

in the world. This would indicate Canada's increasing reliance on the skilled, the educated and the professionals from the developing countries. Substantiating this aspect of Canadian reliance on foreign-trained manpower, the report brings to light some interesting statistics. Between 1946 and 1963, the rate of skilled immigration increased from 8.5 per cent to 36.3 per cent, and the percentage of professionals entering Canada from developing countries increased from 7.2 per cent in 1963 to 27.6 per cent in 1963 to 37 per cent in 1967.

Of considerable importance in the brain-drain debate are the political implications of this issue for Canada's role and image on the international scene. Indeed, it would appear that the most significant action for Canada at the international level is to provide for greater recognition of, and support for, the manpower policies of developing countries through a more sensitive approach in the formulation and implementation of Canadian immigration policy. Indeed, the precedence of international co-operation in this sphere has been clearly accepted in the spirit of Prime Minister Mackenzie King's statement on immigration policy:

I wish to make it equally clear that the Canadian Government is prepared, at any time, to enter into negotiations with other countries for special agreements for the control of admission of immigrants on a basis of complete equality and reciprocity.

In considering the possible alternatives in this regard, Canada will have to steer a course between Scylla and Charybdis. On the one hand, an umbrella restriction on the migration of skilled and professional individuals will not satisfy all countries, especially countries like India and Mauritius, which encourage the emigration of individuals with training and skills whose supply exceeds demand and job openings at any particular time. Furthermore, as a signatory of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "everyone has the right of freedom of movement . . . to leave any country, including his own . . .", Canada supports the right to individual freedom of movement. On the other hand, the preceding exposition has indicated quite clearly that countries have very strong feelings regarding the loss of their valued manpower resources to the developed countries. It would seem, therefore, that the most appropriate course of action for Canada is to maintain its foreign-policy credibility through practical measures that will ensure that the future

course of immigration policy, as well as the nature and structure of Canada's international assistance, with special reference to manpower assistance, do not operate at cross purposes.

Refugee as reality

Since the beginning of recorded history, the refugee has been a tangible reality of international strife. Discrimination against particular racial, religious or political groups, together with wars, political upheavals, changes in national boundaries, and the rest, has uprooted people and caused them to flee home and country. In many instances, displacement was permanent; the refugee became stateless as well as homeless. It was the massive displacements of population of this century, however, that forced the international community to seek solutions, to protect those who no longer had the protection of a state and to help them resettle elsewhere. Over the years, victims of many different circumstances have been called refugees. For example, displaced or stateless persons, asylum-seekers, defectors, members of oppressed minorities, and victims of natural disasters have at various times been designated as refugees. More recently, however, the eligibility of a person to enter any country as a refugee depends on whether or not he fulfils the United Nations 1951 Convention definition. It defines a refugee as:

any person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

An integral part of Canada's international relations is the image projected by its refugee policy and programs on the international community of nations. Canada has traditionally been regarded as a nation with humanitarian sentiments. Canada's humanitarian role in accepting large numbers of individuals and families who wished to escape from the intolerable conditions of war, persecution and oppression has been carefully recorded in the migration of refugees. In particular, the period after the Second World War identified Canada as one of the first overseas countries to take positive action to help the displaced and homeless families of war-torn Europe.

Precedence of international co-operation in immigration

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