

concern. I might note that Canada made the same point at the UN General Assembly last December, urging that the Vietnamese Government make the necessary adjustments to its society to provide a place for each and every citizen.

**ASEAN Island
Transit Camp**

I will digress here to comment for a moment on the ASEAN processing island concept. It is an interesting proposal, and one which we support. But as presently envisaged, the island camp will have a limited effect in relieving the existing pressure on the countries granting first asylum, and therefore on encouraging a more generous response on their part. The Indonesian island will accept from UNHCR camps, especially those in Malaysia, up to 10,000 refugees who have already been processed and selected for resettlement in a third country, but who for lack of quota places in the resettlement country must wait in camps in Southeast Asia for a lengthy period. It will be used primarily for those destined for the U.S.A. The Americans, by making use of their quota commitments for future years, can process numbers beyond their present quota. This would relieve pressure on the existing first asylum camps.

The difficulty is that the Indonesian island camp will be limited to 10,000 refugees. Five times that number of pre-selected refugees could be moved to such a camp almost immediately. If, therefore, the number to be accommodated by the island processing camp were to be greatly expanded, or if other facilities of a similar nature were to be created, the concept could have a significant positive effect on the over-all situation. As I have mentioned, however, the broader problem must also be dealt with at its source, namely in Vietnam.

**Vietnamese
Response**

Earlier this year, Vietnam appeared to be partially responding to international opinion. After lengthy discussion initiated by Canada, Vietnam agreed to arrangements for procedures to facilitate the reunification of families of the 11,000 Vietnamese who have settled in Canada since 1975. The Vietnamese Government is demonstrating an apparent willingness to proceed with this important program. We greatly welcome these indications and hope that they will result in the earlier reunification of families too long divided. In a further positive development, Vietnam announced it would put an end to the outflow by sea by permitting an orderly movement of people, including family reunification, under the auspices of the UNHCR. This seemed to be a promising beginning. It does not appear, however, to be matched with domestic measures aimed at reassuring the large numbers of Vietnamese citizens that they have a place in their own country.

**International
Response to
Gross Violators
of Human
Rights**

I have commented at length on the refugee situation in Indochina as an example of the complexity of the issues that come into play in such a situation. I must say that we are frustrated at the inability of the international community to put an end to the systematic persecution which has created refugee situations in all parts of the world. Enforcement mechanisms do not exist. Prospects for reaching even broad agreement on the desirability of drawing international attention to bad situations are not promising. In realistic terms, the best we can do is marshal opinion and focus attention on the problem and its causes. In matters of conscience, an articulated expression of our concern, repeated and amplified throughout the world community, can be a potent influence. While not correcting the problem, it may curb its worst excesses.
