



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES  
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## Afghan Refugees

When Duke University Professor and Afghan scholar Louis Dupree was asked a year ago to edit a special issue of *Refuge* on Afghanistan, he immediately set to work on this project with the help of his wife, Nancy Hatch Dupree. The issue was beginning to take shape when Louis Dupree died of lung cancer in March of this year. Now that the project has been completed, we are dedicating the results to his memory.

### Louis Dupree: In Memoriam

*by Anders Fänge*

There is a story about Louis Dupree. Once, in the early eighties, during a discussion about Afghanistan in the State Department, an expert on the Soviet Union said that the Afghans will lose this war because there has so far never been a case in history where the Soviets have left a country once they have put their hands on it. His argument was simple. The Soviet Union was a superpower with all its resources and the biggest war machine the world had ever seen; Afghanistan was a backward country, one of the poorest, with no army, a divided resistance, little organization, and so on. Louis was there and he objected. He told the man: "Perhaps you know the Soviet Union, but it is obvious that you don't know the Afghans. If you did, you would also know that they will not give up, that they'll go on fighting whatever the odds, they will continue to resist until the Soviets are forced out of their country."

He said the same thing on numerous lectures around the world, in articles and interviews, in every possible fora where he could make his voice heard. Even during the worst years, between 1984 and 1986, when the Soviets tried to bomb Afghanistan back to the Stone Age, when they attacked furiously in a last desperate attempt to crush the Afghan spirit of resistance, when many of us who supported and believed in the Afghan cause did not

dare to hope any more; even then he never expressed a single doubt that the Afghan people would reach victory in the end.

Of course, there were a lot of people who said that Louis certainly knew a lot about Afghanistan, but his analysis emanated more from feelings than from facts. I was one of them, and I was wrong. Louis was right, because he had, above all,

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