

CANADA TO HELP UGANDA ASIANS

Prime Minister Trudeau issued the following statement on August 24:

The Canadian Government has followed closely the evolution of events in Uganda since August 5, when President Amin announced his decision to expel tens of thousands of Uganda residents of Asian origin. The Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed the hope on August 9 that President Amin would reconsider his decision because of the dimensions of the humanitarian problem which it would create. I am sorry to say that his appeal, and others like it from countries around the world, have not deterred the Uganda Government. Although President Amin has made some modifications in the categories of people who are affected by the expulsion orders, we have no real assurance that their effect may not be total. He has also refused to extend the deadline of 90 days which he set. President Amin's decision is one which we deplore and regret.

In an attempt to ease the effect of this humanitarian problem, both on those forced out of Uganda and on the people of Britain, who would otherwise be forced to share their already overcrowded island with a tide of involuntary immigrants from Uganda, the Canadian Government is prepared to offer assistance.

A team of officials of the Departments of Manpower and Immigration and National Health and Welfare is being despatched within the next few days to Kampala to accelerate the processing of applications from those Asians who apply to come to Canada.* This step will enable us to form a clearer impression

of the numbers involved and of the extent to which exceptional measures may have to be taken to deal urgently with those who would not normally qualify for admission. Should circumstances demand, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration has been authorized to institute a program of admission on an emergency basis.

I should like to emphasize that it remains the hope of the Canadian Government that General Amin will consider the effects of his decrees not only on those long-time residents of his country but on the economy of Uganda and its development, to which Canada has made a contribution. I must also observe that General Amin's regrettable expulsion decisions, if implemented, would appear to be contrary to his country's obligations under the United Nations Charter and Declaration of Human Rights, as well as against the principles of the Commonwealth Declaration of 1971, in which member states reiterated their belief in human dignity and non-racialism.

For our part, we are prepared to offer an honourable place in Canadian life to those Uganda Asians who come to Canada under this program. Asian immigrants have already added to the cultural richness and variety of our country, and I am sure that those from Uganda will, by their abilities and industry, make an equally important contribution to Canadian society.

* As of September 12, 25,000 applications had been distributed to Asians in Uganda who had expressed interest in coming to Canada.

OCTOBER FEDERAL ELECTION

At a press conference on September 1, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that a federal election would be held on October 30.

The present Government, which was elected on June 25, 1968, seats 147 Liberals, 73 Progressive Conservatives, 25 New Democratic Party members, 13 Social Credit members and two Independents; four seats are vacant, for a total of 264.

BENNETT ERA ENDS IN B.C.

Twenty years of Social Credit government in British Columbia under the leadership of W.A.C. Bennett ended abruptly on August 30 when the New Democratic Party, led by Dave Barrett, swept to victory at the polls.

The NDP won 38 seats in the provincial legislature, Social Credit ten, Liberals five and Progressive Conservatives two. Before the election, the Social Credit Party held 36 seats, the NDP 12, Liberals five and the Conservatives two.

After only 80 minutes of election returns, the 72-year-old Premier Bennett, who was re-elected in

his own riding, conceded defeat to the 41-year-old Mr. Barrett - a social worker, who has been leader of his party since 1970.

Twelve Social Credit ministers and the Speaker of the Legislature were defeated in the election, including Attorney-General Leslie Peterson, Education Minister Donald Brothers and Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi.

PREMIERS GETTING YOUNGER

The average age of Canada's provincial leaders is 41:

- Saskatchewan's Allan Blakeney, 46
- Alberta's Peter Lougheed, 44
- Ontario's William Davis, 43
- Nova Scotia's Gerald Regan, 43
- New Brunswick's Richard Hatfield, 41
- British Columbia's Dave Barrett, 41
- Quebec's Robert Bourassa, 39
- Newfoundland's Frank Moores, 39
- Prince Edward Island's Alex Campbell, 38
- Manitoba's Ed Schreyer, 36