

AND POIGNANTLY FELT. THEY FIND THEMSELVES CUT OFF FROM THEIR ORIGINAL CULTURAL ROOTS AND, EVEN MORE FRUSTRATINGLY, ARE OFTEN PREVENTED FROM HAVING EASY ACCESS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND PARTS OF EASTERN EUROPE, AND FROM REGULARLY RECEIVING THEM AS VISITORS IN CANADA. THE CONTINUING OBSTACLES WHICH ARE MAINTAINED IN THE WAY OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND FAMILY CONTACTS INFLICT SPECIAL PAIN, AND ARE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND OR ACCEPT.

THE CONCERN IS, HOWEVER, MUCH MORE BROADLY FELT. CANADIANS AS A WHOLE, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THEIR IMMIGRANT BACKGROUND THROUGH THE CENTURIES, ARE CONSTANT TRAVELLERS ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, AND MANY OF THEM EVEN CHOOSE TO SETTLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WHERE THEY MAY FIND THE OPPORTUNITIES OR THE CLIMATE MORE ATTRACTIVE. THEY ARE ACCUSTOMED TO LEAVING WITH NEITHER THE PERMISSION NOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. THEY WOULD NEVER TOLERATE ANY INFRINGEMENT OF THEIR RIGHT TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY, WHETHER TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY, OR TO RETURN TO IT WHEN THEY WISHED TO. THEY HAVE GENUINE DIFFICULTY, THEREFORE, IN UNDERSTANDING WHY OTHER COUNTRIES -- SOME LARGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN THEIRS -- FIND IT NECESSARY TO BE SO SENSITIVE ABOUT THE WISH OF A SMALL PROPORTION OF THEIR POPULATIONS TO LEAVE TEMPORARILY, OR EVEN PERMANENTLY. THEIR SYMPATHY AND CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED NOT ONLY ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUAL CASES, BUT ALSO FOR MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES, SUCH AS JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION, WHO HAVE CLEARLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO EMIGRATE, TO CANADA OR ELSEWHERE, AND ARE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED PERMISSION TO DO SO.