

During 1984, in order to implement new visa requirements and to manage refugee and humanitarian movements in Central America and Sri Lanka more effectively, new immigration points of service were established at Colombo, Dacca, Guatemala, Georgetown and San José. On the other hand, the declining volume of immigration from the United Kingdom, and the need to rationalize the use of resources, resulted in the closure of the consulate in Birmingham and the removal of immigration processing facilities in Glasgow.

In response to policy changes by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) favouring the immigration of entrepreneurs to Canada, the Department gave high priority to encouraging and facilitating the entry of business immigrants into Canada. In 1984, close to 2 100 business immigrants brought an estimated \$820 million to Canada, and created more than 8 000 new jobs. To increase this flow further, External Affairs is continuing special training for visa officers to develop the business expertise necessary to process entrepreneurial applications.

In recent years, the number of persons seeking political asylum in Canada has increased. This situation has created a backlog in the process employed to determine which of these persons are genuine refugees. This backlog, which affords protection against early deportation, has encouraged other immigrants and visitors to enter Canada illegally. During the year, External Affairs, with the support of the CEIC, approached foreign governments and international airlines to seek their co-operation in developing measures to control the flow of illegal visitors to Canada. Furthermore, steps were taken to encourage would-be refugee claimants to take advantage of the processing facilities at Canadian missions abroad rather than to seek asylum after arrival in Canada.

Canada participated actively in the second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA), held in Geneva, July 1984, with delegates from 112 countries and numerous international organizations. The objectives of the conference were to review the results of the earlier ICARA held in 1981, to consider the continuing need for refugee relief, rehabilitation and resettlement in Africa and to consider providing economic assistance to African countries to help them cope with the burden of caring for refugees and those returning to their territory. The conference adopted a declaration and program of action aimed at initiating an effective, long-term strategy to solve some of Africa's serious refugee problems.

Throughout 1984, Canada continued to meet its humanitarian objectives of protection and resettlement of refugees and other persons facing grave danger. Canada's Annual Refugee Plan of 10 000 in 1984 was oversubscribed, and government-assisted refugees totalled 10 474. In addition, another 3 890 refugees were privately sponsored and 958 were admitted from claims made in Canada. Total refugee admissions numbered 15 322 in 1984, an increase of 13 per cent over 1983.

In addition, special humanitarian programs permitted the admission of nearly 12 000 persons. In 1984, the family reunification program for Vietnamese increased by 130 per cent to almost 7 900 persons. The Central America refugee processing facilities were expanded and a special program for political prisoners and oppressed persons from Guatemala

began in April. Increased numbers of refugees were also admitted from Africa and the Middle East. Canada continued its participation in two programs sponsored by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Indochina: Disembarkation Resettlement Offers (DISERO) offering resettlement in Canada for persons rescued at sea by merchant ships flying flags of convenience or flags of those unable to accept refugees; and the Anti-Piracy Program, the objective of which is to reduce attacks on "boat people".

Through its humanitarian programs, Canada was able to assist more than 27 000 persons in 1984.

Immigration and refugees		
Visas issued in 1984 calendar year		
Post or area	Immigrant visas	Visitor visas*
Western Hemisphere		
United States	9 420	75 372
Caribbean	3 208	22 259
South & Central America	<u>5 180</u>	<u>14 952</u>
Sub-total	17 808	112 583
Africa and the Middle East		
Africa	2 311	18 282
Middle East	<u>2 264</u>	<u>10 221</u>
Sub-total	4 575	28 503
Europe		
Western Europe	12 880	30 591
Eastern Europe	<u>5 067</u>	<u>29 680</u>
Sub-total	17 947	60 271
Asia and the Pacific		
Bangkok	10 654	3 273
Hong Kong	10 488	19 741
New Delhi	4 278	18 141
Other posts	<u>8 316</u>	<u>26 834</u>
Sub-total	33 736	67 989
TOTAL	74 066	269 346
<p>*Note: In 1984, 24 365 visitor visas were issued at Canadian posts where there are no immigration facilities. Furthermore, British missions also issued visitor visas on Canada's behalf during the year; however, exact figures are not yet available. These data are not available on a fiscal year basis.</p>		

Private international law

The Department offered a variety of services to facilitate legal proceedings involving Canadian and foreign jurisdictions on the basis of international conventions or by arranged procedures. Social security benefits, maintenance orders, judgments and other related matters have become subjects