

Immigration rules changed

The federal government has announced changes to immigration regulations affecting visitors to Canada from India.

Effective immediately, Indian nationals visiting Canada will have to obtain visas abroad before coming to Canada. "We have withdrawn the visa-exempt privilege formerly accorded to India because of the increasing number of its citizens who have come to Canada pretending to be visitors but fully intending to remain here permanently," said Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy in making the announcement.

"Also, in recent months, often on the advice of unscrupulous agents in India, hundreds have arrived here claiming refugee status. This is impeding the flow of *bona fide* visitors from India and creating a severe backlog in our system for dealing with refugee claims," said the minister.

Problems discussed

Mr. Axworthy recently visited India to discuss immigration problems with Indian Minister of Home Affairs Zial Singh and permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs R.D. Sethe. The visa requirement came about as a result of meetings with these Indian officials and with Indian community leaders in Canada.

The minister also said that earlier this year he had established a task force to examine the problem of unscrupulous agents. The recommendations of the task force have been discussed with the provinces and with ethnic groups to plan actions against those agents who counsel to violate immigration law.

It is also anticipated that the new visa requirement will stem the recent flow of refugee claimants from India which has caused severe problems for the Immigration department. About 90 per cent of all claims currently being received in Ontario are from Indian nations; so far none of them has been substantiated by the Refugee Status Advisory Committee because their reasons for claiming refugee status have been purely economic.

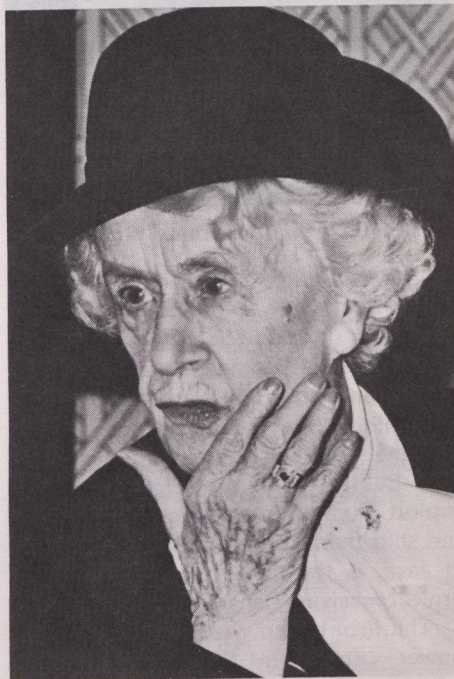
Backlog created

"This situation has created a large backlog which is preventing us from quickly assisting claimants who are in real fear of persecution," Mr. Axworthy said, adding that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has not recognized refugee claims from Indian nationals.

Since 1977, 11 countries where there has been clear abuse of Canada's immigration requirements have been removed from visa-exempt status. These countries include Pakistan, Nigeria, Colombia, South Africa, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Uganda, Chile and Haiti. Most western countries use a visa system to control the entry of visitors.

Women's rights activist dies

Thérèse Casgrain, a former senator, a pioneer of women's rights in Quebec and a champion of Canadian unity, died in Montreal, November 2. She was 85.



Thérèse Casgrain

In 1970, Mrs. Casgrain was the first member of the New Democratic Party to be named to the Senate where she sat as an Independent. When her age forced her to retire from the Senate after nine months, she turned to public appearances and political lobbying, and wrote her memoirs, entitled *A Woman in a Man's World*.

Mrs. Casgrain first entered politics in 1928 spearheading the fight for women's voting rights in Quebec, which were granted in that province in 1940.

In 1942, she was an unsuccessful Independent Liberal candidate for the Charlevoix-Saguenay seat which had been held for 25 years by her husband Pierre-François Casgrain, before he was appointed a judge of the Quebec Superior Court. In 1948, she joined the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, forerun-

ner of the NDP, and was an unsuccessful candidate for the party in nine elections.

Honoured by many

Her determination and humanitarianism won her many awards, including companion of the Order of Canada, officer of the Order of the British Empire, Woman of the Century award from the Council of Jewish Women of Canada and eight honorary university degrees.

Mrs. Casgrain, a great supporter of Canadian unity, once said: "When I sing *O Canada* my throat chokes because I love my country. I am a Canadian and nothing can take that away."

Joining other members of Parliament in tribute, House of Commons Speaker Jeanne Sauv  said Canada had lost a model for social and political action. Quebec's Minister of State for Women Pauline Marios said Mrs. Casgrain spoke for "a whole generation of women".

International telephone system to be improved

The federal government has undertaken a joint project with Spar Aerospace Limited and Teleglobe Canada for the development of earth station equipment to increase the capacity of satellite channels for carrying international telephone traffic.

The federal government and Teleglobe are contributing a total of \$5.1 million to the project. The Spar contribution will be \$1.9 million.

For the project, Spar will design and build prototype equipment, produce manufacturing drawings, operations and maintenance procedures, and develop special testing devices.

Teleglobe Canada, the Crown corporation responsible for Canada's overseas telecommunications, including satellite services, will test the prototype at its earth station in Nova Scotia before purchasing operating models. The new equipment will help fulfil Teleglobe's increased traffic demands and meet its commitments to national and international customers for high quality communications services.

The equipment is being designed to meet standards set by Intelsat, the international satellite organization responsible for the operation of a commercial global system of telecommunications satellites. It is based on two techniques which make more efficient use of satellite radio channels through a time-sharing process.

CP laserphoto