

NEWS IN BRIEF

CIDA GRANTS FOR REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN, SUDAN, CHAD

In recent months the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has made the following allocations to assist refugees:

- \$3,000,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for assistance to the more than 2,000,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and \$5,000,000 worth of wheat to Pakistan to help feed the refugees;
- \$1,600,000 to the UNHCR to provide food, shelter, clothing and support for resettlement activities for refugees from Ethiopia, Uganda, Chad and Zaire in Sudan, and \$3,000,000 to Sudan for the purchase and transportation of Canadian wheat flour to aid refugees in Sudan; and
- \$80,000 to the Canadian Red Cross Society to support a Canadian medical team as part of a Red Cross relief program which is, among other things, providing shelter and water to returning Chadian refugees suffering from leprosy. Many of the hundreds of thousands of Chadians who had fled the recent civil war and the devastation it caused are currently being repatriated under a UNHCR program.

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR REFUGEES

At their annual meeting held December 7, 1981, the members of the Canadian Foundation for Refugees resolved that the Foundation would stop operations as of December 31, 1981, and created an ad hoc Trust Committee to study the future of the Foundation and to recommend, if possible, an operational plan for the future. The committee consists of Dr. Joseph Kage, Chairman, Dr. Joseph Du, and Father Mario Paquette. If a solution acceptable to the Board of Directors is not developed by May 1, 1982, the Foundation's funds on hand will be distributed to other refugee-supporting charities and the charter will be surrendered.

The resolution followed the refusal of Employment and Immigration Canada to provide the Foundation with the resources it felt were required to meet its objectives.

ANTI-PIRACY TASK FORCE

The government of Canada has contributed \$150,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s efforts to raise U.S.\$3.6 million to fund a Thai government program to combat piracy in the Gulf of Thailand.

In February of 1981 the United States had contributed a coast guard cutter,

two aircraft, a Q-boat to serve as a decoy refugee boat and \$2 million for six months' operating costs to the Thai government for the establishment of a Thai navy task force to suppress pirates preying on refugees and on local fishermen. Several pirates were apprehended and convicted.

But the program was terminated in September, 1982, when the Thai government requested U.S.\$1.4 million to continue the program but the U.S. offered only \$600,000. Following negotiations among international aid agencies in Geneva in October, 1981, the UNHCR agreed to fund a new \$3.6 million program.

Piracy statistics for one refugee camp alone, the one at Songkhla where the task force is based, are shown below:

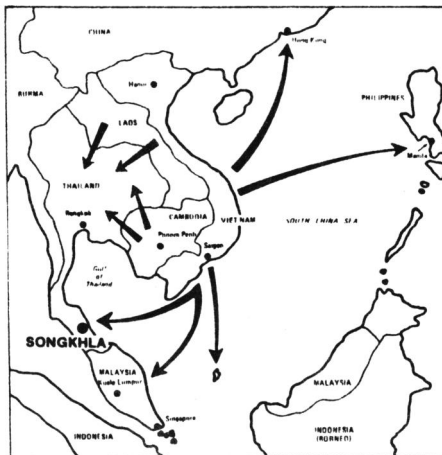
THAILAND PIRACY STATISTICS: SONGKHLA

January - December, 1981

(Based on Reports by Refugees only)

Persons Known to Depart Vietnam	14684
Deaths	568
Abductions	211
Missing	716
Arrivals	13191
Abductees Found	78
Missing Found	436
Total Arrivals	13705
No. of Boats	389
No. of Boats Attacked	310 (78%)
No. of Attacks	1087
Average No. of Attacks per Attacked Boat	3.5
No. of Boats Encountering:	
Murder	29 (7%)
Abduction	72 (19%)
Rape	139 (36%)
Assault	18 (5%)
Robbery	298 (77%)
Percent of Attacked Boats:	
Robbed	96%
With Females Raped	45%
With Persons Assaulted	6%
With Persons Abducted	23%
With Persons Killed	9%
No. of Rape Victims	560
No. of Assault Victims	26
Cause of Death:	
Shot, Knifed	11
Drowned (Thrown)	25
Drowned (Rammed)	317
Suicide	11
Sickness, Starvation	49
Other	155
Total Deaths	568

Source: UNHCR



Refugee routes, by land and sea.

Source: United States Committee for Refugees, 1981 World Refugee Survey.

RESOURCE EXCHANGE

TAX FORM IN VIETNAMESE

A Vietnamese translation of Revenue Canada's T1 short form (1981 General Income Tax Return) has been prepared by the Immigrant Services program of the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria. If your local Vietnamese or immigrant aid association has not received a copy and would find one helpful you might request one from:

Refugee Aid Centre
Inter-Cultural Association of
Greater Victoria
#417 - 620 View St.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J6
(604) 388-5580

INDOCHINESE REFUGEES:

The Canadian Response, 1979 & 1980

Employment and Immigration Canada has published a summary of the Indochinese refugee resettlement movement in Canada, focussing on the federal government's involvement. The report is most valuable for its statistical summary of the movement from January 1, 1979 to December 31, 1980, with breakdowns by age, sex, area of settlement, educational level, occupation, government expenditures, etc. Available from:

Distribution Unit
Public Affairs Division
Employment & Immigration
Canada
12th Floor, Phase IV
Place du Portage
Hull, Quebec L1A 0J9

AFGHANISTAN: A PORTRAIT

A Guide for Resettling Afghan Refugees

Of the 2,387,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan alone, a few educated, urban or politically high-profile refugees with ties to the West have settled in the United States. A few have come to Canada as well: six have settled in British Columbia, five in Alberta, and nine in Ontario. For a guide to the history and culture of Afghanistan, designed to assist sponsors or other individuals involved with the resettlement of Afghan refugees, contact:

Refugee Information Office
Church World Service
Room 5281, 475 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10115
U.S.A.

A donation of \$2.50 is requested.