

## No Exit for the Boat People

*Excerpts from*  
*Hong Kong, No Exit for the Boat People*, Government Printer, Hong Kong.

### STATISTICS: Hong Kong Boat People

#### 1983 Arrivals Thus Far:

46% from North Vietnam  
(20% in 1982  
30% in 1981  
14% in 1980)  
98% of the arrivals are ethnic Vietnamese  
(in early 1979, only 27% were ethnic Vietnamese)

#### Arrival Numbers:

|              | Boat Cases         | Ship-rescue Cases |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jan-Dec 1980 | 5,908 in 200 boats | 880 in 20 ships   |
| Jan-Dec 1981 | 6,642 in 235 boats | 1,796 in 34 ships |
| Jan-Dec 1982 | 7,407 in 263 boats | 433 in 7 ships    |
| Jan-Aug 1983 | 2,844 in 124 boats | 331 in 6 ships    |

#### Resettlement Figures

The rate of resettlement has been falling — 37,468 in 1980, 17,818 in 1981 and 9,247 in 1982. Only 2,574 have been resettled so far this year.

On September 1, there were still 13,606 refugees awaiting resettlement overseas; 4,474 (33%) have already spent more than two years here and 3,259 (24%) more than 4 years.

#### Relation to Other Southeast Asian Countries of First Asylum

Hong Kong continues to have the highest boat refugee population in the region, with 13,366 (28%) out of a regional total of 47,546 as at July 31, 1983.

#### Distribution in Hong Kong

The distribution at September 1, 1983 was:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| UNHCR Centres                            | 7,649 |
| Kai Tak Transit Centre<br>(HK Red Cross) | 4,880 |
| Chi Ma Wan Closed Centre                 | 4,450 |
| Other Closed Centres                     | 1,423 |
| Other Government-controlled<br>Centres   | 84    |

#### Financial Cost to Hong Kong

Since 1979, the total cost of the Government of establishing and running refugee centres, and feeding and transporting refugees has been HK\$387 million (US\$69 m). The major voluntary agencies in Hong Kong have also spend about HK\$50 million (US\$9 m) on providing services to the refugees which have involved over 400 workers in their agencies.