

program for Indochina refugees has not prejudiced our refugee resettlement programs for Eastern Europe and Latin America, all of which are established and protected in our annual refugee plan.

In terms of refugee resettlement, it is essential to emphasize once again that there be full and active co-ordination at the operational level between all the parties concerned – the resettlement countries, the countries of first asylum and the High Commissioner's staff. The success of our efforts to move massive numbers of people as quickly as possible demands the fullest and most effective co-operation of all concerned. As the High Commissioner stressed in his opening remarks yesterday, the increasing demands placed on us all require that we adapt our procedures and methods with a flexibility which will permit the most effective operations. In this context, it is Canada's firm belief that increasing attention must be given, not only to the concept of resettlement but, as important, to providing the resettlement countries with adequate support services to ensure our own quick resettlement response. It is our responsibility to ensure that the High Commissioner is able to place in the field a sufficiently strong complement of officers to provide the necessary support.

We anticipate that Canada's main focus and concentration in terms of response to refugee problems will remain on resettlement in Canada. Canada fully intends, however, to continue its support for refugee activities other than resettlement in Canada. For example, Canada is considering actively and sympathetically support for the High Commissioner's Uganda appeal. Canada recognizes that not all countries consider themselves able to resettle refugees in large numbers but we believe all should continue to expand their resettlement commitment to the degree feasible. However, we would stress again that the refugee problem is a problem for the whole international community and that the High Commissioner's activities must be given the widest possible support in terms of financial contributions, the maintenance of a generous first asylum policy and resettlement places.

The High Commissioner has presented us with a full agenda. It is our responsibility to examine closely and to discuss as fully as possible the extensive range of the High Commissioner's programs. In so doing, the Canadian delegation would hope that one idea should inform all our discussion: namely that the world refugee problem is one which confronts the whole international community and that if we are to tackle it with any hope of success the heavy burden must be shared by us all.