

Over 4,000 of these were included in special refugee programmes which provided for admission to Canada without reference to regular terms of admission.

Included in the 4,000 refugees were over 1,800 refugees from Italy, Austria and Germany; 1,200 refugees who came to Canada under the private citizenship scheme which permits any individual group or agency in Canada to sponsor refugees; 300 tubercular refugees who were hospitalized and cared for and 500 of their dependents; 200 to 300 Chinese refugees from Hong Kong; 200 stateless persons from Greece and the Middle East and a small number of handicapped refugees admitted under a special scheme inaugurated in 1962.

Changing events in the world present new problems. The Canadian Government continually receives representations on behalf of refugees and is always ready to consider what action can be taken to enable them to take up a new life in our country. Canada has profited from the assistance and the cooperation of the High Commissioner and his staff whose suggestions and recommendations are always most carefully and sympathetically considered.

It is a sad commentary on our times that refugees have become one of the continuing problems with which we must deal. The arduous task of providing a solution to this problem is all too often long, frustrating and extraordinarily complicated. In the meantime, the plight of those who have fled from the lands from which they came is a very disturbing one. To find the necessary funds to provide even for their most basic needs is not easy and, living as many of them do in wqualor and misery, there must remain for some only a hope that somehow they may become again useful members of society. The existence of the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees is one of the reasons they manage to retain hope in their adversity. Canada will continue to play its part in supporting the office of the High Commissioner and other organizations engaged in this vital work with the firm conviction that by common efforts we can do much to alleviate the sufferings of these people who need our help.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.