

human rights problems--whether economic, social, cultural, civil, or political--and to prescribe appropriate solutions. The Government of Canada will continue to support all serious efforts to advance the cause of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world, and to insist upon the responsibility of the international community to monitor the global human rights situation according to the obligations of states under the United Nations Charter.

#### 4. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Giving a statement to the Third Committee on November 13, 1978, the Canadian Delegate Sylva Gelber, O.C., congratulated the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for his humanitarian efforts. She also expressed Canada's dismay over the increase in the number of refugees for which the High Commissioner was responsible. Next the Canadian Delegate stressed that many more countries must contribute in financial and resettlement terms to avoid cutbacks in the UNHCR's vital humanitarian activities. Finally she set out Canada's support for the UNHCR as well as Canada's financial contribution to the program for relief operations of Indo-Chinese refugees. Here are some extracts from the Canadian Delegate's statement:

It is with considerable interest that my government has, during the past year, been following the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on behalf of individuals who have been displaced, due to war, civil strife, or persecution in their homelands. My delegation would like to commend the High Commissioner for the dedication with which he has pursued his efforts to alleviate the suffering experienced by these uprooted people and to bring about their resettlement. We are dismayed to note the High Commissioner's estimation that the world refugee population now stands at some ten million, the highest level seen since the great displacements of humanity which followed the Second World War. As we survey the current political situation in the world around us, we are aware that the problem is not likely to decrease in magnitude in the immediate future.

My government was pleased to note at the recent Executive Committee meeting of the UNHCR in Geneva that the High Commissioner had managed to raise funds to meet the needs of his programs for 1978. Nevertheless there is still a relatively limited number of governments who bear the financial burden for the High Commissioner's programs and a much smaller number who participate meaningfully in resettlement efforts. The cost and scope of the High Commissioner's programs have quadrupled in the past five years as a result of dramatic upheavals and their resultant refugee problems. If commensurate support is not forthcoming, both from traditional donors and new donors, the result could be the cutting back of vital programs of humanitarian assistance to refugees in many parts of the globe.

Canada has been a consistently active supporter of the efforts of the UNHCR, both as a major financial donor, and as a principal country of settlement. Since the end of the Second World War, the Canadian Government has welcomed over 350,000 refugees for resettlement, and has spent millions of dollars to provide services to these new residents to facilitate their integration into the mainstream of Canadian life. Last year, a new Immigration Act came into effect which underlines Canada's international commitment, undertaken through the humanitarian and refugee conventions to which Canada is a party, to regard the refugee as