

and the deficit would still be with us. Now I would hope that no one in this House will argue that the deficit should be brought down on the backs of those most in need. But if they did I would simply point out that not only is slash and burn morally wrong, economically it won't work. It's counterproductive. We need a long-term, solid, sure strategy to bring the deficit down, one that is creative, compassionate and constructive. We intend to put one in place. The budget this year will have real cuts. But the budget will also set in train important processes to reform the most fundamental programs of the federal government.... In the debate today, the easiest priority to put forward is one's own. The most obvious area to ask for more spending is one's own. The most obvious area to ask for cuts is everyone else's. But this debate is about a national budget, not a personal budget. It is about trade-offs, about the balance we need as a nation.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, to the House of Commons (Ottawa, Ontario, February 1, 1994, No. 94-012)

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION:

Marchi Announces New Consultation for Ten-Year Immigration Framework

February 2, 1994, No. 94-6

In announcing the 1994 immigration levels, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi launched a new public consultation process that will help shape the country's immigration policy for the next decade. The new course will set the stage for establishing a new ten-year strategic framework for immigration policy, within which new five-year plans will be set. "We desperately need to move beyond annual targets and narrow visions," said Marchi. "A sound immigration program requires a creative, broad, long-term plan. Fundamentally, Canadians need to express a vision of what they want to achieve as a nation in the next ten to fifteen years, and then articulate how immigration, as one important tool, can help us achieve that benchmark."

Minister Delivers 1994 Immigration Plans

February 2, 1994, No. 94-5

Sergio Marchi, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, presented the government's 1994 immigration levels to the House of Commons. The target for this year is set at 250 000. "This level reflects this government's commitment, set out in the Red Book, to maintain immigration at approximately one percent of Canada's population," stated Marchi. "Specifically, promises to prioritize family class and independent skilled immigration, while promoting a humanitarian policy towards refugees, have been honoured." The number of family class immigrants will increase by 1 300 over last year for a total of 111 000, representing 45% of overall levels. The stream for independent immigrants -- those selected primarily for their labour market skills -- will increase by almost 10 000 for a total of 86 700. This class, combined with business-related applicants, accounts for 44 percent of the total levels. In keeping with Canada's international commitment to refugees, the number of refugees will be increased by 3 500 for a total of 28 300 for 1994. Government sponsored refugees will number 7 300 (up 700), privately sponsored are set at 6 000 (up 1 400), while successful refugee claimants to be landed in Canada are estimated at 15 000 (up 1 400). Importantly, the refugee levels are at a maximum with respect to budgetary and settlement programs established in 1993. "I especially want to work more closely and cooperatively with the private sector in resettling overseas refugees," said Marchi.

Refugee Claimants allowed to work in Canada

January 24, 1994, No. 94-3

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Sergio Marchi announced that, effective immediately, refugee claimants will be eligible to work in Canada while waiting for their claims to be concluded. "I believe it is important to offer refugee claimants the opportunity to support themselves and to encourage them to seek work," declared Marchi. "Forcing people onto welfare helps no one. Systematic welfare dependency costs the taxpayer, the provinces and the dignity of people like refugee claimants who want to work. In our Red Book our party promised easier access to work permits. I am keeping that promise today," added Marchi. Eligible claimants must submit a Personal Information Form, have a medical examination and have their fingerprints taken, before being given a work permit. This could take between three weeks to two months. The work permits would allow claimants to work at any job.

NATIONAL DEFENCE:

Canadian Peacekeepers Attacked in Croatia and Bosnia

January 23, 1994, CCUNPROFOR 018

Two Canadian peacekeepers were involved in separate significant incidents January 22 and 23. In Croatia, Captain Daniel Massé of Val Belair, Québec and his French driver were fired upon late the afternoon of January the 22 by unidentified soldiers as they were returning to the UN Sector South Headquarters in Knin....Neither was injured.... In central Bosnia, a grenade was thrown (at 3 A.M. on January 23'rd) into an observation post in Canadian peacekeepers camp in Visoko. No injuries resulted from the blast.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 1994: Inter-American Development Bank Annual Meeting (Guadalajara)
- June 5-11, 1994: OAS Annual Assembly (Belem, Brazil)
- July 8-10: G-7 Economic Summit (Naples, Italy)

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