



# CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES

# REFUGEE

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## Hope for Refugees in 1987?

The New Year traditionally brings forth resolutions of goodwill and generous wishes. The change of calendar eradicates last year's shortcomings and replenishes the emptiness with new hope. Among refugees and their advocates, new hope does not spontaneously arise with turning a calendar leaf. The legacy of past years accumulates.

Nowhere does this legacy more poignantly remind us of unfulfilled hope than in the count of refugees which has continued to increase through the course of the 1980s. Notwithstanding often crude methods of estimation and rounding off counts to the nearest hundred thousand (!), the cumulative impact delivers a heavy blow. In 1983 just under eight million fit the United Nations definition of refugee. That number had relentlessly pushed upward -- nine million in 1984 and ten million by 1985.

No region has been spared from an increase in refugees. African and Middle Eastern regions, fractured by famine, repressive dictatorships, inter-tribal, ethnic and religious hostilities, have particularly experienced the inevitable consequences for refugee proliferation.

Yet not one Western resettlement nation has significantly increased intake during this period. With no less relentless monotony, Canada, the United States and Australia ceremoniously have announced

*Continued on p. 2*



*Jeanne Sauv , Governor General of Canada, accepting, on behalf of the People of Canada, the Nansen Medal from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Jean-Pierre Hock  on November 13, 1986.*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### First Report on the Host Programme:

Pilot Projects in London, Winnipeg and Regina page 3

Comments on the First Report by C. Michael Lanphier page 5

Host Programme for Refugee Settlement by Gordon Barnett page 6

Amnesty International and Refugee Reforms by David Matas page 7

#### A Perspective on Salvadorean Refugees:

Interview with Rub n Zamora page 10

#### Political Refugees from Peru:

Interview with C sar Elejalde Estenssoro page 11