



# Statements and Speeches

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## PLEA FOR TRUE SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN KAMPUCHEA

A Statement by Louis Duclos, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the United Nations Conference on Kampuchean Relief, Geneva, May 27, 1980

The tragic situation of the people of Kampuchea, a situation of death, famine, suffering and dispersal of family, has led the international community once again to consider how it must unite its efforts to relieve the disastrous conditions which continue to ravage this area of the world. Ten years of war, revolution, foreign invasion and occupation have changed a once prosperous country into a land where most essential economic and social structures have broken down completely, where the very existence of an entire people is threatened and where food shortages bordering on famine and the almost complete lack of consumer goods have become everyday reality.

This tragedy and suffering have deeply affected the Canadian people and it is with the massive support of its population that the Canadian Government has been working for almost two years to contribute what it can to the relief operation organized by the international community. Our response has taken a number of forms. Canada has contributed \$15 million directly to the programs of the chief international organization engaged in Kampuchea relief. It has also made indirect contributions through significant support of the assistance and rehabilitation projects undertaken by Canadian non-governmental organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross, the Mennonite Central Committee, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the Canadian University Services Overseas, World Vision of Canada and a number of other non-governmental organizations.

However, throughout its history, Canada has maintained a policy of welcome for displaced persons and refugees. On the strength of tradition, we opened our doors to the Indochinese refugees. The program set up accordingly was indisputably the most ambitious in our history. Before the end of this year, 60,000 Indochinese refugees will have resettled in Canada; taking into account the size of our population this places us first among the host countries. It is evident that this venture was made possible not only through the direct political and financial intervention of the Federal Government, but also, and to a significant degree, through the generous response of groups and individuals, religious and charitable organizations and provincial and municipal governments. In any case, this unprecedented effort represents a costly financial commitment. When, before the end of this year, Canada has received the 60,000 Indochinese refugees it has undertaken to receive, some \$125 million will have been disbursed for this purpose alone by the Canadian Federal Government. Several millions of dollars more will have been spent by the provincial and municipal governments and by the private sector.

This is the third time we have met to seek together the best means for assisting the

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