

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - GENEVA

MEMORANDUM

To: WCC Resettlement Offices and
Ref.: related Agencies.

From: Mercedes Saitzew
Date: 13 November, 1981

Re: 1982 CANADIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PLAN

We are enclosing for your immediate information a copy of the November 4, 1981 letter and attached text of telegram just received from H.E. Mr. D.S. McPhail, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva.

Enclosures :
as stated

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Mercedes Saitzew', is written in the bottom right corner of the document.

The Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations



La Mission Permanente du Canada
auprès des Nations Unies

10A, avenue de Budé
1202 Geneva



November 4, 1981

Dear Mr. Fisher:

As you know Canadian Immigration Law requires that the Minister of Immigration table in Parliament an estimate of the coming years' immigration intake each year in early November.

I am pleased to inform you that the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, in tabling his report to Parliament on Immigration levels on November 2, announced a planned government assisted refugee intake for 1982 of 14,000. The components of this refugee resettlement effort will be as follows:

Indochina	4,000
Eastern Europe	6,000
Latin America & the Caribbean	1,000
Africa	500
Middle East	400
Other world areas	100
Contingency reserve	2,000

TOTAL PLANNED INTAKE: 14,000

You may wish to note that refugees sponsored by private groups in Canada are admitted over and above the government's planned target as are the relative of refugees admitted for family reunification under such schemes as the Orderly Departure Program.

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Mr. Jean Fisher
Secretary General
World Council of Churches
rte de Ferney 150
1218 Grand-Saconnex
G E N E V A

I have enclosed the text of a telegram which contains the rationale for the 1982 Canadian refugee resettlement plan. If further information is required, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Handwritten signature of D.S. McPhail

D.S. McPhail,
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative.

I am pleased to inform you that the Minister of
Immigration and Naturalization, the Honorable Lloyd Austin,
in table his report to Parliament on Immigration levels on
November 1, announced a planned government assisted refugee
intake for 1982 of 14,000. The composition of this refugee
resettlement effort will be as follows:

4,000	Indochina
6,000	Eastern Europe
1,000	Latin America & The Caribbean
500	Africa
400	Middle East
100	Other world areas
2,000	Continuously re-evaluated

TOTAL PLANNED INTAKE: 14,000

You may wish to note that refugees sponsored by
private groups in Canada are admitted over and above the
government's planned intake as are the relative of refugees
admitted for family reunification under such schemes as the
Orderly Departure Program.

Mr. Jean Fisher
Secretary General
World Council of Churches
c/o de Percy 150
1518 Grand-Boulevard
O E N E V A

SUITE A DONNER

ACTION COPY

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---1982 REFUGEE LEVELS

TEXT OF 1982 ANNUAL REFUGEE PLAN FOLLOWS, AS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT
NOV2 BY MIN AXWORTHY. OUR COMMENTS SENT BY SEPARATE TEL (REFTEL).

2. QUOTE REFUGEES AND DESIGNATED CLASSES

A. THE RESETTLEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ANNOUNCING, IN THIS REPORT, A THREE-YEAR
PLANNING CYCLE FOR IMMIGRATION INTAKE AND THE LEVELS OF IMMIGRATION
FOR 1982, 1983, AND 1984. IT IS NOT/NOT REALISTIC, HOWEVER, TO ATTEMPT A
PRECISE FORECAST OF REFUGEE AND DESIGNATED CLASS INTAKE FOR A PERIOD
OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR BECAUSE OF THE VOLATILE NATURE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE SITUATION.

IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, ESSENTIAL TO HAVE AN ANNUAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK TO
FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL ROLE WITH
RESPECT TO REFUGEES, AND ITS TRADITIONAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE
DISPLACED AND PERSECUTED. ANNUAL REFUGEE PLANS HAVE, THEREFORE, BEEN
DEVELOPED SINCE 1979, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE GROUPS, AS REFERRED TO ABOVE. THESE PLANS
INDICATE THE MAIN THRUSTS OF REFUGEE ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR,
ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CANNOT/NOT BE FORESEEN
OR INFLUENCED MAY NECESSITATE SOME ADJUSTMENTS DURING THE YEAR AHEAD.

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AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS PLANNING PROCESS IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION CRITERIA FOR EACH COMPONENT OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. REFUGEE FLOWS HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE LABOUR MARKET AND ON THE ECONOMY IN GENERAL, BUT THE CRITERIA USED IN REFUGEE SELECTION ARE NOT/NOT ECONOMIC. RATHER, IN KEEPING WITH THE GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF ASSISTING PEOPLE IN MOST NEED OF OUR HELP, THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO DEVELOP CRITERIA THAT REFLECT THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF REFUGEE SITUATIONS, EACH OF WHICH MAY DIFFER MARKEDLY FROM THE OTHERS. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO IDENTIFY AND SELECT THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO, WHILE BEING ABLE TO EVENTUALLY SETTLE IN CANADA AND MAINTAIN THEMSELVES, SHOULD BE THE FIRST BENEFICIARIES OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

B. THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE SCENE

CANADA HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN HELPING TO ALLEVIATE THE FLIGHT OF REFUGEES IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES TO DEAL WITH THE ROOT CAUSES OF REFUGEE OUTFLOWS, AND FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS. CANADA'S CENTRAL ROLE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN AS A MAJOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT NATION. BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN NEED OF OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT CONTINUES TO BE SIGNIFICANT, CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO HELP REFUGEES IN THIS WAY. ALTHOUGH THE CRISIS IN INDOCHINA HAS EASED, THAT AREA WILL STILL BE AN IMPORTANT CONCERN IN CANADA'S 1982 REFUGEE PROGRAM, WHICH IS PART OF THE BROAD INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA CONTINUE TO OFFER ASYLUM TO BONA FIDE REFUGEES. OUR REDUCED INTAKE FROM THAT PART OF THE WORLD REFLECTS THE

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ACTIVITIES OF OTHER MAJOR RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES WHICH ALSO EXPECT A NET DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES REQUIRING RESETTLEMENT IN 1982. AS IN 1981, THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON CONSOLIDATING THE 1979-1980 PROGRAM AND COMPLETING THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, SOME MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE ALREADY IN CANADA. WE WILL ALSO EXPEDITE THE ADMISSION OF REFUGEES DELAYED IN THE CAMPS FOR MEDICAL REASONS. THE INCREASING MOVEMENT DIRECT FROM VIETNAM UNDER THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM WILL, IF IT CONTINUES, EASE SOME OF THE PRESSURE FOR NEW REFUGEE OUTFLOWS AND INDIRECTLY BENEFIT THE COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP, WHILE REDUCED FROM THE HIGH LEVELS OF 1979 AND 1980, CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, AND HAS THE EFFECT OF FURTHER INCREASING THE TOTAL CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION FOR THIS REGION. THE GLOBAL SITUATION SUGGESTS A MODEST EXPANSION OF CURRENT LEVELS OF INTAKE FROM OTHER WORLD AREAS, REFLECTING RESETTLEMENT NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY THE UNHCR AND FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRIES. THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF JEWISH MIGRANTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO LEAVE THE USSR. THIS DECLINE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN MORE THAN OFFSET BY POLES FLEEING THE PROTRACTED POLITICAL AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES IN THAT COUNTRY. THIS HAS IMPOSED SERIOUS STRAINS ON HOST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY AUSTRIA, AND HAS PROMPTED A FURTHER COMMITMENT OF 1,000 PLACES FROM CANADA'S CONTINGENCY RESERVE IN LATE JULY, 1981, BRINGING THE CURRENT ALLOCATION FOR THIS REGION TO ...4

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5,000. A COMPARABLE EFFORT SEEMS LIKELY TO BE THE LEAST THAT WILL BE
REQUIRED NEXT YEAR.

SOUTH AMERICA, ESPECIALLY ARGENTINA AND CHILE, CONTINUES TO PRODUCE A
STEADY THOUGH RELATIVELY SMALL FLOW OF REFUGEES FOR THIRD COUNTRY
RESETTLEMENT; INCREASING INSTABILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN, PRINCIPALLY EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA, INDICATE THE NEED
FOR SOME INCREASE IN RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES, NOTWITHSTANDING THE
UNHCR'S JUDGEMENT THAT A COMBINATION OF RESETTLEMENT IN THE REGION
AND EVENTUAL REPATRIATION REPRESENT THE MOST DESIRABLE SOLUTIONS.

CANADIAN RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS FOCUSSED ON THOSE
REFUGEES WHO ARE UNLIKELY TO BE REPATRIATED AND WHO HAVE A CLOSE
CANADIAN CONNECTION, AND HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH
THE UNHCR AND CANADIAN CHURCHES. IN LIGHT OF THE DOUBLING OF THE TARGET
FOR THIS AREA IN 1981 IN ANTICIPATION OF A LEVEL OF RESETTLEMENT NEED
WHICH HAS NOT/NOT MATERIALIZED TO DATE, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO/NO
NEED TO INCREASE THE EXISTING COMMITMENT TO MEET EXPECTED 1982 NEEDS
IN THIS AREA.

A MODEST PROGRAM WAS INITIATED IN 1981 FOR THE RELATIVELY SMALL
NUMBER OF AFRICAN REFUGEES WHO CANNOT/NOT BE RESETTLED ON THAT
CONTINENT; EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT SOME EXPANSION IS REQUIRED. FINALLY,
IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT ADDITIONAL HELP IS NEEDED FOR MEMBERS OF
RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA,
AND THEREFORE A GENERAL ALLOCATION OF 400 HAS BEEN SET, WITHOUT YET
IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC TARGET GROUPS.



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C. THE 1982 REFUGEE PLAN

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT REFUGEE INTAKE FOR 1982 HAS BEEN DETERMINED. PLANNED INTAKE FOR 1981 IS SHOWN FOR COMPARISON.

	1981	1982
INDOCHINA	8,000	4,000
EASTERN EUROPE	4,000(1)	6,000
LATIN AMERICA AND		
THE CARIBBEAN	1,000	1,000
AFRICA	200(1)	500
MIDDLE EAST	-	400
OTHER WORLD AREAS	300	100
CONTINGENCY RESERVE	2,500	2,000
TOTAL PLANNED INTAKE	16,000	14,000

(1) IN JULY 1981, 1,000 PLACES IN THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE WERE ALLOCATED TO EASTERN EUROPE, AND 200 TO AFRICA. UNQUOTE

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