

Table 18
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

Visas issued during 1987 calendar year

Area of mission	Immigrant visas	Visitor visas
WESTERN HEMISPHERE		
United States	15 536	113 462
The Caribbean and Central America	14 124	35 933
South America	2 692	24 494
Sub-total	32 352	173 889
AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST		
Africa	8 721	21 789
Middle East	4 238	12 301
Sub-total	12 959	34 090
EUROPE		
Western Europe	27 542	59 302
Eastern Europe	6 989	58 692
Sub-total	34 531	117 994
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
Hong Kong	26 767	28 382
Manila	7 143	10 212
New Delhi	9 137	24 811
Other missions	15 553	42 390
Sub-total	58 600	105 795
TOTAL	138 442	431 768

Note: The above data include visitor visas issued at Canadian missions where there were no immigration facilities.

Further streamlining of the immigration process remains a major objective and global computerization of processing was approved in principle in 1987. The visa office in Hong Kong has pioneered a computer-assisted immigration processing system that paid for itself in personnel resource savings within 18 months. The new system will be extended to London and will subsequently be integrated with the External Affairs Communications System, COSICS, and installed in visa missions in the United States next year.

The flow of bogus refugees and improperly documented visitors accelerated during 1987. At a score of major transit points, Canadian visa officials worked closely on these problems with host government enforcement agencies and airline officials. An average of 150 persons with fraudulent or improperly obtained travel documents and visas were intercepted monthly en route to Canada.

Visitor visa output during the year under review increased 16.8 per cent to 451 768. An additional 54 952 visitor visa requests were refused because of failure to meet the requirements of the Immigration Act, primarily because applicants could not satisfy a visa officer that they would remain only temporarily in Canada and return home on completion of their visit. Visitor visa requirements were imposed on Brazil, Bolivia, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras and

Turkey, mainly to halt flows of improperly documented passengers and bogus refugees.

The promotion of Canada's successful business immigration program continued in 1987. A total of 3 602 visas were issued to business immigrants, a 48 per cent increase over 1986. The business people granted visas under the program declared total funds to transfer to Canada of over \$3 billion, and plans to create or continue 14 500 jobs. Hong Kong continued to lead the list of countries of origin, with 28 per cent of all business immigrants landed.

Officers abroad issued a total of 19 231 visas to refugees and members of designated classes in 1987. For the fourth consecutive year government-sponsored refugee arrivals exceeded the announced target for the year. The 1987 global target for government-sponsored refugees was 12 000 and the number of arrivals was 12 223. Private sponsorships were provided for an additional 7 000 persons.

Refugees and designated-class applicants are selected from several regions. From Eastern Europe there were 3 713 government-sponsored and 2 912 privately sponsored individuals who were granted visas, for a total of 6 625. Indochinese accounted for 2 995 government-sponsored and 2 698 privately sponsored persons, for a total of 5 693. Although 3 688 Latin American refugees were processed in the government-sponsored category, only 273 were privately sponsored, bringing this region's total to 3 961. Middle Eastern and African refugees accounted for totals of 1 453 and 1 268 respectively. The latter two categories have been traditionally underfilled due to processing problems beyond the control of the Department, such as the necessity for refugees in the Sudan to be granted exit permits, and the difficulties of arranging area visits by officers to volatile regions in the Middle East, such as Iran and Iraq.

The Immigration Cost Recovery Program, which levies fees for the processing of most immigrant applications and certain long-term visitor documentation, produced \$4.5 million during the year under review for the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Private international law

The Department offers a variety of services to facilitate legal proceedings involving Canadian and foreign jurisdictions on the basis of conventions or by arranged procedures. Social security benefits, maintenance orders, judgments and other related matters have become subjects of international co-operation because of the greater mobility of individuals. As many of these subjects come under provincial jurisdiction, the Department maintains contact with the provinces to establish and administer the necessary reciprocal arrangements. In 1980, it published a booklet entitled *International Judicial Co-operation in Civil, Commercial, Administrative and Criminal Matters* to assist Canadian lawyers and law enforcement officials with international legal problems. This publication was updated in 1987 and re-issued under the title *International Judicial Co-operation*.

Canada has conventions on legal proceedings in civil and commercial matters with 19 countries. These conventions provide for the service of legal documents on a reciprocal basis and for the taking of evidence in civil cases either in Canada for use abroad or in a foreign country for use in