

The feeling was widespread that visible differences affected both the selection of individuals and the way in which the secondary examination process was conducted.

Subtle: The evaluators reported that all respondents in their sample voluntarily raised the subject of discrimination in the course of the interviews, either directly or obliquely. The general impression they conveyed was that discrimination continues to exist and has merely become more subtle and sophisticated.

First Step: The Committee believes that the project was a valuable first step in addressing the issue of immigration policy and race relations and wishes to draw attention to it.

RECOMMENDATION:

Employment and Immigration Canada should take appropriate steps to ensure that members of visible minorities are not unduly singled out for unusual immigration procedures and that all such procedures are adequately explained to arriving persons and their awaiting relatives and friends.

RECOMMENDATION

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EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION PLAN

Deliberately: Numerous complaints were received by the Committee concerning the various procedures and regulations covering the concept of family reunification. There appears to be a widespread perception that certain of the regulations and their interpretation are deliberately discriminatory; certainly it is true that the concept of the extended family, prevalent in many Third World countries, is a difficult one to deal with in the North American context.

Concerns: The Committee is aware of the various legitimate problems which the concept poses for immigration officials, but it is also sympathetic to the humanitarian concerns raised by many visible minority immigrants. At present there does not appear to be sufficient data available to ascertain the validity of certain allegations concerning the longterm implications of relaxing these regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Employment and Immigration Canada should conduct a comprehensive study of the current situation with respect to immigrants who have been admitted to Canada through the Family Reunification Plan, to determine whether or not there are substantial differences between them and other immigrants in terms of their ability to successfully integrate into Canadian society.