

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 60/9 Aftermath of World Refugee Year

Text of the Prime Minister's letter of July 12, 1960, to the Canadian Welfare Council, tabled in the House of Commons on Friday, July 15, in reply to a brief on the subject of the extension of the programmes of World Refugee Year.

My colleagues and I have had an opportunity to complete our consideration of the brief on the subject of refugees which your Council submitted to us on March 17 last.

The results of our study and the decisions which have been reached with respect to the five recommendations contained in your presentation are enumerated below.

1. Your Council recommended that the Government should extend beyond the end of World Refugee Year the programme allowing for private sponsorship of refugee families. You will recall that I announced in the House of Commons on March 17 last that the sponsorship arrangements relating to refugee families would be extended beyond the end of June 1960, the month in which World Refugee Year comes to an official end.
2. Your Council recommended that the Government, in consultation with the provinces, should increase the number of refugee families admitted to Canada with one or more members suffering from tuberculosis, and that the programme connected with TB families should be extended beyond the end of World Refugee Year, if necessary, in order to carry out such arrangements. At the time your recommendation was presented to the Government, it had already been announced that Canada was ready to admit 100 TB cases from the refugee camps, together with any dependents they might have. Announcement has since been made of the decision to admit a further 100 TB cases with dependents, including in this second group some families which may have more than one member suffering from the disease. Arrangements have now been completed which will permit the first group of families under this extended arrangement to come forward to Canada on or about July 18, with a second group scheduled to come forward on July 25, and the remaining group in the first few days of August.
3. Your Committee suggested that the special programme developed in connection with World Refugee Year should be enlarged to include not only private sponsorship of refugee families in camps in Europe, but also private sponsorship of European refugee families not in camps, as well as refugee families in other parts of the world. European refugee families not in refugee camps are already covered under existing provisions for private sponsorship.

Financial assistance is already being given through a special contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to assist refugee families in other parts of the world but, since the main objective of the High Commissioner during World Refugee Year has been to clear the camps in Europe, it is considered that, apart from the special financial contribution already referred to, the Canadian offer to assist the High Commissioner should be directed principally to the primary objective which he has set for his programme.