

whether it involved people with whom we had close historical links or otherwise, was nonetheless a matter of concern to us. We have considered that we have a responsibility to respond in the context of international efforts.

Besides being a country of immigration, Canada is also a country which has welcomed refugees and displaced persons. In the thirty years since the Second World War, Canada has taken in over 350,000 of these persons. Further, the new Canadian immigration act which came into effect earlier this year is reflective of our concern for refugees as it incorporates the obligations which we have assumed in acceding to the Refugee Convention and Protocol.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is far from South-east Asia. We have never had historical contact with the countries of the region. This has not, however, prevented us from taking an active interest in the tragic fate of the Indochina refugees. Since 1975, approximately 7,600 have resettled in Canada. This year we have initiated programmes to accommodate 50 small boat families and 20 overland families per month. We anticipate that we will be able to continue to receive a significant number of refugees from this region. Recently, we played a significant role by accepting more than 600 refugees from the Hai Hong; these 600 were over and above our established resettlement programmes. In all the regions of Canada where these refugees have started a new life, they have been warmly welcomed by Canadians.

While the effort to which the Canadian Government has committed itself rests on a national consensus, it does entail a considerable financial outlay. The decision to take in an additional 600 refugees from the Hai Hong required in itself a financial provision of \$2 million. The costs of resettling other refugees from South-east Asia is in