



## REFERENCE PAPERS

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CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

Based on an address delivered by Mr. Hector Allard, Chief of Mission (Canada) of the International Refugee Organization, at a Meeting of the Joint Planning Commission of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, in Ottawa, on November 15, 1949.

...I am expected to speak to you about the impact on Canadian organizations of the arrival of displaced persons into Canada. It will be impossible in one short address to cover all aspects of this vast subject because the problem of making a good citizen of a newcomer without making this new citizen lose his personality is a delicate one and one which would require not one but a series of lectures. I will, therefore, have to dwell in generalities, but if you will bear with me I shall do my best to be brief and will attempt to give you my own views on the problem which Canadian organizations have to face and, with your permission, indicate perhaps some general approach to this problem, keeping in mind that the sooner the newcomers can be made to feel at home in this country the easier the task will become and the richer Canada will be.

It is, I presume, commonplace to state before this gathering that almost all immigrants arriving in a new country are in need of some kind of help and the fullest possible co-operation of all federal, provincial or voluntary social services is, therefore, absolutely essential if the integration of the newcomers into the life of the community is to be accomplished within a reasonable period of time.

What is said about immigrants generally applies more particularly to displaced persons, innocent victims of the last world conflict, who have suffered persecution both mental and physical and are, consequently, beset with a number of complexes. These complexes are many and, in order to deal with them adequately, they must be analysed and fully understood. At this point you will no doubt want to know something about the displaced persons who have so far arrived in Canada.

The more important national groups which have come to this country under the mandate of the International Refugee Organization since 1947 are already represented in Canada, and, consequently, will not be new to you. In the order of importance of their numbers they are Poles, Balts, (Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians), Ukrainians, Yugoslavs and representatives of a score of other nationalities. About one quarter of the total of the displaced persons were Jews, 35 per cent Roman Catholics, 7 per cent Greek Catholics, 14 per cent Greek Orthodox, 14 per cent Protestants, and 5 per cent fell under various other denominations.

Canada's contribution to the solution of the displaced persons problem has been second to none and the co-operation which the I.R.O. Mission in Canada has received from the Canadian