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A member of the Canadian Forces helps a refugee family on their arrival.

legislation introduces a mechanism for federal-provincial consultations on future immigration levels, and for the annual announcement in Parliament of future intake. This planning process includes a projection of the sources and numbers of refugees which Canada expects to resettle in a given time period.

The provision for the private sponsorship of refugees has led, in turn, to the concept of a partnership between government and voluntary groups in refugee assistance. The word "partnership" is accurate here, because non-governmental groups are now able to help shape the size and content of Canada's refugee program.

Although [Canada's] experience with this partnership, as it has evolved through the Indochinese refugee program, is still quite new, we have already learned that the Government and voluntary sectors can accomplish much more working together than either could have achieved working alone....

Strong leadership

...It is fundamentally important that the Federal Government provide strong and creative leadership. The fact of this leadership is itself not new. Since the end of the Second World War, through support of United Nations refugee relief efforts and our own commitment to alleviate the plight of the displaced and persecuted, Canada has attained a global influence far in excess of what might have been expected from a country of [its] population size, economic power or political strength.

By being decisive when faced with appeals from groups in urgent need of resettlement, Canada has not only been able to help those we accept, but has also been able to encourage other countries to make similar gestures.

This has been true in recent years — through our initiatives to help special groups of Soviet Jews in Europe — through our decision to provide resettlement for Chilean political prisoners — and through our swift action in the case of the *Hai Hong*, when our acceptance of 600 of the refugees stranded abroad that dilapidated freighter prompted other nations to make similar commitments, and led ultimately to the resolution of the problem....

Refugee selection

Consider the question of refugee selection abroad — how many refugees can we accommodate and where should they come from? The answer is found in [Canada's] global refugee plan, in which the Government commits itself to accept a specific number of refugees each year. Obviously, Canada cannot accept every refugee in the world in need of permanent resettlement, so we have to concentrate on groups of refugees most in need of our help. Our selection of individuals within such groups must take into consideration their ability to fit into Canadian society, though we will continue to accept our share of the most difficult-to-place cases. This means we must examine the world refugee situation each year to determine an appropriate government response and the potential for involvement by the private sector.

It is important that extensive consultations with the provinces and interested private groups precede this annual determination.... The provinces have recognized and accepted the importance of the role they play and, considering the degree of their co-operation and participation to date, all have proven themselves willing to support Canada's refugee programs and accept their fair share of refugees....

Of course, ongoing discussions with voluntary groups are also a vital aspect of the partnership of which I have spoken. In fact, a five-step process of consultation has already begun for the 1981 program. Letters have been sent to principal interest groups, outlining the general intentions of the Federal Government with respect to the discussion process and seeking the initial views of the voluntary groups on how this year's consultations

should proceed.

...We will circulate a discussion paper among the provinces and the voluntary sector to highlight specific areas and problems requiring attention. We plan to meet with the non-governmental groups in July, and receive feedback on the potential for private sponsorship and joint assistance. Then, a draft refugee plan including the proposed global intake and distribution, can be drawn up, and its details will be the subject of further consultations with the provinces and the voluntary sector. Finally, the plan will be discussed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Cabinet approval of the final document will be sought in the early autumn, in the context of determining annual immigration levels.

The global plan will, as I have indicated, identify those particular refugee groups around the world which are most in need of permanent resettlement assistance. It is equally vital, however, that we reach a broad cross-section of refugees within each of the target groups, as well as those individuals most in need.

To ensure that these objectives can be met on a global basis we will be relying more and more on the valuable assistance of voluntary groups abroad. Such involvement is not a new development. In fact our ongoing refugee activities in Rome, Vienna and Athens depend extensively on the supportive roles of such groups as Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Catholic Immigration Services, to name just two. Such support takes the form of helping with documentation, arranging medical examinations, and co-ordinating transportation....

The Indochinese program, too, has provided scope for voluntary Canadian initiative abroad, as well as techniques which will prove valuable in future movements....

Participation in refugee selection abroad is only one element of the voluntary sector's role in our partnership. The other, of course, relates to the resettlement in Canada of the refugees whom we are able to accept. Here again, the Government must, and does accept the responsibility of leadership and co-ordination, but with full involvement of non-governmental organizations.

It is clear to me that the Government can best lead, not by carrying out the resettlement, but by creating a positive en-

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