

were increasing. In order to aid the domestic industry, the government had decided to "invoke the consultative clauses in Canada's bilateral restraint arrangements with Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the Taiwan Textile Federation. Discussions will begin on an urgent basis with a view to negotiating lower levels of clothing imports for selected product areas where the import competition facing the industry is particularly serious," a Government of Canada press release October 1 stated.

Several textile unions had asked Ottawa to tighten quotas for imports (*The Citizen*, October 2). In a letter October 13, MP Dan Heap (NDP, Spadina) also urged the government to act quickly to revise the existing quotas to ensure that Canadians maintain their traditional share of the Canadian market. He said that the recession had resulted in a drop in consumer demand for textile and clothing products of 35 percent, and that imports in 1981 had risen 22 percent.

FIRA Figures

Figures released in November showed that the Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) had more than doubled the number of applications processed in the four months following the June budget over the same period a year earlier. The agency had processed 357 applications from July to the end of October compared with 176 in last year's corresponding period. As well, only 6 percent of those applications were rejected, while there had been a 14 percent rejection rate a year earlier. Measures had been announced in the June budget to expedite the review of applications (*The Citizen*, November 9).

Dollar

The Canadian dollar was worth 80.9 cents (US) on October 1, and "soared" in heavy trading as falling US interest rates gave the currency a boost, closing at 81.61 cents (US) on October 13. On November 1, the dollar registered 81.77 cents (US). It was worth 82.05 cents (US) November 9, its highest since early spring. It declined during November, and on November 25, closed at 80.97 cents (US). After further decline it rose again to 80.91 cents (US) on November 30 (*Globe and Mail*, October and November).

IMMIGRATION

Levels Cut

The Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration Levels, 1983 was tabled in the House of Commons November

1. Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced that for 1983, Canada plans to admit 105,000 to 110,000 immigrants, adjusted down from the 134,000 to 144,000 projected in the 1982 levels report. The government-assisted refugee intake for 1983 was set at 12,000 in the November report, down from 14,000 in 1982. Within the category, however, Latin American, African and Middle Eastern refugees were given higher quotas. The major reduction was in selected worker admissions, which were set in the report at 8,000 to 10,000 (Employment and Immigration press release, November 1) down from the 20,000 to 25,000 from the earlier projection (*Globe and Mail*, November 2).

In an October 7 interview in which Mr. Axworthy suggested that Canada might cut back on its immigrant intake next year, he had said that the gloomy unemployment picture was the "primary factor" in determining quotas. After the report was tabled November 1, PC immigration critic John McDermid said that he was disappointed at the cutback in refugees from Eastern Europe from 6,000 in 1982 to 3,000 in 1983, although in general he felt that the overall immigration figures for the next year should probably be even lower, given the economic times (*The Citizen*, November 2). NDP immigration critic Dan Heap called the new levels "inhumane" and said that the reduction was an "attempt to place the blame for the unemployment situation on prospective immigrants and displaced persons" (NDP press release, November 1).

AID

Refugee Relief

External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen announced October 19 that Canada is providing \$12 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), through the International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA) program of the Canadian International Development Agency: \$5 million to assist Afghan refugees in Pakistan; \$1 million for refugees in Thailand; \$2 million for refugees in Central America; and \$4 million to Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan for refugees in the Horn of Africa. It was announced October 20 that a further \$2 million would be provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross for refugees in Thailand and Africa through the same program (CID press releases, October 19 and 20).

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