

be in the range of several hundred thousand dollars a person. A fairly recent study revealed that the cost for Canada of "producing" the output of skills that were imported in the form of university education alone would have amounted to \$532 million (in 1961 prices) over the period 1946-63. Furthermore, it is worth while noting that these computations took into account only the direct costs — of instruction, educational facilities, books, etc. — that would provide an equivalent number of Canadians with a comparable amount of education to that of the immigrants in question. It has further been estimated that an indirect cost of \$455 million would have been incurred in the form of earnings foregone by those who had occupied themselves with study instead of work.

Another research project, entitled *Studies in the Economics of Education*, which was conducted by Bruce Wilkinson for the Federal Department of Labour, estimated that the value of education represented by all immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1951 and 1961, measured in terms of the costs that would have been incurred in providing a comparable educational attainment in Canada, was \$5.9 billion. After deducting the education costs of Canadian-born emigrants to the United States, which have been estimated at between \$980 million and \$1.7 billion, the study concluded that the net education value of immigrants for the decade ranged between \$4,167 and \$4,920 million.

#### Neglected dimension

There is, however, an often-neglected dimension in any balanced evaluation of the immigration of highly-skilled manpower across international boundaries. The significant positive returns for the highly-educated and skilled emigrants to their country of destination are only part of the picture. The other consideration is the loss in highly-needed manpower for the developing countries. Concern over the costs and manpower loss of professional and technical expertise by the developing countries was the topic of a pointed address by President Julius Nyerere to his Parliament on May 12, 1964. In this classical address, Tanzania's President pointed out:

Some of our citizens will have large amounts of money spent on their education, while others have none. Those who receive the privilege, therefore, have a duty to repay the sacrifices which others have made. They are like the man who has been given all the food available in the starving village in order that



*"The world is so full of a number of things I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings." Robert Louis Stevenson's couplet seems to sum up the look in this young immigrant's eyes. Unknown to her, she is entering a new life, secure in her mother's backpack.*

he may have strength to bring supplies back from a distant place. If he takes this food and does not bring help to his brothers, he is a traitor. Similarly, if any of the young men and women who are given an education by the people of this republic adopt attitudes of superiority or fail to use their knowledge to help the development of this country, then they are betraying our union.

The emigration of professionals, educated, and highly-skilled individuals from a developing to a developed country is often referred to as the "brain drain". Canada's role in the brain-drain issue emerged in the House of Commons when Douglas Roche, Conservative member for Edmonton-Strathcona, told it on April 22, 1974:

The United States, the United Kingdom and Canada are receiving as a gift from developing nations a large cadre of trained persons whose education was expensive to the developing countries and who contribute critically-important medical services to the populations of the developed countries. It is not possible to arrive at any single figure representing the monetary gain to receiving countries. However, it is clear that the total gain for major receiving countries should be considered as being in the hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

The report goes on to state that Canada's intake of professionals in proportion to its population appears to be the largest

*United Nations Secretary-General identified Canada's role in 'brain drain'*