

The important impact of the United States on world refugee policy is underlined by the influence of the US as the largest contributor to the budget of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. This occurred despite the fact that the US was not a signatory of the UN Refugee Convention of 1951.

US policy supported claims of refugees from communist domination after the immediate post-war period. The pattern began with the Hungarian refugees of 1956 and the first Cuban arrivals in the late 50s. It persisted with the later acceptance of Cuban migration during the late 60s in sharp contrast with the refusal to accept Haitians during the same period. The story rapidly moves to the Southeast Asian refugees, also escapees from communist control, who began coming to America in 1975. In the midst of this influx, Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980 to regularize refugee flow. Loescher and Scanlan masterfully show how the Act of 1980 has not taken on the role of opening America to bona fide refugees, but rather has continued to allow Presidential discretion in the same way the system of parole admissions had in the past. Despite the acceptance of the UN definition of refugee in the 1980 Act, accepted by the Johnson administration in 1968, Reagan has continued the policy of accepting fugitives from communism while denying other claims to refugee status.

The authors tantalize the readers in some sections with discussion of interest groups and non-governmental organizations in the US but they mostly limit their discussion to Presidential decision and Congressional battles. For example, they mention the active sanctuary groups for Central American refugees only in passing. Canadian readers may have a few quibbles. In a discussion of Hungarian refugees, the authors note that the US took the greatest number of these refugees, accepting slightly over 38,000. They do not remark on the fact that Canada, which took 37,000 Hungarian refugees, made a much more impressive contribution on a per capita basis. Also they refer to the Ministry for External Affairs as the Foreign Ministry. This is, however, an excellent, well-researched and documented book on US policy over the last forty years.

John Van Esterik teaches *Social Science and Anthropology* at York University.

Projects & News

- The Refugee Documentation Project congratulates Amnesty International on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. A special article titled "Amnesty International and Refugee Reforms", written by **David Matas**, co-ordinator of the legal network of Amnesty International -- Canadian Section (English-Speaking), will appear in our next issue.

- Congratulations also to **Meyer Brownstone**, director of the Toronto Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto, chairman of OXFAM-Canada and one of our contributors, on being awarded the 1986 Pearson Peace Medal by the United Nations Association in Canada.

- The Refugee Documentation Project is sponsoring a Law and Society Colloquium from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Thursday, November 27th at Stedman Lecture Hall A, York University. Prof. **James C. Hathaway** will be presenting Prof. **D. Dewitt**, whose discussion will be on "A Reconsideration of the Underlying Premise of Refugee Law".

- The Honourable **Gerry Weiner**, Minister of State for Immigration, announced on October 29th seven new appointments to the Immigration Appeal Board (IAB). All appointments are for a two-year term. Total IAB membership is now forty-nine. The increase is in keeping with recent legislation which proclaimed an IAB membership expansion of up to fifty. This expansion adds to the flexibility and capacity of the Board to deal with the greater number of cases. The new members are: **Irene Chu**, **Cesar De Morais**, **Taciana T.U. Jew**, **Jean E. MacLeod**, **Beverly J. Rayburn**, **Ernest A. Rotman** and **Irvin H. Sherman**.

- **Brian Coleman**, Refugee Status Advisory Committee member, is collecting poems and songs "on the refugee experience" (exile, problems of integration and resettlement, etc.). The material may be written by refugees or others, relate to any period of time, and should be in English or accompanied by an English translation. Contributions should be mailed to: Brian Coleman, 44 Caroline Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y 0S7.

- **Barbara Harrell-Bond**, Co-ordinator of the Refugee Studies Programme at Oxford University, is attempting to compile a directory of current researchers on refugee issues or related topics. Please note the detachable form on page 11. Dr. Harrell-Bond would also be pleased to receive offprints or articles which may be published in their periodical, *Refugee Issues*.

- The Refugee Documentation Project was honoured to have been visited on October 15th by **Hugh Pilkington** of Nairobi, and friends from the World University Services Canada. Dr. Pilkington's special interest in our Resource Centre, refugee research and the projects of our Research Assistants was greatly appreciated. We extend our deepest sympathies on his untimely death, last October 16th, at Brandon University, Manitoba.

- Please note the form on the back page for ordering a book due to be published by the Refugee Documentation Project. It will cover the edited proceedings of the International Symposium *Refugee or Asylum -- A Choice for Canada*, which took place at Glendon College, York University, on May 27-30, 1986. The book will provide an ideal opportunity to keep informed about the main topics of discussion of this extremely successful event.

Refugee Issues

Please fill out the following form regarding refugee-related research which you have conducted, and mail it, together with papers you wish considered for publication in *Refugee Issues*, to:

Dr. B.E. Harrell-Bond
Co-ordinator
Refugee Studies Programme
Queen Elizabeth House
Oxford University
21 St. Giles
Oxford OX1 3LA
England

Name _____

Address _____

Institution/private _____

City _____ Province or State _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Telex _____

• Academic Discipline _____

• Topic of Research (attach extra details) _____

• Refugee Study Country of Origin _____

• Research Conducted Where? _____

• Is your Research Data primarily:
 fieldwork primary documents secondary documents

• Research funding source:
 individual voluntary international independent agency

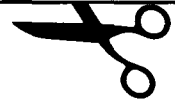
• Is your refugee-related research central or peripheral to your scholarly interests?

• Is your refugee-related research used in your teaching? _____

• Any problems with the publication of material? _____

• List your published work in this field (attach extra details) _____

Refuge or Asylum -- A Choice for Canada? Reservation Form



The edited proceedings of *Refuge or Asylum -- A Choice for Canada?*, an International Symposium sponsored by York University's Refugee Documentation Project in May 1986, will be published in book form in 1987. Those placing a pre-publication order will pay only Can\$27.50 per copy, plus postage. To take advantage of this special offer, please fill out the reservation form below and return it to:

Refugee Documentation Project
York University
4700 Keele Street
North York, Ontario
Canada
M3J 1P3

(please print clearly or type)

Name and signature _____
Address _____
City _____ Province _____
Country _____ Postal Code _____



I wish to become a friend of the Refugee Documentation Project for the 1986-1987 academic year. I understand that all friends receive *Refuge* as well as information on the research activities of the RDP. My cheque for \$20 (or) made payable to the Refugee Documentation Project is enclosed.

Name _____ Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ Province or State _____
Country _____ Postal Code _____