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REFUGEE

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The Jewish Refugee Experience

The contributions in this issue stem primarily from *Refugees in Canada — The Jewish Experience: A Case Study*, a symposium organized by the Jewish Student Federation and the Refugee Documentation Project at York University on November 11-14, 1985. Its purpose was to examine, through a series of lectures and panel discussions on Jewish refugees, the complexities of the refugee phenomenon.

In a forum about refugees, prime consideration is usually given to resettlement challenges: What difficulties do refugees have to face? What kind of help are they able to receive? How do they adapt to a new environment? These questions remained key issues at the symposium. But the event was also designed to study a specific refugee experience within a broader context. This was done both in terms of the general historical, political, cultural, racial and economic factors accounting for Jewish refugee migration, and against the specific background provided by Canada's uninspired past immigration policies and attitudes towards Jewish refugees.

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Yeshiva students in Camp I, Isle aux Noix (Fort Lennox), Quebec. (Courtesy of Rabbi Erwin Schild).

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