

of persecution, has left his or her country of nationality and is unwilling or unable to return. The definition, therefore, clearly establishes the link which frequently exists between violations of human rights in a country and the outflow of refugees from that country. On several occasions in recent months, Canada has emphasized the need to deal with the root cause of an exodus which involved the abuse of basic human rights. At the last session of the Commission on Human Rights which concluded in Geneva in March, Canada was instrumental in obtaining the adoption of a resolution which linked the abuse of human rights and refugee outflows. The resolution calls on the U.N. Secretary General to become involved in some of those large-scale refugee situations involving political issues which might otherwise prevent effective U.N. action.

(ii) Indochina

International attention continues to focus, to an important degree, on the countries of Indochina and on the fate of the boat refugees from Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

A special U.N. Conference held in Geneva in July, 1979, had positive results in terms of financial pledges to the UNHCR resettlement commitments by a number of countries and, as important, the Government of Viet Nam undertook to regulate the outflow for a reasonable period of time. As a result, the rate of boat refugees from Viet Nam has declined markedly. From a high point of nearly 60,000 refugees per month last summer, the outflow since has averaged 2,500 refugees. There are disturbing signs that the boat exodus is again on the increase. The possibility of a renewed massive exodus cannot be ruled out, particularly as Viet Nam remains determined to reduce its ethnic Chinese community and 1,000,000 ethnic Chinese remain in Viet Nam.