

# Refugee Resettlement in Canada, 1981

In 1981, 8,873 Indochinese were landed in Canada. Of these refugees, 6,723 were government assisted and 2,150 were privately sponsored by groups.

The total intake of Eastern Europeans for 1981 was 5,325, of whom 606 were sponsored by relatives and 117 by private groups.

One thousand places for refugees from Latin and Central America were allocated in 1981 but because the need for large numbers of resettlement places did not materialize, this allocation was not fully used. As well as the reported 137 landings, there was an undetermined number of Minister's Permits issued to facilitate the early admission of Salvadoran refugees.

Of the 200 places allocated for African refugees, 151 were filled; of these, 122 were government-assisted, two were sponsored by relatives, and 27 were privately sponsored. An additional 200 places from the contingency reserve were assigned to Africa in July 1981, because a further need for resettlement was expected. These places were not used owing to the difficulty in organizing a protection-oriented program quickly.

Private sponsorship applications for refugees totalled 963 in 1981, representing 2,648 refugees; of these applications, 618 were for 1,975 Indochinese, 297 were for 560 Eastern Europeans, 27 were for 87

Latin Americans, 18 were for 23 Africans, and 3 were for 3 persons from other areas.

## 1981 Refugee Summary for Canada

Canada's planned intake for 1981 totalled 16,000. The actual number admitted amounted to only 14,996. The government claims to have sponsored 12,080 refugees: however, this figure is misleading as it includes 1502 Indochinese refugees who were actually relative-sponsored but who are included in the government-assisted totals because some resettlement costs were incurred by the federal government.

From Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration Levels, Nov. 1982. Background Paper.

|                           | 1981 Refugee Summary |                             |               | Planned Refugee Intake    |        |        |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|
|                           | Planned Intake       | Actual Gov't Sponsored      | Actual Intake |                           | 1982   | 1983   |
| Indochina                 | 8,000                | 6,723                       | 8,873         | Indochina                 | 4,000  | 3,000  |
| Eastern Europe            | 4,000                | 4,602                       | 5,325         | Eastern Europe            | 6,000  | 3,000  |
|                           | 1,000**              | —                           | —             |                           |        |        |
| Latin and Central America | 1,000                | 132                         | 137           | Latin America & Caribbean | 1,000  | 2,000  |
| Africa                    | 200                  | 122                         | 151           | Africa                    | 500    | 1,000  |
|                           | 200**                | —                           | —             | Middle East               | 400    | 800    |
| Other                     | 300                  | 37                          | 46            | Other                     | 100    | 200    |
| R.S.A.C. ***              | —                    | 464                         | 464           | Contingency Reserve ****  | 2,000  | 2,000  |
| Total                     | 14,700               | 12,080<br>- 1502*<br>10,578 | 14,996        |                           | 14,000 | 12,000 |

\*1,502 Indochinese were admitted on the strength of financial undertakings submitted by relatives in Canada. Since resettlement costs were, however, incurred by the federal government (for food, lodging, and clothing at the staging centres), they have been included in the government-assisted totals.

\*\*Allocated from contingency reserve.

\*\*\*The Refugee Status Advisory Committee considers claims to Convention refugee status by persons in Canada, and advises the Minister on these claims.

\*\*\*\*Cabinet has approved funding for 10,000 refugees in 1983. If places from the contingency reserve need to be allocated, Cabinet will be asked to approve both the number of places and the required funding.

Source: Recruitment and Selection Branch, CEIC.

Canada's shortfall in refugee intake for 1981 is attributable to several reasons. Refugees admitted under Minister's Permits may not be counted. In addition, there were operational considerations such as the lack of flexibility to have resources moved to areas where they were needed and the priority given to

private sponsorships over government-assisted sponsorships, which sometimes slowed down the rate of government intake. As well, in areas such as the Middle East, Africa, and Central America, Canada's traditional approach of accepting spontaneous applications did not work owing to Canada's lack of past

involvement in these areas. It was thus necessary to build up contacts with local relief agencies and church groups to facilitate referrals of people. Moreover, a major crisis, which would have warranted release of the full 2,500 contingency reserve, simply did not occur.

From Background Paper on Immigration Levels. Annual Report to Parliament 1983. CEIC.