

Illegal departures have been checked. Making that kind of appeal in that kind of forum is something that only the government could do - though we could not have taken so strong a stand if we weren't certain of the support for it among the Canadian people.

The second kind of action that was called for was to provide a humanitarian response to the plight of these tragically uprooted people. They desperately need new homes. The countries to which they flee are overwhelmed by the problems that have been created, and can not be expected to continue to give shelter to the refugees if they are not certain that other countries will open their doors for longterm resettlement. Countries like Canada have to provide a relief valve if we want to prevent hundreds of thousands more people from dying. There was absolutely no choice about Canada having to accept refugees for resettlement. At least there was no choice if we are going to be able to live with our consciences - and to me that means no choice.

But there was a choice as to how we were to do this. One way - the way apparently preferred by the new Leader of the Opposition - would have been for the government to just arbitrarily pick a figure and say we will bring in this number and look after them. But we knew that the distress of these refugees had touched the hearts of Canadians. We knew that thousands of people from coast to coast had already been looking for a way in which they, as private citizens, could help. Because we knew this, and because we really mean it when we say we want greater public participation in public affairs, we designed the program as we did. The government is sponsoring one refugee for each refugee sponsored privately. Not only does this give an opportunity for Canadians to satisfy their need to help directly in a tragic situation, but it also allows the Canadian people to determine the total number of refugees who will come here.

That is a program of partnership between the people and the government. Now Mr. Trudeau has called that a cop-out, and I suppose that he has some difficulty believing in the wisdom and generosity of the Canadian people after what they did on May 22nd. The NDP have heaped their well practised scorn on the program too. But to me this is the opposite of copping-out. It is a bringing in, a bringing in of the people of this country to a partnership with their government in a matter of high public policy. We intend to continue as we have begun.

I think this example clearly demonstrates our commitment to both questions of human rights and public involvement in external affairs. It is also an excellent example of the kind of cooperation we expect to have with provincial governments. Throughout the entire process we were in close touch with the governments of the provinces, consulting them about the numbers of refugees they would be willing and able to help accommodate, and about the services that would have to be provided for the new arrivals. In this regard I want to say how grateful we have been for the concerned and supportive approach taken by the government of Quebec. Their generous and