

## Canada ups quota for Vietnamese refugees to 50,000

Canada is increasing the number of Indo-chinese refugees it will accept from the current rate of 1,000 a month to 3,000 with a total of 50,000 refugees being permitted to resettle in Canada in 1980, the Secretary of State Flora MacDonald and the Minister of Employment and Immigration Ron Atkey have announced.

In June, the Ministers announced the Government's plan to increase its resettlement quota for Indochinese refugees by 3,000 bringing to 12,000 the total Canadian commitment for 1979.

The Government hopes to achieve its new commitment through joint efforts with the private sector and by challenging Canadians to help, said the Ministers. The federal program will be based on a matching formula with the government fostering one refugee for each one sponsored privately. All sponsorships received prior to the announcement are being included in this arrangement.

Mr. Atkey said he has visited every province to discuss the refugee situation with provincial ministers and has received general support for the Canadian Government's refugee program.

At present, Ontario has pledged to match funds raised in the province by the Canadian Red Cross to a total of \$500,000 to aid refugees in Southeast Asia. The Quebec government has offered to accept 50 per cent of the Federal Government's increased quota announced in June and will also accept one-third of the further quota increase. In addition, the province is offering a grant of \$400 to each refugee sponsor group. The Alberta government has announced that it will give \$1 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to help improve conditions of refugee children in camps in Thailand and Malaysia.

The Canadian government has already announced that it will make a special contribution of \$700,000 to the UNHCR for the 1979 Indochinese refugee program.

For Canadians, wishing to help but unable to participate in the sponsorship program, Mr. Atkey has announced the establishment of a Canadian refugee fund with contributions being used to assist in the transportation and resettlement of refugees in Canada.

Sufficient airplane accommodation has already been arranged to allow up to 3,000 refugees to be brought in each

month between August 1 and the end of the year, said the Minister.

### Family reunification

Immigration officers recently issued immigrant visas to 25 individuals in Vietnam allowing them to join their relatives in Canada. "These people are expected to arrive in Canada in the near future as the first admissions under a family reunification program with Vietnam," Mr. Atkey said. Two visa officers have arrived in Vietnam to begin interviews with other relatives.

The minister said the 25 visas were issued after four years of negotiations with the Vietnamese for a family reunification agreement. In the meantime, the UNHCR has reached a general agreement with Vietnam for family reunification on an international scale and Canada plans to conduct its program in co-operation with the UN group.

"We regard this as a complementary approach to our refugee program and one with great potential since it will bring relatives directly from Vietnam rather than through the refugee camps," said Mr. Atkey.

### Canadian cities launch campaigns

Several Canadian cities, including Toronto, Vancouver and Ottawa have established groups to co-ordinate the sponsorship of refugees. Ottawa the first city to announce a sponsorship campaign has embarked on a plan to bring 4,000 Indo-chinese refugees to the capital.

Project 4,000, announced by the city's mayor, Marion Dewar, will require 1,000 or more sponsoring groups to reach its goal, says the chairman of the project's organizing committee, Alan Breakspear.

At present, 50 individuals and representatives of community groups have pledged to sponsor refugees and have met to establish strategy for the sponsorship campaign. More than 200 members of Ottawa's Chinese community have separately decided to sponsor 16 refugees and nine different Chinese organizations have combined to sponsor a further 100 refugees.

New federal regulations make sponsoring refugees easier but require accepting almost total responsibility for an individual or family. Under the regulations, any incorporated organization or group

of at least five adult Canadian citizens or permanent residents may apply to sponsor a refugee.

Sponsors are expected to supply housing, food and clothing until the refugees have found jobs and can support their families. They are also expected to help their charges adjust to their new home, counsel them on personal problems and help them find jobs. The Federal Government through the Canada Immigration Centre will take care of emergency medical bills and language and job training.

Project 4,000 organizers plan to solicit donations for a central refugee fund to aid prospective sponsors who are unable to meet all the financial requirements.

Along with church groups and service groups which have already pledged support, organizers say they hope to find "neighbourhood sponsors" such as condominium corporations, apartment units and community associations.

The Roman Catholic and Anglican Dioceses of Ottawa have signed agreements with the Federal Government streamlining the sponsorship process. Under the agreements, refugees brought to Canada will be over and above those admitted under the Government's refugee program.

"In light of the increasingly tragic situation in Indochina, it's heartening to see Canadian church groups exercising their humanitarian principles by becoming personally involved in helping homeless refugees find a new life in Canada," said Immigration Minister Ron Atkey.

## Alberta to use coal

Alberta, Canada's largest coal-producing region, could become the largest industrial user of thermal coal by the end of the century, a study prepared for the Canadian Energy Research Institute has concluded.

The study forecasts that Alberta will account for 40 per cent of the country's total potential industrial demand for thermal coal, expected to total 19.9 million tons in 1990 and 23.9 million in the year 2000. The major industrial users in the province will be oil sands plants and chemical and cement-making operations.

The study assumes that there will be three *in situ* oil sands plants using coal to generate steam and requiring a total of five million tons of coal annually by 2000.