

levels have exceeded 200,000 in only three of the last 70 years, as the tables appended to this report illustrate.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

Under the circumstances, the Committee thinks that what is needed now is a period of slower growth so as to take stock of the situation and, in particular, to assure ourselves that settlement and other services are adequate to meet the demand. We would be shortsighted as a country if we fail to listen to the concerns of social scientists and others who maintain that current actual levels are problematic in some key areas, such as social relations, the concentration of immigrants almost entirely in urban areas and immigrant integration.

A degree of stability at this time would give our settlement services an opportunity to try to catch up with demand, our schools a chance to upgrade their teaching of English or French to the many immigrant children who know neither, and our large cities a chance to ensure successful integration of their many recent arrivals. For these reasons, the Committee concludes that the present level (approximately 200,000 immigrants), for a period of two years appears appropriate. During that time, the government and the Committee will have an opportunity to assess whether settlement programs and other services are adequate to meet the needs of our newcomers. After that time, if these services are deemed adequate, the Committee would support moderate increases in immigration levels.

FUTURE WORK

In our next report, in addition to the review of immigrant services discussed above, the Committee will take a close look at the composition of our immigrant flow, an issue raised by most of our witnesses. We will examine such questions as: What proportion of our immigrants should we admit in each of our three broad categories—family class, refugees, and independent immigrants? Do we place sufficient emphasis on immigrants selected for their labour market skills? Should we expand immigration programs that are directly geared to job creation for Canadians? Are we doing enough to resettle refugees? These are difficult questions but the Committee feels that they need to be addressed in the context of a serious review of the direction of our immigration policies.