

send a special task force of immigration officers to Austria to help with the backlog of applications.

An editorial in the *Ottawa Citizen* April 23 described the lengthy procedure facing a Pole wishing to immigrate to Canada from Austria. This procedure, involving interviews, a security check, medical tests, and waiting for a seat on an aircraft, takes a year or more, the editorial said. Twelve-thousand Poles had applied through the four immigration officers in Vienna.

The immigration procedures had not been smoothed to the satisfaction of the Progressive Conservative Party by May 20. A motion read by Mr. Joe Reid (P.C., St. Catharines) in the House of Commons on that day asked the government to "strip the red tape and delaying bureaucratic tactics so as to admit to this country a greater number of Polish refugees from Austria, and within a much shorter period of time."

Mr. Axworthy's earlier-mentioned report to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration also included a restatement of Canada's commitment to accept applications from refugees from El Salvador in the US facing deportation from that country.

The *Globe and Mail* April 27 reported that the interviewing of Salvadoran refugees in the US had begun in Canadian consular offices. It was reported that fifteen Salvadorans interviewed in Dallas, Texas, have been accepted by Canada. A further one hundred refugees had applied and were waiting for approval at the time of the newspaper story.

Restrictions

A temporary restriction on selected workers coming to work in Canada was announced April 29 by Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy. He said that the restriction is in response to Canada's current unemployment problem. Excluded from the restriction are those with pre-arranged employment.

Newspaper reports (*Citizen* and *Globe and Mail*, May 1) stated that the announced measures, which became effective May 1, could delay the entry of about 12,000 foreign workers for six months. The newspaper reports also quote figures released by the director of the federal Government's job-monitoring agency which show the flow of foreign workers into Canada had been dropping steadily since September 1981. The director, Dave Neuman, said this is because the number of jobs advertised abroad has fallen, restrictions have been raised, and the desire of foreign workers to come to Canada is down.

Mr. Axworthy announced further measures May 6. A press release from his office outlined measures to protect

Canadian artists and entertainers by extending the "validated job-offer" requirements to foreign performers appearing in filmed or video-taped productions in Canada.

Immigration and Refugee Symposium

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy represented Canada at a symposium on immigration and refugee policy in Washington, D.C., April 21. The conference was sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Other countries represented included the US, Britain, France, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany. The symposium provided a forum for immigrant and refugee-receiving countries to exchange experiences regarding policies and their administration.

SCIENCE

Science Council of Canada Report

Canada is falling behind in the international race to exploit new computer technology, according to a Science Council of Canada report entitled "Planning Now For an Information Society. Tomorrow is Too Late," released May 18. A *Globe and Mail* article May 18 states that the report "paints a stark and unusually dramatic picture of the consequences that will befall the country if the micro-chip and telecommunications technologies of the future are not given more government encouragement."

The Science Council report predicts the consequences for Canada should the country continue to lag behind others in the above-mentioned areas: "Many sectors of our manufacturing industry would be rendered obsolete. Our trade balance, already precarious, might never recover. Structural unemployment could lead to permanent joblessness for many Canadians, a decline in living standards and, for some, emigration. The personal privacy and integrity of Canadian citizens could be compromised in ways and on a scale never before seen in an independent, democratic country; indeed, our cultural and political sovereignty would be permanently jeopardized."

Questions directed to the Government May 18 regarding government policy toward the encouragement of computer technology as a result of the Science Council report were met with replies that more funds for computer research and development are being made available consistent with the federal government's economic strategy.