

news continued

Third World universities threatened

It has been said that if a Third World government wishes to maintain its grip on power, it must ensure the happiness of two sectors of the population: the soldiers and the students. Military coups are, of course, dismayingly commonplace. Student-instigated rebellions have also led to the overthrow of various Third World regimes, as happened in Thailand in the early 1970's. Indeed, university campuses in most developing nations have traditionally served as hotbeds of social unrest. The comparatively complacent Canadian student populace would no doubt be amazed at the level of political activity which exists among the student bodies of most of the universities in the Third World. But the price which the academic communities of the Third World have paid for this political and social awareness has been a high one. As a precautionary

first step, many Third World governments shut down all post-secondary institutions at the first indication of any impending civil strife. In some countries, such as El Salvador, universities and technical institutes have been closed for years. The consequences are much more serious when a student body shakes but cannot topple a regime, as happened in Zaire in the late 1970's and Uganda last year. Government retribution against student activists who do not toe the government line is typically swift and merciless. Amnesty International reports that thousands of students and faculty have been illegally detained or imprisoned in Third World countries. Torture and murder are not uncommon.

For those student activists who are lucky enough to avoid imprisonment during government crackdowns, the only path open to them

is self-imposed exile in a neutral country. Since they are fleeing from a well-founded fear of persecu-

tion, these students, once outside their homeland, are *bona fide* refugees.

It is impossible to estimate how many student refugees there are in the

world today. Indeed, no statistics are kept. The sad fact of the matter is: once a

refugee, no longer a student. Most educational institutions in the usual countries of first asylum,

however generous in their efforts to accommodate refugee students, are hopelessly overcrowded.

Moreover, there is often a resentment of refugee students on the part of local students when they are

given places in institutions in their country of first asylum.

The international response to the plight of student refugees has been largely ineffective. While the UNHCR, principally through its Education and Counselling Section, has made laudable attempts at helping student refugees continue their studies, it

cannot possibly hope to assist all of those in need. Until recently, all such ef-

forts in Canada have taken place on a strictly *ad hoc* basis. In 1979 the World University Service of

Canada (WUSC), the Canadian affiliate of an international nongovernment organization with head-

quarters in Geneva, took on the task of trying to mobilize the resources of the Canadian academic

community in an effective response to the problem of student refugees. WUSC is actively attempting to open

up educational opportunities for student refugees at universities and community colleges throughout

the country. Once such opportunities do become

available, WUSC facilitates the private sponsorship of qualified student refugees thereby allowing them to

come to Canada as landed immigrants and resume their studies. Working in

close cooperation with the Ministry of Immigration, the UNHCR and Canadian post-secondary institutions,

WUSC has been able to sponsor and place twenty-five student refugees, the majority of whom are

African, at universities and colleges from Halifax to Victoria; and WUSC hope to make the Canadian response to the plight of student refugees increasingly effective.

In the long run, it is important to bear in mind that this kind of refugee support work is not merely a humanitarian effort - it is

also a potentially important factor in the long-term development prospects of the developing countries.

the
Brunswickton
Big Advertising Results
Without the
High Price Tag

Get your newspaper advertising done effectively! And inexpensively! We'll help you do the entire job from copy to graphics and design...for the cost of the ad space alone!

Interested? Call Derrick Stanford at 453-4974.

NEED SOME TYPING?

we do tables, thesis, reports, resumes, etc.
on a word processor
454-1637 Students Special Rates 457-0256
you must be able to give 48 hours notice to do your work
LAURICO SERVICES 25 Cambridge Cres. Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4N8

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Offer expires Feb. 17th

Robotron

Ms. Pacman

Galaxian

Gorgar

Room 102 SUB

With this ad
you will receive
20 tokens for \$3.00
(20 plays)

NAME: _____

WU Pay More.