

KUALA LUMPUR VISA OFFICE OPENS

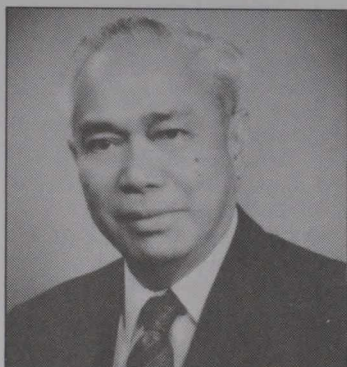
Following an adventuresome six-week gestation period in temporary quarters, the Immigration/Visa Section of the Canadian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur officially opened its doors to the public on March 1.

In addition to a very active Business Immigration Program, the new visa office will focus its efforts at processing Indochinese refugees migrating to Canada. More than 2,000 of these refugees will go to Canada during the course of the year. The office will also deal with a large backlog of independent workers migrating to Canada, and an increasing demand for student visas.

The office will be managed by two Canada-based officers, who will be assisted by six other enthusiastic colleagues. To cope with the tremendous workload of the visa office, the High Commission has also obtained "on loan" for three months the services of one of Canada's most famous visa officers, John Sheardown, whose long career includes his well-remembered assignment in Iran in 1980.



The staff at the Kuala Lumpur visa office. From left: (seated) Dennis Scown, Caroline Melis, (standing) Joan Fam, Kathryn Chin, Andre Teh, Julie Khoo, Sue Heng



Mr Ramon Diaz

New Philippine Ambassador to Canada

Mr Ramon Diaz, the new Philippine Ambassador to Canada, brings a distinguished record of private sector experience and public service to his first diplomatic post.

Mr Diaz, 68, served most recently in the crucial position of Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

A lawyer, Mr Diaz has distinguished himself in corporate work, holding top executive positions in many of the Philippines' leading businesses. He was also head of the Government Service Insurance System and served for a period as Executive Secretary to President Diosdado Macapagal. In 1971, he was a delegate to the Philippine Constitutional Convention.

Prior to his departure to take up his new responsibilities, Mr Diaz was honoured at a dinner hosted by Canadian Ambassador Russell Davidson.



QUEBEC IMMIGRATION MINISTER VISITS REFUGEE CAMP

Madame Louise Robic, Quebec Minister of Immigration, arrived in Malaysia on February 12 for a three-day official visit. The highlight of her stay was a tour of the Sungei Besi Refugee Transit Centre, where she received a warm welcome from Colonel Zulkifly bin Ismail, Task Force VII Camp Commandant, and from the Vietnamese boat people resident in the camp.

Pictured during the walking tour and briefing are (from left) High Commission Immigration Counsellor Dennis Scown, Madame Robic and Colonel Zulkifly. Also on hand were, High Commissioner Garrett Lambert, Mr Robert Smith, Counsellor of the Quebec Immigration Service in Hong Kong, and Ms Marion Hoffmann, UNHCR Field Representative at Sungei Besi Camp.