

## REFUGE

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## Letters

### From the Editor:

With this issue I take my leave of the editorship of *Refuge*, and have the pleasure of announcing that the new editor will be Dr. Howard Adelman. Dr. Adelman is Director of the Refugee Documentation Project at York University. *Refuge* will be publicizing the work of the Project and will share support services with it.

I would like to express my thanks to readers and to those who contributed writing, information and other assistance throughout the past year, for their interest and support. I hope that *Refuge* has been interesting and helpful and I am confident that it will become even more so in the future.

Kristin Hanson  
Editor

### To the Editor:

I would like to make the strongest objection to your publication of the piece "Politics and Refugees" in the May/June issue. To quote your own policy, *Refuge* is "dedicated to encouraging assistance to refugees by providing a forum for sharing information and opinion on Canadian and international issues pertaining to refugees." As such, there is no place in your newsletter for such biased, self-serving articles as that of Howard Adelman on Palestinian refugees. There are so many unsubstantiated or unbalanced statements made in this article that it is

possible only to mention a few representative ones here. That anyone would publicly suggest, as he does, that dispersal of refugees in order to lower their political consciousness is a viable option or that Israeli occupation of the West Bank can be rationalized by "full employment" of Arabs there is shocking. To see such things advanced in a government-supported newsletter is unacceptable.

I have found *Refuge* to be a valuable source of news and information on refugee matters. Nevertheless, your newsletter must clarify its editorial position on what qualifies as objective discourse on contentious refugee matters so that situations like this do not occur in the future.

Doreen Indra  
Edmonton  
July 1982

I will reply to two points. Doreen Indra states that I advocated the dispersal of refugees in order to lower their political consciousness. I did no such thing. I did say that a lowered political consciousness is an effect of dispersal of refugees. I provided a descriptive account rather than a prescriptive one.

Secondly, I did not rationalize Israeli occupation of the West Bank because of full employment. I merely said that there was full employment. Though I did not say it in the article published in *Refuge*, I have written elsewhere that I support self-determination for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, but that political point was not relevant to my article.

It is difficult in areas of sensitive political issues to avoid accusations of bias, but I do hope the article will be re-read more judiciously.

Howard Adelman  
Toronto  
August 1982

### To the Editor:

I want to express to you my delight with your last issue, and in particular with the valuable and scholarly contribution of Dr. Howard Adelman. I do believe he hit the nail on the head in his key statement: "Viable solutions are eliminated because humanitarianism is separated from politics in a way which allows politics to dictate the boundary conditions for humanitarianism."

I sincerely hope that a basis will soon be found for a political solution based on humanitarian principles, and I see Dr. Adelman's analysis as a valuable contribution to a complex problem.

Imre Rosenberg  
Ottawa  
July 1982

REFUGE is a non-profit, independent bi-monthly newsletter about refugees. The annual subscription price is \$10.00 for five issues.

If you would like to introduce REFUGE to your colleagues, please send a stamped envelope addressed to them and we will send them a free sample copy.

We also invite articles, announcements, letters, pictures, etc.

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