

various visitors to Quebec require Quebec's approval. These cover foreign students, participants in various international co-operation programs, college or university teachers, and foreign nationals admitted for medical treatment.

In the case of temporary workers requiring employment visas, the two parties will agree on the categories of job offers exempted from certification; when certification is required, the agreement stipulates a joint assessment of the job offer.

Co-ordinating committee

Overseeing the new pact will be a joint

committee of senior officials from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the Quebec Immigration Department. This committee will co-ordinate the implementation of the policies of the two governments respecting immigration and migratory movements; enable the parties to agree upon the order of priorities for processing applications to ensure the exchange of information; discuss the standards to be met by residents of Quebec wishing to sponsor or assist relatives; establish permanent or temporary committees; solve any problems; and interpret the provisions of the agreement.

bec for which no Canadians are available in the short term. From 1976 to February 1978, the centre received 1,234 applications.

- On arrival in Canada, refugees who were *francophone* or potentially *francophone* were encouraged to settle in Quebec. As a result, nearly 6,000 Vietnamese and over 5,000 Lebanese who were capable of adjusting to a French-speaking environment have made their homes in Quebec during the past few years.

- In addition, Quebec employers who are unable to find experienced and qualified French-speaking workers in Canada are encouraged to recruit workers in *francophone* countries.

All these measures have helped to increase the proportion of *francophone* immigrants settling in Quebec. Although, as a result of stricter regulations that became effective in 1974, the total number of immigrants to Canada has dropped, the proportion of immigrants from France has increased. Without these special measures, about half the immigrants who came from France during the past few years would have been unable to obtain a visa. Moreover, preliminary figures for the first nine months of 1977 indicate that France is again becoming one of the ten leading source countries.

Provincial priorities

Other measures taken during this period, although not specifically aimed at boosting *francophone* immigration, have made it possible to give consideration to certain provincial priorities:

- Since the new act making French the sole official language (Bill 101) was passed in Quebec, federal representatives abroad have received instructions, as was done at the time Bill 22 was passed, to advise immigrants destined to Quebec of the *francophone* character of the province and their obligation to learn French and send their children to French schools.

- Before an employment visa is issued for Quebec, the province is consulted in order to determine the social and cultural implications of admitting temporary workers.

- A number of federal programs designed to assist immigrant adjustment are also in line with Quebec's priorities in this field. In 1976/1977, Ottawa spent \$5,125,000 on language courses for immigrants. In Quebec's immigration orientation centres, 3,675 immigrants were given French courses during the year.

Francophone immigration: A history of federal-provincial co-operation

The agreement signed by Bud Cullen, Minister of Canada Employment and Immigration, and Jacques Couture, Quebec Minister of Immigration, on February 20 is further evidence of the spirit of co-operation that has developed in recent years between the Federal Government and the province in this area of joint jurisdiction.

Co-operation between the two governments on immigration matters has kept pace with Quebec's growing interest in meeting its demographic goals and cultural aspirations. In the early Sixties, the province's *francophone* birth-rate started to dip sharply, causing the Government to consider immigration and its potential impact on the language balance in Quebec.

In 1968, Quebec passed legislation to establish its own Department of Immigration and informed the Federal Government it would like to post provincial officers abroad to take part in counselling immigrants destined to Quebec. The Federal Government agreed.

Early in 1975 the Canadian Government began a series of new efforts to raise the level of *francophone* immigration in close collaboration with the province of Quebec. First, the Andras-Bienvenue Agreement was signed in October 1975, giving Quebec a larger share of the responsibility for determining levels and composition of the immigration movement. Basically, the agreement provided Quebec with an active role in immigrant recruitment, while at the same time giving it a consultative role in the selection process. Provision was also made for consultation on information, selection and recruitment, which gave provincial representa-

tives the right to interview and counsel all foreign nationals destined to Quebec, and federal officers were bound to consider the opinion of their Quebec colleagues before accepting or rejecting applications from prospective immigrants wishing to settle in Quebec. In addition, it became possible to organize joint recruitment missions in countries where Canada Immigration is not represented.

A Federal-Provincial Joint Committee on Immigration was established, consisting of senior officials from the Employment and Immigration regional organization in Quebec and the Quebec Department of Immigration.

Special projects

Canada Immigration has successfully carried out a number of projects designed to promote *francophone* immigration to Canada and Quebec:

- During the past few years, new Canadian immigration offices have opened in Strasbourg (France), Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Rabat (Morocco) and Port-au-Prince (Haiti). In staffing these offices, full consideration was given to the need for speeding up formalities and for close co-operation with Quebec under the terms of the Andras-Bienvenue Agreement.

- An advertising program costing \$245,000 for the financial year 1977/78 has been developed to attract more *francophone* immigrants, mainly in France and Belgium.

- A special job-search centre for *francophone* immigrants was established in Montreal in March 1976, which helps *francophone* applicants find jobs in Que-