

"Am pleased to inform you of the remarkable interest which has been aroused generally in Canada's one hundred t.b. refugee family scheme. The successful completion of this scheme which has now provided haven for a total of 344 persons otherwise debarred from emigration overseas under normal criteria marks new achievement in the field of governmental action. Could not let this occasion pass therefore without reaffirming my personal thanks to you for the support you have steadfastly given me in solving the problem of refugees who are my concern."

But I want to remind you that other refugees, in addition to the tuberculous cases, are being admitted to Canada during World Refugee Year. Since it began at the end of last June, Canada has admitted close to 2,000 refugees (including the 344 persons selected under the tuberculous refugee programme). It is my expectation that during 1960 Canada will provide increased opportunities for refugees within its regular immigration programme. In addition it is our hope that a substantial number of handicapped refugee families will be admitted under private sponsorship arrangements. As you know, the Government has broadened the categories of sponsors during World Refugee Year so that voluntary agencies and municipalities may act as sponsors. The Government certainly desires to cooperate fully with the charitable organizations who wish to assist refugee families to begin a new life in Canada.

I have been surprised to see reports in the press and elsewhere which have suggested that Canada may be doing less than other countries in a comparable position to assist refugees. I have seen comments to the effect that during World Refugee Year such other countries have admitted many hundreds of refugees afflicted with tuberculosis. Information which we have received from official sources indicates that these statements do not provide a full appreciation of the situation. The official figures which I have seen indicate that the Canadian effort during World Refugee Year compares favourably with those of other countries. In some cases the figures quoted for other countries covered the last five years or referred to various other categories of handicapped refugees - many of which cost less to rehabilitate than do tuberculous cases. I would point out also that the cost to Canada of accepting a refugee and his family tends to be more, because of high transportation costs, than in the case of the European countries whose contributions have been compared with that of Canada.

In addition to the special contribution for World Refugee Year, Canada in 1959 contributed well over \$2 million in cash and kind to continuing refugee programmes. She was the third largest contributor to the regular programme in 1959 of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (\$500,000), and the second largest contributor to the regular