

the documents submitted by the new arrival do not indicate clearly whether he is a refugee or not, and it is possible that considerably more than 250,000 refugees have been admitted to Canada.

The flow of refugees varies from year to year. There was a particularly heavy flow immediately after World War II and another large contingent after the uprising in Hungary. In other years the number has been smaller but it is accurate to say that in every year since 1945 there have been thousands of refugees admitted to Canada. In the last six months of 1959 (that is to say, the first six months of World Refugee Year) between 1,300 and 1,400 refugees arrived in Canada as part of the normal immigration programme. You will realize that I am not in a position to say very much authoritatively on behalf of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, but I have been informed by Mr. George Davidson, Deputy Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, that the flow of refugees to Canada under the normal immigration programme during 1960 is expected to be considerably heavier than it was in 1959.

Handicapped Refugees

Canada has also for a number of years permitted the sponsorship of handicapped refugees who would not meet the normal criteria for entry into Canada. Under this programme relatives or one of five recognized church agencies could sponsor specific refugee families from Europe by undertaking certain responsibilities which, in essence, served as assurance that the handicapped family would not become public charges after their admission. Although the federal authorities could not fix a time limit for these responsibilities, it was, of course, open to the various provinces to exercise their jurisdiction in respect of welfare assistance so as to accept responsibility for any future assistance required by the sponsored refugees and thereby terminate the financial undertakings of the sponsors. As you will be aware, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration announced last autumn that the categories of eligible sponsors would be broadened for WRY so that private individuals, voluntary organizations, and municipal and provincial authorities could act as sponsors for handicapped refugees. On March 17, the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons that this arrangement would be extended beyond the end of WRY.

It is interesting to note that several special schemes for the admission of handicapped refugees which have been announced by other governments as special projects for WRY are almost identical with the normal sponsorship programme which has been carried on by Canada for years. I might also point out that the sponsorship responsibilities required by the Canadian Government are no more extensive, and in some cases less extensive, than the conditions of sponsorship imposed by the other major countries of immigration.