

Mr. Chairman, it is through resettlement that Canada can make its major contribution to relief of the disaster in Southeast Asia. But we also recognize that contributions must be made to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Indochina programme.

At this point, Canada wants to pay tribute to the High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the compassionate assistance they have been giving to the victims. We have great admiration for the devotion his organization has shown while working in the most trying circumstances. Without the protection and care that his people have provided, and without the arrangements they have made to resettle refugees, the misery would be both greater and more prolonged. We assure him of Canada's full support for his efforts.

In the past, we have made substantial financial contributions to the High Commissioner's efforts. Last December Canada doubled its annual contribution to \$2 million. In April, a special \$700,000 contribution was made to the Indochina programme. I am pleased to be able to announce today that my government is making a further half million dollar contribution to this programme. We recognize the need; we know the programme; we are pleased the money will be so well spent.

By outlining the actions the Canadian Government and the Canadian people are taking, I hope, Mr. Chairman, that I have established the seriousness with which my country views the current situation. We are prepared, we are willing -- and indeed anxious -- to make our best effort to alleviate the suffering inflicted on so many people by the actions of their own governments. We urge other countries to find the humanity in the souls of their nations to make similar efforts.

But alleviating the suffering is not solving the problem. To lower the fever is not to eradicate the infection. It is the cause of the problem we must address. We must identify the reason for this crisis and deal with it.

It is agreed that we are here to treat the crisis from a humanitarian point of view. But let us be clear about the meaning of humanitarian. One cannot arbitrarily separate out aspects of the problem such as first asylum or resettlement and term them humanitarian, and then dismiss the root causes of the exodus as political. It is no less political to urge countries to maintain a generous first asylum policy, or to provide financing for the care of refugees, than it is to urge the countries of exodus to abandon the policies causing the outflow and the practices that abet it. It is no less humanitarian to demand, as Canada does, that they deal with their citizens without discrimination and in a humane manner. It is our humanity that cries out for an end to this flagrant, this continuing, this outrageous violation of human rights.