

the Chamber of Shipping, the Council of Forest Industries, the Wharf Operators' Association, the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association and the Economic Development Ministers of the four western provinces.

In addition, the Vancouver Port Corporation Board has always included a senior representative from labour. Currently, Mr. Jack Munro of the International Woodworkers' of America serves on the board as successor to Mr. Don Garcia who is currently President of the Canadian area of the ILWU representing the longshoremen on the West Coast.

Second, with respect to facilities at the Port of Vancouver, I am pleased to advise this House and the Member that the Port of Vancouver has invested in excess of \$75 million since 1983, including approximately \$33 million directly and indirectly related to container handling and distribution.

Present operational container crane and shore-side equipment has the capacity to handle an estimated 325,000, 20-foot equivalent units per year. This will be substantially increased when terminally handling equipment now on order by the terminal contractors becomes operational in mid-1987. The through-put in 1986 was 222,781 20-foot equivalent units, thus indicating that Vancouver already has additional capacity in excess of 100,000 20-foot equivalent units annually.

Finally, the Vancouver Port Corporation has estimated its capital requirements over the next five years to be \$75 million, which will be funded from port operations. This includes provision for additional container handling equipment as demand develops.

REFUGEES—DEPORTATION OF IRANIAN FROM UNITED STATES.
(B) REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF MINISTERIAL PERMIT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise this evening to review a question that I asked the Minister of State for Immigration (Mr. Weiner) in the House last December, 1986. The question involves the case of one Mr. Moatamedi, a 25 year-old Iranian student who is presently in the United States pending deportation to Iran.

The question of the matter revolves around the issue that the Canadian Government does not wish to extend a hand of humanity to this one individual who faces certain persecution and probably death as soon as he touches the tarmac in Iran.

There is a community in eastern Canada in the Province of Nova Scotia that is willing to sponsor this individual. There are individuals across Canada who have written and phoned the Minister over the course of the last two months. We have a policy where we recruit some 12,000 refugees from around the world. We have 6,000 additional refugees who are supported and sponsored by communities in Canada. We have ministerial permits that are granted to individuals who merit special consideration because of their special circumstances, and yet we have this one individual who is looking to Canada for assistance and looking to Canada to stay his eventual departure from the United States, a deportation that was already attempted once. En route to Iran the plane stopped in Paris

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and Mr. Moatamedi tried to commit suicide as opposed to facing death in Iran. The French returned him to the United States, the Americans did not even blink and are prepared to put him on a plane for the second time in under a year.

My questions to the Minister were simply why the Government was not allowing Canadians and the community of Yarmouth to sponsor this individual and give the green light. If the Government did not wish to allow a community or a group of individuals to sponsor this man why could the Minister not find something within his department to extend a special ministerial permit, given the very special circumstances of this 25 year-old.

● (2120)

My office was in touch with this individual's lawyer in Washington today and she confirmed for the record once again that this individual is still in hospital in Washington waiting for Canada to extend its arms to him if the United States maintains its original position.

At the time I asked the Minister the question, he gave me a number of reasons why he could not do it, why the individual was not a bona fide refugee and why his papers were not in order. The answers to those questions were certainly inadequate. I look forward to hearing the Parliamentary Secretary provide Canadians, and particularly the sponsors in eastern Canada, with an update as to where the Government stands *vis-à-vis* Mr. Moatamedi's case and what he can look forward to if anything at all from Canadians.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am happy to add to the reply given by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) to the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) on December 1.

As the Hon. Member is aware, Mr. Moatamedi was admitted to the United States in 1978 at the age of 17 as a foreign student. In 1981, he married an American citizen and held a job in that country until his student visa expired in the summer of 1984. On his return from Mexico in the fall of 1984, he was apprehended by the United States Immigration Services and he asked for asylum in that country at the hearing to review his deportation order. He was later refused asylum in the United States and a deportation order against him was maintained in April 1986 to force him to return to Iran.

His desperate act during a stopover in Paris postponed his return to Iran since the French authorities decided to send him back to the United States where he has since been detained in a psychiatric centre.

As the Hon. Member already knows, the case of this man has been reviewed in depth by Canadian visa officers in Washington to determine whether he could be admitted to Canada as a refugee under the terms of the convention. For the information of the House, both Canada and the United