

Canada will continue to respond favourably to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the International Red Cross' programs for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. During the current fiscal year, CIDA provided \$4 million to the UNHCR and \$475,000 to the ICRC. In addition, \$14 million worth of food aid was delivered to Afghan refugees.<sup>7</sup>

### Parliamentary Comment

The House of Commons applauded the Government's efforts in rescuing the five Soviet deserters from Afghanistan. Rising in the House on 24 November, Conservative member Mr. John Oostrom said:

The Secretary of State for External Affairs deserves our hearty congratulations. Through his sheer determination in dealing with a volatile geographical area of the world, he was successful in obtaining the release of five Soviet Army defectors from Afghanistan....The Secretary of State for External Affairs has again shown the world that Canada will always assist those who seek freedom."<sup>8</sup>

Conservative member John Reimer praised Ambassador Stephen Lewis for his remarks before the United Nations General Assembly condemning the "gross misrepresentation of events in Afghanistan"<sup>9</sup> presented by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevaradnadze in his speech before the Assembly. Reimer warned that "Canadians will not be appeased by pathetic rhetoric and Ambassador Lewis is to be commended for reminding the USSR of that fact."<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> DEA, Canada's International Relations - Response of the Government of Canada of the Report of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons, Dec. 1986, p. 76.

<sup>8</sup> Commons Debates, 24 Nov. 1986, p. 1445.

<sup>9</sup> Commons Debates, 26 Nov. 1986, p. 1534.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.