



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES

# REFUGEE

October 1990

## REFUGEES AROUND THE GLOBE

Refugees are a global problem. Sometimes, *Refugee* focuses on Canadian resettlement, policy or legal issues. At other times, we focus on regions - Afghanistan for example. A forthcoming *Refugee* will concentrate on the Horn of Africa.

In this issue, we provide a potpourri. The articles range from problems in the backlog to the plight of Somali refugees, Armenians in the Soviet Union and displaced refugees in the Gulf.

Our first article by Edward Opoku-Dapaah provides a critical commentary

on the current system for assessing individuals in the refugee backlog. The criticism is mild compared to the recent salvo of the Canadian Council of Churches which accused the government of perpetuating the worst human rights abuses since the internment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II, worse presumably than the arrest of hundreds during the October crisis twenty years ago. Arul Aruliah analyzes the new refugee determination process not only to suggest we are creating a new "frontlog", but to suggest creative

reforms to ensure the process remains both expeditious and fair.

What becomes clear in Helga Kutz-Harder's article is that the First World countries are meeting the challenge of new refugees by trying to raise their drawbridges and manning battle stations. Increasingly restrictive measures are likely to be the order of the day.

Yet areas emerge each day producing new waves of refugees - the Soviet Union, the Gulf. Academics are responding to these problems with more research, more conferences and more information, most of which reinforce positions adopted by those in the non-governmental and international sectors working to advance the cause of refugees. The two conferences at Oxford on Displaced Persons and Nutrition, the Singapore conference on migration, the York conference dealing with Africa and with the Limits to Obligation, all attest to this increased attention.

If only words were deeds.

Howard Adelman, Editor

### IN THIS ISSUE...

- 3 On the Backlog  
- New Refugee H&C Interviews ..... Edward Opoku-Dapaah
- 4 Open Letter to Ms. McDougall ..... Helga Kutz-Harder
- 6 Fine Tuning the New Refugee Determination Process ..... A.S. Aruliah
- 8 European Consultation on Refugees ..... Helga Kutz-Harder
- 9 The Growing Refugee Crisis in the Soviet Union  
- The Plight of Armenians ..... Professor Tanya Basok
- 11 Refugees in the Gulf ..... J.A. Versteegh
- 12 The Northern Route ..... Book Review
- 15 The Dilemma of Somali Refugees ..... Bishara H. Ali

**LETTERS:**

**ON SPONSORSHIP**

*"... there was a difference in perception when Poles or Ukrainians in Europe advance funds to Canada to facilitate their own sponsorships. Whereas some federal officials viewed this as a corrupt practice totally at odds with the intent of private sponsorship, Eastern Europeans saw this as a guarantee of successful reestablishment at great saving to Canadians."*

[Refuge, Vol.9 No. 4]

**Fortune and Fame on the Back of Refugees?**

To the Editor:

You appear to intimate that Ukrainian Immigrant Aid groups are involved in corrupt sponsorship practices and have connected us with questionable procedures used by other groups. This is without basis in fact.

For your information our organization co-ordinates cross-Canada sponsorships and has, over the past 18 years, established a system that successfully eliminates immigration lawyers, immigration consultants or any academics that attempt to make their fortune/fame on the backs of unfortunate refugees.

We request that you retract/delete such statements.

**B. A. Mykytiuk, President, Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society**

*• Editor's Note:* There was no intention to suggest that the Ukrainian immigrant or any other immigrant aid group was involved in corrupt sponsorship practices. The statement was merely that such allegations had been made. The reference to "corrupt" did not imply illegal behaviour but alleged practice contrary to the intent of the legislation. In any case, upon reflection, it would have been preferable to delete the phrase from the report.

**CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES**  
**REFUGE**

Centre for Refugee Studies, York University,  
Suite 294, Administrative Studies Building,  
4700 Keele Street, North York, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3  
Telephone: (416) 736-5640 Fax: (416) 736-8887  
Electronic Mail via Bitnet Address  
REFUGE@YORKVM1

**Editor:** Howard Adelman  
**Assistant to Editor:** Ling Xia  
**Circulation Manager:** Helen Gross  
**Assistant to the Circulation Manager:**  
Ching Man (C.M.) Wong

*Refuge* is dedicated to the encouragement of assistance to refugees by providing a forum for sharing information and opinion on Canadian and international issues pertaining to refugees. It is published four times a year by the Centre for Refugee Studies. It is a non-profit, independent periodical supported by private donations and by subscriptions. It is a forum for discussion, and the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of its funders or staff.

All material in *Refuge* may be reproduced without permission unless copyrighted or otherwise indicated. Credit should be given to the author or source, if named.

Subscription rates for one year are \$20.00 in Canada and US, \$25.00 overseas. Please enclose payment with your order.

**Layout and Typesetting:**  
Alpha Desktop Publishing, (416) 897-8878

**Logo Design:**  
Dreadnought Co-operative Inc., Toronto

Second Class Mail Registration No. 5512 ISSN 0229-5113

**IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD**

STATISTICS PERIOD: JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 1990

	INITIAL HEARINGS					
	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	B.C.	National
Claims initiated	406	3468	5961	285	862	10982
Adjourned/postponed	0	145	449	24	24	642
Withdrawn/Abandoned	0	22	48	9	24	103
Decisions rendered	406	3301	5464	252	814	10237

**OF THESE DECISIONS**

Claims rejected:						
Eligibility	1	3	11	0	2	17
Credible basis	51	96	193	38	33	411
To Full Hearing	354	3202	5260	214	779	9609

**FULL HEARING STAGE**

Claims heard to completion	169	2540	3438	201	519	6867
Decisions rendered	129	2207	2874	173	406	5789
Claims rejected	85	498	416	15	176	1190
Claims upheld	44	1709	2458	158	230	4599
Withdrawn/abandoned	2	26	53	6	26	113
Decisions pending *	44	367	611	30	123	1175
Claims pending **	239	3202	6383	175	785	10784

\* Decisions pending include all claims heard to completion since January 1, 1989 for which no decision had been rendered by the end of the reporting period.

\*\* Claims pending include all claims referred to the CRDD full hearing stage, that have not been finalized (i.e. by a positive or negative decision or by withdrawal or abandonment) as of the end of the reporting period.