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Statement by Mrs. Jean Casselman, M.P., Canadian  
Representative on the Third Committee, on the  
Refugee Items, on November 28, 1961.

Mr. Chairman,

Coming as I do from a country which had admitted since the end of the Second World War some 238,000 refugees, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to speak on this subject this morning. May I commend the High Commissioner, Mr. Schneider, for his exceedingly able and most interesting address to the Committee at our meeting on Wednesday last.

It was not unusual that so many of the refugees, who were left homeless by events during and after the Second World War, should have sought sanctuary in Canada, at a time when Europe had still to recover from the ravages of war. Ours is a country of immigration, to which more than two million immigrants have come to seek new opportunities in the last sixteen years. Among the 238,000 refugees there were some 37,000 Hungarian refugees who came in 1956 and 1957, and more than 25,000 stateless refugees who came in the years from 1953 to 1959. Among the more unusual groups were 1210 orphaned children who were admitted in 1947 and 1948, ten blind refugees and their families who were sponsored by the Canadian Institute for the Blind. Since 1949 we have also admitted a number of refugee students.

As a part of our contribution to World Refugee Year the Government relaxed the criteria under which refugees could be admitted, so that the normal occupational and age factors were not applied to refugees. Private organizations were permitted to sponsor the applications of refugees who