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Refugees and displaced persons constitute a special problem. Canada has taken an active part in the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, and in the discussions in the United Nations leading to the establishment of the International Refugee Organization. The government has also taken measures with regard to the admission of refugees and displaced persons, and also of Polish ex-soldiers, which, though not of wide scope, are practical steps within the present physical limitations imposed by transportation.

I should like to remove some doubts by stressing that Canada is not obliged, as a result of our membership in the United Nations or under the constitution of the International Refugee Organization, to accept any specific number of refugees or displaced persons. Nevertheless, we clearly have an obligation to assist in meeting the problem. Canada stands as ready as any country to do its share. In particular we would be willing to accept, in proportion to population, as many displaced persons as the United States is prepared to receive.

In the meantime, we propose to send immigration officers to examine the situation among the refugee groups, and to take preliminary steps looking towards the early admission of some thousands of these people. In developing this group movement, the Immigration Branch and the Labour Department will determine jointly the approximate number of persons who can be readily