



A group of Vietnamese refugees arrive at Canadian Forces Base Longue-Pointe in Montreal in 1978. (Top) Major Raymond Dussault talks with one of the refugees; (centre) a young Vietnamese family at the end of their long journey to Canada; (bottom) a refugee welcomes a good meal in the Base cafeteria.

international action on this distressing problem must include the maintenance of an open first asylum policy. The Ministers note that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, places among the basic rights of mankind the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution.

The present exodus in Southeast Asia,

The following numbers of persons from Indochina are expected to enter Canada this year:

Government refugee program	8,000
Private refugee sponsorships	2,000
Family sponsorship from refugee camps	1,000
Family sponsorship from Viet Nam	1,000
TOTAL	12,000

with its appalling consequences of human distress, has its roots in a flagrant and callous disregard for basic human rights.

Canada to make every effort

The Government is determined that Canada will make every realistic effort, whether political or humanitarian, to contribute to a lasting international solution.

Canadian churches and other private organizations are expected to sponsor

another 1,200 refugees over and above those brought in under the Government's resettlement plan.

Vietnamese already established in Canada can also assist family members now in refugee camps to immigrate. Some 1,000 refugees from these camps will probably settle in Canada in this manner. Another 1,000 could establish themselves under a family reunification program with Viet Nam.

Quebec referendum next spring

The Quebec government plans to hold its referendum on sovereignty-association next spring, Premier René Lévesque announced recently. The Premier gave no specific date for the referendum nor did he disclose the text of the question that will be asked on the referendum ballot.

Mr. Lévesque said the wording of the question "will deal essentially, and whatever happens, with the government's option, that is to say, a mandate to repatriate all our taxes and our legislative powers while maintaining economic links with Canada."

The Quebec government will publish a white paper explaining the significance of its goal of sovereignty-association before the assembly resumes sitting for the fall term.

The Prime Minister responds

Prime Minister Joe Clark responded in the following statement:

"By announcing today the season for the referendum, the Premier of Quebec, Mr. René Lévesque, lifted in part the veil of confusion which has surrounded this matter. I would have preferred Mr. Lévesque to hold the referendum in the fall since this would have relieved more rapidly the uncertainty with which Quebec has had to contend for too long already....

"Next spring then, the Quebec people will have to decide on a matter of vital importance. They will have to decide between a yet undefined option, and a

federalism adapted to the realities of the eighties. I am convinced that, when the time comes, the people of Quebec will opt for Canada and will choose to build their future in a great country which offers them an unlimited potential.

"Meanwhile, the federal government will have begun the process for change, as called for by all Canadians. I said, during the past months, that I intend to provide a fresh face to federalism. I remain firmly committed to that process and I expect all provinces, Quebec included, to take part in it."

The Leader of the Opposition's statement

Pierre Trudeau, Leader of the Opposition, referred to the referendum as a "test of maturity" and said that the Liberal party would co-operate with other pro-federalist groups and with the Quebec Liberal party under the leadership of Claude Ryan. Mr. Trudeau said:

"The morning after the vote, no matter what the outcome, we will be expected to continue to live together on this half of the North American continent. In this highly charged emotional debate a concerted effort to respect individuals and their ideas will greatly facilitate the process of reconciliation which we will have to undertake following what will be a heart-rending consultative process for many groups and individuals. But I have confidence in the quality of this country's democratic process and I am firmly convinced that Canada will emerge from the Quebec referendum test stronger and more unified than ever."

Sentinelle