

and large boats. Many have found asylum in Malaysia and of these, 40,000 remain to be resettled. In addition, more than 150,000 have fled Cambodia for Vietnam during this period. During 1978, the flow of refugees has expanded dramatically from month to month, increasing from a monthly level of 2,000 to 12,000 in the space of several months. Impressive as these statistics are, their real significance can be appreciated only in the context of the human suffering which they represent. However, Mr. Chairman, this problem would have been even more dramatic had the High Commissioner and his devoted staff not already deployed remarkable and commendable efforts to assist the populations affected by this exodus and to alleviate their suffering.. The fact that tens of thousands of refugees have been saved and can hope to establish themselves anew in another country is in large measure attributable to the sustained effort of the High Commissioner.

It is equally important to commend the responses of the South-east Asian countries of first asylum, particularly Thailand and Malaysia. Confronted with a situation not of their making and, furthermore, one which causes them enormous political, economic and social problems, they have responded to the limit of their means. That contribution should be recognized. Similarly, we commend those countries, particularly the United States, France and Australia which have accepted refugees for resettlement, as well as those which have contributed financially to the High Commissioner's requirements. These countries have all assumed a share of the responsibilities incumbent upon them as members of the international community.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is a country of long-standing humanitarian traditions. We have historically considered that a tragedy of great human proportions, whether it occurred in our region or elsewhere,