



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGEE

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REFUGEES AROUND THE GLOBE

Refugees are a global problem. Sometimes, *Refuge* focuses on Canadian resettlement, policy or legal issues. At other times, we focus on regions - Afghanistan for example. A forthcoming *Refuge* 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

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