

- 3 non-governmental members who have an interest and concern in refugee matters
- 2 senior officials of the Department of Employment and Immigration
- 1 senior official from the Department of External Affairs.

The UNHCR representative in Canada serves as an adviser to the RSAC.

Persons whose claim has been refused by the RSAC can apply for redetermination to the Immigration Appeal Board and finally to the Federal Court.

(c) Refugees: International Aspects

(i) The world refugee problem is one of staggering proportions both in terms of numbers and of human suffering. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are as many 10 million refugees and displaced persons throughout the world. The refugee problem is a global one and is not restricted to any one region. It is evident that so pervasive and massive a problem must be a complex phenomenon and one which cannot be traced to a single or unique cause. There are always a number of contributing factors involved such as natural disasters, human rights violations, regional conflict or civil strife, deteriorating economic circumstances. In analysing the cause of refugee movements it is important that we take into account all these factors. However, in attempting to locate the root cause of a refugee exodus, we must turn as our starting point to the internationally-accepted definition found in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention defines a refugee as a person who, owing to well-founded fear