

by X-ray; mines, booby-traps and similar devices; incendiary weapons. Neither Canada nor the other members of NATO intend to develop weapons which employ non-detectable fragments. The mines protocol applies to land warfare and extends the scope of protection for civilians and UN peacekeeping troops. The protocol also imposes an obligation to record the location of mine fields with the objective of making it easier to remove mines once hostilities have ceased. The third protocol restricts the use of incendiary weapons such as napalm.

Refugees

By the end of 1980, the refugee situation showed further deterioration than it did in 1979, with more than ten million refugees around the world struggling to survive. The situation in Indochina, the focus of public attention in 1979, though somewhat improved, continued to be a cause for concern. However, in other areas, the refugee question was swiftly approaching crisis proportions. On the continent of Africa, there were about five million refugees, over 1.5 million of whom were in the Horn of Africa, which was also suffering from drought. In Pakistan, the number of Afghan refugees exceeded one million. In many other areas, situations of similar gravity were causing great hardship for refugees and local populations alike.

Canada responded to these humanitarian crises through financial contributions to the regular programs of the UN High Commission for Refugees, UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Food Program. Canada is a major contributor to all of these agencies. In addition, special contributions were made for refugees in Pakistan (\$2 million), Somalia (\$3 million in food aid) and the Kampuchean relief operations (\$1.15 million). The latter donation brought the Canadian contribution to over \$16 million since 1979 for relief assistance to Kampuchean refugees in Thailand, Kampuchians within their own country and Thais affected by the conflict in Indochina. While the Kampuchians still require emergency assistance, the threat of mass starvation has lifted.

Resettlement of refugees continued to play an important role in Canada's approach to the refugee problem. The special Indochinese resettlement program concluded at the end of 1980 with a total of over 60,000 refugees brought to Canada since 1979, a record that, on a *per capita* basis, was unmatched in the world. The success of this program was due in large part to the participation of the Canadian public in sponsoring privately 57 per cent of the refugees. The 1980 refugee plan, formulated in consultation with the provinces and non-governmental organizations, envisaged the admission of up to 15,000 government sponsored refugees, principally from Indochina, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Apart from the overseas selection of refugees for resettlement in Canada, the present Canadian refugee policy provides for their protection within Canada in accordance with the 1951 *Refugee convention*. In 1980, the Refugee Status Advisory Committee granted refugee status to 256 claimants.

The mounting concern in the international community over the increasing frequency and severity of refugee flows led to

the launching, at the United Nations, of two initiatives—one to examine flows of refugees with a view to discouraging their occurrence, and the other to investigate the relationship between a massive exodus and the full enjoyment of human rights. The latter initiative was introduced by Canada, and the resolution on the question was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly. Both initiatives show potential for dealing with the question of root causes of refugee situations.

Human rights

Canada was instrumental in the promotion of a number of advances in the human rights field at the United Nations in 1980. The Canadian delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights actively supported the establishment of a working group to investigate the phenomenon of missing and disappeared persons throughout the world, secured the adoption of the resolution discussed in the previous paragraph, and also ensured the adoption of a resolution affirming the right of individuals and groups within society to promote human rights. This latter initiative was seen as an endorsement by the international community of the right to dissent. Finally, the Canadian delegation helped ensure the adoption of a resolution calling on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to intensify the use of his good offices in the field of human rights. Resolutions reaffirming the right of the people of Kampuchea and Afghanistan to self-determination, and condemning foreign occupation, were adopted by a comfortable majority. The Commission also focused on violations of human rights elsewhere in the world.

At the General Assembly, the Canadian delegation promoted the adoption by consensus of a resolution endorsing the action taken by the Commission on the question of human rights and a massive exodus. The Canadian delegation also was instrumental in reinforcing the use of the good offices role of the Secretary-General in dealing with human rights situations of international concern. External Affairs Minister MacGuigan, in his address to the General Assembly, reaffirmed the government's commitment to the respect of human rights within Canada and the promotion of human rights abroad.

In April 1980, the Canadian government presented its report on the implementation in Canada of the *Covenant on civil and political rights* to the Human Rights Committee in Geneva. The report was praised as the most comprehensive reviewed by the committee to date. Discussion between members of the committee and the delegation presenting the report, comprising provincial as well as federal officials responsible for human rights within Canada, revealed areas in which the committee required additional information. While the delegation was able to respond to some of these enquiries immediately, some questions required further research and were to be discussed at a later stage in exchanges between the Human Rights Committee and the Canadian authorities.

Canada continued to discharge its responsibilities under the optional protocol of the *Covenant on civil and political rights*, responding to complaints by individuals within Canada to the Human Rights Committee regarding alleged infringements of