Books Received

The Refugee Documentation Project has recently acquired the following books:


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The Refugee Documentation Project at York University is concerned with acquiring and preserving archival materials pertaining to refugees in and from all parts of the world. (The Project's library is open between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays.) Donations of documents, papers, reports or other library materials are encouraged.

If you have worked with refugees or have conducted research on refugees or refugee-related issues, please write and tell us about your work. A function of the Project is to create an index of Canadian individuals and organizations concerned with refugees in order to establish a referral network among people needing information on refugees. Another mandate of the Project is to carry out crisis field research.

Further information may be obtained by writing to C. Stephens, Refugee Documentation Project, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R6. Telephone (416) 667-3639.

World News

Statue "Refugee" Unveiled

The Statue "Refugee" by the Argentinian Sculptor, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980, was unveiled on December 13, 1982 at the headquarters of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

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Soviet Generosity

With one exception, the Soviet Union has never contributed a single kopeck to any of the many international refugee relief efforts.

That exception was in 1971 when Moscow gave some modest help to the UNHCR's aid program for the 10 million Bengalis who fled to India from what was then East Pakistan.

Edward Girardet, from Christian Science Monitor Reprints, "Refugee Crisis."

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1982 Migration Totals

In December, 7,570 migrants were processed and moved, bringing the total for the year to 140,500. The number of Indochinese refugees accepted by the resettlement countries declined from 157,900 in 1981 to 86,225 in 1982, but more Vietnamese (9,770 against 8,530) were able to emigrate legally under the Orderly Departure Program. Movements under the other refugee migration programs increased from 43,420 to 49,500, mainly from Eastern Europe.

A slight decrease was also registered in the emigration of nationals from Western Europe (4,800 against 5,700), but the number of persons who went to Latin America was higher, in particular under the Return of Talent program. Migration movements were organized from 88 emigration countries to 106 immigration countries.

Also of note was the drop in departures of Soviet Jews from 9,460 in 1981 to about 2,700 in 1982, and in departures of Armenians and family reunion cases from the USSR from 2,450 to 400. About 2,000 Romanian migrants transited through Italy. The number of Polish asylum seekers resettled by ICM (Intergovernmental Committee for Migration) increased from 5,020 in 1981 to 15,335 in 1982, the latter including 640 under a special program for former detainees authorized to emigrate with their families.

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- 81 Jews from the Soviet Union arrived in Vienna during January, the lowest monthly total since this emigration started in 1971.

- 600 Polish asylum-seekers from Austria, Germany, and Italy moved during January brought to 21,500 the total of Poles who have been resettled since mid-1981.

- 4,600 Indochinese refugees ex-Asia were moved for permanent resettlement; 2,975 others were transferred to the Refugee Processing Centre at Galang, Indonesia (2,530 from Thailand).

- 29 Vietnamese refugees of Chinese ethnic origin transited through Hong Kong en route from the People's Republic of China to final destinations in Austria, France, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

- 50 Amerasian children (the fourth group) were moved from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the U.S.A.

- 16 handicapped refugees plus 30 family members from Malaysia were moved to Finland, thereby completing the transfer to that country of a total of 21 handicapped refugees and 34 family members.