
News in Brief

- Immigration Minister Barbara McDougall issued special minister's permits to refugee claimants Hussein Mohamoud from Ethiopia and Nasrin Peiroo from Iran, whose claims were initially rejected at preliminary hearings. This followed reports that refugee claimants from Somalia, India and Nigeria, deported earlier on from Canada, could not be located after their departure by concerned monitoring groups.
- Forty-four new members have been appointed to the Immigration and Refugee Board chaired by Gordon Fairweather to deal with the refugee backlog. Over 115,000 claims, which had not been determined before the new refugee determination process came into effect on January 1, 1989, await to be resolved. Twenty-eight of the new members will be working in the Toronto Regional Office, since most backlog claimants reside in the Metropolitan Toronto area. Twelve members have been appointed to the Montreal Regional Office and four to the Vancouver Regional Office. Two-member panels, consisting of a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board and an Immigration Adjudicator, will hear each claim for refugee status and apply the definition of a Convention Refugee to the facts and circumstances of each case. It suffices for one of the two-panel members to rule that the claim has a credible basis to ensure the confirmation of refugee status. The Board will begin hearings after the completion of an intensive training course for the new members.
- Three new members have been appointed to the Convention

Refugee Determination Division (CRDD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board. These include Centre for Refugee Studies research associate Lisa Gilad, who will be reporting to the Montreal Regional Office from Newfoundland; Paul Matarazzo, who will be reporting to the Toronto Regional Office from Thunder Bay; and Sherry Makarewicz, who will be reporting to the Calgary Regional Office from Edmonton. These new additions bring the total member contingent of the Board to 167, including the Chairman, of whom 145 are assigned to the CRDD and 21 are assigned to the Immigration Appeal Division.

- On April 10, a 55-foot wooden sailboat with 261 passengers,

including 19 children and seven pregnant women, was stopped by the Coast Guard just a few yards from Miami's luxury Fisher Island community. The passengers were immediately interned by the INS at the Krome Avenue Detention Center, where they joined several hundred other Haitians, including boat people who had reached the US in December. Following intervention by the Haitian Refugee Center, the children and pregnant women were released to relatives, but many family members remain in detention. By the middle of April, some 750 people, most of them Haitians, were being held in Krome, a facility designed to house 525. [from *HaitiInsight*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (May 1989), p. 6]

**THE VIETNAMESE ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO
and
THE GREATER VIETNAMESE REFUGEE
ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

**request the honour of your presence
at the tenth anniversary celebration of
Operation Lifeline
and reunion of former sponsors,
former refugees and others involved
in the assistance of the Boat People**

on

**Sunday, June 25th, 1989
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

at

**Holy Rosary Church
354 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto
(next to St. Clair West Station)**

