



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES

REFUGEE

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CCR Fall Resolutions

The recent events in El Salvador, which have greatly exacerbated the human rights and refugee situation in that country, figured prominently in the resolutions passed by the Canadian Council for Refugees during its annual fall conference in Montreal on November 23-25. Two resolutions in particular dealt with the Salvadorean problem as part of the need to continue working to eliminate the root causes of the refugee crisis. It was also resolved to demand a halt to all deportations of Haitians living in Canada (ten days after the CCR conference the government stopped these deportations), to continue the monitoring of cases of deportation of refugee claimants deemed to be in need of protection, and to seek a review of Canada's commitments to the UNHCR now that the latter is experiencing its worst financial crisis.

El Salvador

Be it resolved that:

1. The Executive of the CCR take immediate steps to urge the Canadian Government to:
 - i) Continue efforts to bring about an immediate cease-fire and a negotiated settlement to the civil war and, in the meantime, maintain its suspension of government-to-government aid to El Salvador;
 - ii) Actively back the Organization of American States resolution urging all parties which have links to or interest in the region, to abstain from any actions which interfere with the achievement of a real and lasting peace in Central America;
 - iii) Support NGO relief efforts to provide immediate humanitarian aid to the people of El Salvador;
 - iv) Press the Salvadorean government to allow humanitarian organizations such as the International Red Cross and the Salvadorean churches to attend to civilians in the affected areas.

2. That the CCR and its member organizations immediately communicate by telegram, public opinion message, telephone call or letter to the Honourable Joe Clark, Minister of External Affairs, Government of Canada, Ottawa.

Protection

Be it resolved:

That the CCR call upon the Canadian government to undertake the following actions immediately:

1. That Canada increase its staffing in El Salvador to process urgent claims for protection, to process reunification cases originating with Salvadoreans in Canada, to ensure protection of Salvadoreans at refugee centres, and to ensure protection of persons approved by Canada in transit to the airport;
2. That Canada remove visa requirements and waive passport requirements for those persons in El Salvador needing urgent protection from Canada;

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3. That those arriving from El Salvador be processed for immediate landings, if this is their wish;
4. That a moratorium on deportations of Salvadoreans from Canada be announced immediately by the Minister;
5. That Salvadoreans in the backlog(s) be processed for immediate landing.

And that the CCR invite the ICCR and the CCIC and their member agencies to endorse these recommendations and urge the Canadian government through both the Ministers of Employment and Immigration and of External Affairs to implement these recommendations immediately.

CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGE

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And that the CCR invite the ICCR and the CCIC to participate in a joint committee to monitor protection of persons in El Salvador in the same manner as the joint committee which coordinated Canadian participation at the CIREFCA conference.

Haitians in Canada Threatened with Deportation

Be it resolved:

That the Canadian Council for Refugees gathered in Montreal for the Annual General Meeting, November 23-25, 1989;

1. Deplores the lifting of the moratorium on deportation to Haiti announced by the Canadian government on October 5, 1989;
2. Demands an immediate halt to all deportations of Haitians now in Canada;
3. Requests the Minister of Employment and Immigration, Barbara McDougall, to make use of her discretionary powers to grant permanent residence on humanitarian grounds to those Haitians threatened with deportation.

Be it further resolved:

That the Canadian Council for Refugees further requests the Minister to undertake this action in accordance with Canada's international obligations with regard to the protection of refugees, respect for human rights, and with due concern for equitable treatment.

Trace

Be it resolved:

1. That the CCR continue its pilot program on "Trace" for a further 3 months,

employing a person to set up a system of coordination to trace refugee claimants deemed to be in need of protection who have been deported from Canada to their country of origin or an intermediary country;

2. That the mechanism to be explored should include coordination of tracing actions in all regions of Canada involved and all persons and agencies involved, as well as an appropriate system for reporting on tracing actions and the collection of other relevant documentation or information as to where such documentation is easily available.

The person employed would assist the CCR Executive in proposing a way of financing the "Trace" mechanisms, e.g. through a consortium of agencies.

3. That the CCR seek financial support on a long term basis for these functions.

The Financial Crisis in the UNHCR

Be it resolved:

That the CCR executive and all member agencies communicate the following to the Minister of External Affairs:

1. A request to outline the government's actual and planned financial support of the general and special programs of the UNHCR.
2. A request to review current commitments to general and special programs, with a view to ensuring significant additional resources, commensurate with the increased needs of the UNHCR for both the 1989 and 1990 programs of the UNHCR.

Government-Assisted Refugee Allocations by World Area 1989 and 1990

Area	1989	1990
Eastern Europe	3,400	3,500
Southeast Asia	3,000	3,500
Latin America	3,400	3,000
Africa	1,000	1,000
The Middle East and West Asia	1,800	1,700
Funded management reserve and other world areas	400	300
Total	13,000	13,000