



REFUGEES

Canada has been second only to the United States in providing homes for the displaced. In a sense most immigrants are refugees, from poverty if not from political turmoil or enemy armies, but many have had official refugee status. Some—such as the British schoolgirls of World War II, had homes and families to return to, but most did not. In 1957 Canada admitted 37,000 Hungarians fleeing the aftermath of their uprising. During World Refugee Year, 1959-1960, Canada admitted 3,508 people, including 325 tubercular persons and 501 members of their families. One hundred Chinese refugees came from Hong Kong in 1962 and 25,000 more were admitted in subsequent years. Over 9,100 Czechs came in 1968, and some 240 Tibetan refugees were admitted in 1971. Over 4,700 Asians came from Uganda the next year, and 200 refugees from Chile were admitted in 1974.

In 1979 Canada took a vigorous role in providing homes for the Indochinese boat people. Refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos were processed by Canadian immigration officers in Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Manila and flown by Canadian commercial and military planes to staging centres in Edmonton and Montreal.

Since 1945 Canada has accepted almost 400,000 refugees from all over the world.

Photo: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

December/Decembre 1983

CANADA
TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

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Hanukkah