

comparable proportions.

The government program does not represent the totality of Canadian efforts. For example a program has been established which would permit Canadian churches, non-governmental organizations and indeed groups of five or more adults to sponsor a refugee family's entry into Canada. Any such sponsored inflow would be above and beyond that sponsored financially by the Government. And I must say the response has been considerable. This new sponsorship program is only now being fully developed but already the large number of Canadians participating is heartwarming.

Mr. Chairman, the decision of the High Commissioner to convene this special meeting was taken in October in circumstances rather different than those which prevail today. In the two-month interval what was a serious outflow of refugees has turned into a major exodus. The flow of overland refugees has continued in the serious proportions that has existed for some time. However, the flow of boat refugees which averaged 1,500 in the period May 1977 - March 1978, and which then increased to a level of 5,000 or 6,000 by August of this year has since September reached the proportions of 10,000, 15,000 and perhaps even 20,000 per month.

Faced with the magnitude of the problem, it is quite evident that the High Commissioner, despite the effectiveness of his programmes, cannot cope with the task with the resources at his disposal. It is also obvious that the burden on the countries of first asylum is becoming too heavy and that it must be lightened and more equitably shared. Further, the options for permanent resettlement must be considerably increased and diversified. In short, given the form and