugees who require assistance. Per capita, Canada resettles more refugees than does any other country and in 1981 accepted 14,000 refugees from all over the world, 8,000 from Indochina. This brings the number of Indochinese resettled in Canada since 1978 to about 70,000.

Canada was re-elected to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1981 for the third consecutive term and at its thirty-seventh session was instrumental in a number of initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights. These included the sponsoring of a study that led to a resolution on the appointment of a special rapporteur on the examination of the link between human rights violations and the mass exodus of refugees and also a resolution on the rights and duties of individuals, groups and organizations to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

After years of effort by Canada and other countries, the Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly finally approved the Declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief.

On December 10, 1981, Canada ratified the International convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the thirty-second state to do so.

Immigration

Responsibility for immigration programs abroad was transferred to the Department of External Affairs on April 1, 1981. These programs include the recruitment of immigrants, the admission of refugees, the entry of tourists, students and temporary workers. Included also are the monitoring, assessment and reporting on the use of human resources, labour policies, refugee movements and human rights. Normal immigration programs continued at a high level during the year. Canadian missions issued 128,095 immigrant and 242,279 visitor visas in 1981.

The significant developments of 1981 were in the Asia and Pacific region and in Latin America. The Indochinese Refugee Program continued, with a concentration on the reunification of families. Family reunification from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam proceeded with qualified success. Citizens of India were removed from visitor visa exemption late in 1981