

fully support its strong commitment to family reunification. They also take into account the number of workers we will likely need and enable us to meet our commitment to refugee resettlement," said Mr. Axworthy.

While Canadians are being trained to meet certain specialized labour market needs, Canada will admit foreign workers to fill the immediate and critical needs of employers. As recommended by a federal study on the labour market in the 1980s, 20,000 to 25,000 selected workers will be admitted as part of the total immigration intake in each of the next three years. Mr. Axworthy stressed that the government remained committed to the policy that Canadian citizens and permanent residents have the first opportunity to fill jobs.

Based on current trends, the number of family class immigrants (close relatives of Canadian citizens and permanent residents) arriving in Canada is expected to increase moderately over the three-year planning period.

Refugee total flexible

The 1982 estimate for government-assisted refugee intake has been set at 14,000. "Because the international refugee situation is constantly changing, it is impossible to identify refugee intake for more than one year in advance," said Mr. Axworthy, adding that over the past five years Canada had resettled more refugees *per capita* than any other country. "This makes us one of the three chief immigrant- and refugee-receiving nations in the world." The others are the United States and Australia.

Mr. Axworthy said that the government was committed to speeding up the selection and processing of prospective immigrants. "The near doubling of applications at foreign posts since the begin-



Vietnamese refugees are processed under a special program announced in 1980.

ning of 1979 has resulted in a corresponding doubling in processing time." The minister added that additional staff will be assigned to posts which receive a large number of applications from family class members and from workers with pre-arranged employment.

Settlement services expanded

A special program introduced for 60,000 Indochinese refugees admitted to Canada in 1979-80 has provided the impetus for a general expansion in settlement services which is being developed under a comprehensive strategy. This strategy is aimed at providing basic services which help recent arrivals become established and ensure that basic programs available to all Canadians are made available to immigrants.

One of the most important measures of the immigration strategy has been the development of five-year federal-provincial agreements with the governments of Manitoba and Newfoundland

to assist refugees with special needs. These refugees, who include handicapped and tubercular persons and unaccompanied minors, might otherwise be considered unsuitable for admission because they need special help to become established successfully. Under the terms of the agreements, a specific number of special-needs refugees destined to these provinces will be designated each year, and both levels of governments will work jointly with private groups to provide resettlement services. The agreements also draw together a number of activities which were conducted jointly or separately.

In addition, the Department of Employment and Immigration, and the Department of the Secretary of State will undertake a comprehensive review of immigrant settlement and adaptation programs this year. Following consideration of the recommendations from this review, consultations will be held with provincial governments and with the private sector.

Under the immigrant settlement and adaptation program, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission enters into contracts with voluntary organizations at the community level to provide information, referral, interpretation, orientation, and counselling services to newly-arrived immigrants. This program was revised in April 1981, to increase its flexibility and to expand the range of services it can make available. Approval for most contracts is now given at the commission's regional offices, and some of the reporting requirements for the voluntary organizations have been amplified. The program budget for fiscal year 1981-82 was increased in June 1981.

Country	Refugee resettlement programs	
	Spring 1975-May 31, 1980 resettlement total	Ratio of refugees to population
Canada	74,000	1:324
Australia	44,000	1:332
United States	595,200	1:374
France	68,700	1:780
Switzerland	5,300	1:1,189
Sweden	6,100	1:1,361
Norway	2,300	1:1,783

Canada has the highest ratio of refugees to total population, with one refugee accepted for every 324 people. During 1979 and 1980, Canada admitted some 60,000 Indochinese refugees for permanent resettlement.