

of the United Nations members, including Canada. It was the hope of the advocates of World Refugee Year that a concerted effort to assist refugees would achieve two major aims:

- (1) To focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from governments, voluntary agencies and the general public for its solution;
- (2) To encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or integration on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely-expressed wishes of the refugees themselves.

By the end of 1959 it was evident that increased financial contributions and resettlement opportunities made possible by World Refugee Year would permit the early liquidation of some refugee problems, including the clearance and closing of the refugee camps in Europe and the re-location of the refugees of European origin in China. This in turn would permit increased concentration of available resources on other refugee problems such as the group of unsettled refugees outside camps in Europe. It was evident that increased support would make feasible some improvements in the very difficult situation of the refugees from Algeria, while signs of increased assistance to the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong also began to appear. As a result of World Refugee Year it was expected that UNRWA would receive considerably increased contributions.

Along with more than 70 other governments, Canada informed the United Nations Secretary-General that active Canadian support for the World Refugee Year Programme would be forthcoming. World Refugee Year began in Canada on June 28, 1959. It received early support from the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs who indicated in the House of Commons that the Government was considering what special contribution Canada could make to the success of the Year. On September 24, The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced in the United Nations General Assembly that as its special contribution to World Refugee Year, Canada would waive immigration regulations to permit the admission to Canada of a substantial number of tuberculous refugees and their families. At a press conference immediately following his address the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated that the number of tuberculous cases to be admitted to Canada for treatment and rehabilitation would be at least one hundred and perhaps more.

The Federal Government accepted financial responsibility for the cost of transportation involved in moving this group to Canada from camps in Europe and for the cost of maintaining the families selected until they were in a position to support themselves adequately. The Government also undertook responsibility for the cost of medical treatment for the tuberculous members of the refugee families insofar as the Provincial Governments, which administer the sanatoria in which the refugees would be treated, did not wish to pay such costs. During the discussions between the Federal and provincial authorities, a number of provinces volunteered to accept the cost of hospitalization for the great majority of cases admitted to Canada.

By the end of 1959 the first refugee families to be selected under this scheme had arrived in Canada and the tuberculous members were already undergoing medical treatment. The Federal Government had announced that it was setting aside \$600,000 to cover the cost of the Federal Government's participation in the project up to the end of 1960. The special Canadian contribution to World Refugee Year was hailed by the High Commissioner for Refugees as an undertaking unique in the annals of post-war refugee resettlement.