

(iii) The largest refugee resettlement program now in progress is that for the Indochinese. The Indochinese program is, in fact, the most ambitious refugee resettlement program in Canadian history. Through a program of mixed government and private sponsorship, Canadian commitment is 60,000 refugees in 1979 and 1980. To date, 37,217 have arrived in Canada. Of these 24,169 were sponsored by private groups and 13,048 by the federal government. This program reflects the gravity of the refugee problem in Southeast Asia and exceeds, on a one-time basis, the framework of the annual refugee plan.

It is hoped that there will be some redirection of the sponsorship program into new areas of partnership with the voluntary sector so as to help more needy and difficult cases which might otherwise be overlooked. We hope to ensure that a greater number of refugees with serious, long-term problems will be able to establish in Canada.

Our 60,000 commitment represents, per capita, the most generous program of all the major resettlement countries. It is unique in its mobilization of private sector assistance and moral support for the refugees.

(b) Refugee Protection in Canada

Canada has acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and to its 1967 Protocol. In accordance with these international instruments, our policy with respect to those claiming refugee status after arrival in Canada is to ensure full protection to all those who have a valid claim to refugee status. All claims to refugee status are reviewed by the Refugee Status Advisory Committee (RSAC) which recommends to the Minister of Employment and Immigration whether the claim should be considered valid. The RSAC is composed of: