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Concern for Indochinese refugees results in triple number of admissions

Canada has agreed to accept 5,000 Indochinese refugees this year, almost triple the intake of 1978 from 70 Indochinese families to 200 each month. The Canadian Government will also make a special financial contribution early in the next fiscal year for Indochinese refugees in camps in Thailand, Malaysia and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

This expanded program, announced in December by Minister of Employment and Immigration Bud Cullen, and Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, is Canada's response to the serious problems created by increasing numbers of Indochinese refugees — particularly the desperate plight of those escaping by boat.

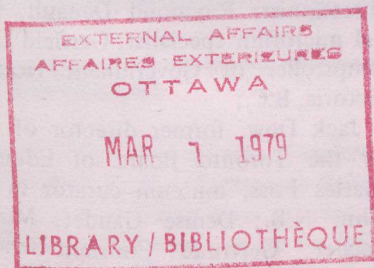
The new commitment follows international consultations convened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, December 11-12, at which a major new international effort was started to tackle the problem.

"In addition to the special financial contribution to the refugee camps, Canada will double its contribution to the UNHCR's regular budget from \$1 to \$2 million," said Mr. Jamieson. "Further,

while many countries have already come forward, the Canadian Government plans actively to encourage an even broader range of countries to contribute financially or through resettlement. We will also continue to seek greater respect for human rights throughout the Indochina region and the renewed commitment of all countries in that region to policies that would be helpful in both political and humanitarian terms."

Mr. Cullen said the Canadian people "are aware of the urgent need to find a solution to this problem and have overwhelmingly shown their desire to help". He added that he had always been confident of the willingness of Canadians to help those in distress, but "last month when we agreed to accept 600 of the refugees stranded on board the freighter *Hai Hong*, the response from community, voluntary and religious groups and individuals across Canada greatly exceeded even my high expectations".

As part of Canada's contribution to the international effort to solve the Indochinese problem, nearly 8,500 refugees and displaced persons have been welcomed since 1975.



The Duong family in Canada, survivors of a month of horror aboard the Hai Hong.

Six years ago today...
The first issue of *Canada Weekly* was published. It replaced the 27-year-old *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*.

The Citizen