

reunification but also provided for the adjustment of status of hundreds of Salvadoreans already in Canada. Missions in the region monitored closely the movements of these refugees and their accessibility to Canada's refugee and special measures programs.

Another facet of immigration operations abroad was providing services to persons wishing to enter Canada for a short period, including visitors, students and temporary workers. Many programs were in place to facilitate these persons, whose numbers increased significantly in 1981. They included: student and summer youth work exchanges; seasonal agricultural workers movements; and young technicians' training courses. In 1981, missions issued a total of 242,279 visitor visas, compared with 218,150 in 1980.

On October 15, citizens of India were removed from visitor visa exemption. This action was taken to provide better servicing of Indian nationals seeking to visit Canada for legitimate reasons, and to control the number of dubious claims being made to refugee status by Indian citizens on their arrival in Canada. The latter situation, if not corrected, threatened to overwhelm the refugee determination process. In 1981, of the 2,592 claims made in Canada, 1,047 or 40 per cent were from Indian nationals.

At the annual review meetings held in Ottawa, in December, agreement was reached respectively with Mexico and Commonwealth Caribbean countries on new five-year agreements for the seasonal agricultural workers programs, which provide an important dimension to Canada's relations with the government of Mexico and with the government of the Commonwealth Caribbean nations. In 1981, 689 agricultural workers from Mexico and 5,130 from the Commonwealth Caribbean entered Canada under the mandate of these programs.

Foreign claims

The Department handles requests from Canadian citizens for assistance in pressing claims against or involving foreign governments, and these are ordinarily dealt with on an individual basis. However, when large numbers of claims arise by reason of a sweeping change in the political organization of a country involving the nationalization or affectation of private property, it is more practical to negotiate a comprehensive or block settlement with the country. Such an agreement, which had been signed with Cuba on November 7, 1980, entered into force on June 26, 1981.

Canada also entered into a Claims settlement agreement with the government of the People's Republic of China on August 20, 1981, marking the successful completion of work that began in 1974. A press release which requested all Canadians with claims against the People's Republic of China to submit their claims to the Department, led to two rounds of consultations in April 1980 and August 1981. Under the terms of the agreement, the government of Canada agreed to refrain from espousing claims of Canadian citizens in respect of certain categories of claim arising out of measures