

August 20, 1975.

Mr. George Cram,  
Inter-Church Committee on Chile,  
The Canadian Council of Churches,  
40 St. Clair Avenue East,  
TORONTO, Ontario.  
M4T 1M9

Dear Mr. Cram:

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 1975 expressing the views of the Inter-Church Committee on Chile on my letter of July 7, 1975.

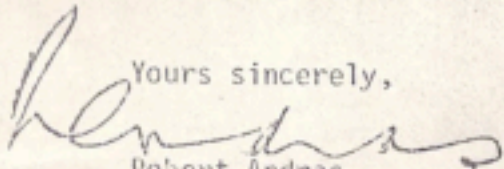
I am pleased to observe the continuing interest of the Inter-Church Committee in Canada's refugee programs. While I cannot agree with all of the views you have expressed, these have been noted.

As you will recall, I and other representatives of this department have thoroughly discussed most of the points made in your letter at meetings held with members of the Inter-Church Committee. This department's response to the Vietnamese and Chilean refugees was dictated not by "pressure" and "political and other considerations" but by the fact that we were faced with entirely different situations. For example, in the case of Vietnam it was necessary to take immediate action since the refugees were already outside their country and had been granted only temporary haven. In contrast, the Chilean program was, from the outset, a situation where a more carefully planned response was not only possible but appeared mandatory if we were to make the effective and significant contribution which is still continuing to be made.

I have only one other observation to make at this time. Canada's refugee resettlement programs are universal and there are heavy demands upon this department's resources in responding to refugee situations throughout the world. I have, and I will continue to use these resources in what appears to be the most equitable and practicable way possible.

I appreciate the good work being done by the Inter-Church Committee on Chile and I share their interest and concern for all refugees.

Yours sincerely,

  
Robert Andras.