

UGX 40

The Uganda Asian Refugee Movement 1972



East Africa 1972

☐ Colonial
regime

☐ Status



Asian Community in Uganda

60,000-80,000

☐ **Gujarati Hindus**
50%

☐ **Ismaili Muslims**
30%

☐ **Sikhs, Goans,
Punjabi Hindus,
Ithnasharis,
Boas, Parsis**

☐ **Businesses**
80%

☐ **Industry 50%**

☐ **Professionals**
50%

Resentment & Pressure

African Perception

- ❑ **Wealthy**
- ❑ **Aloof**
- ❑ **Exploitative**

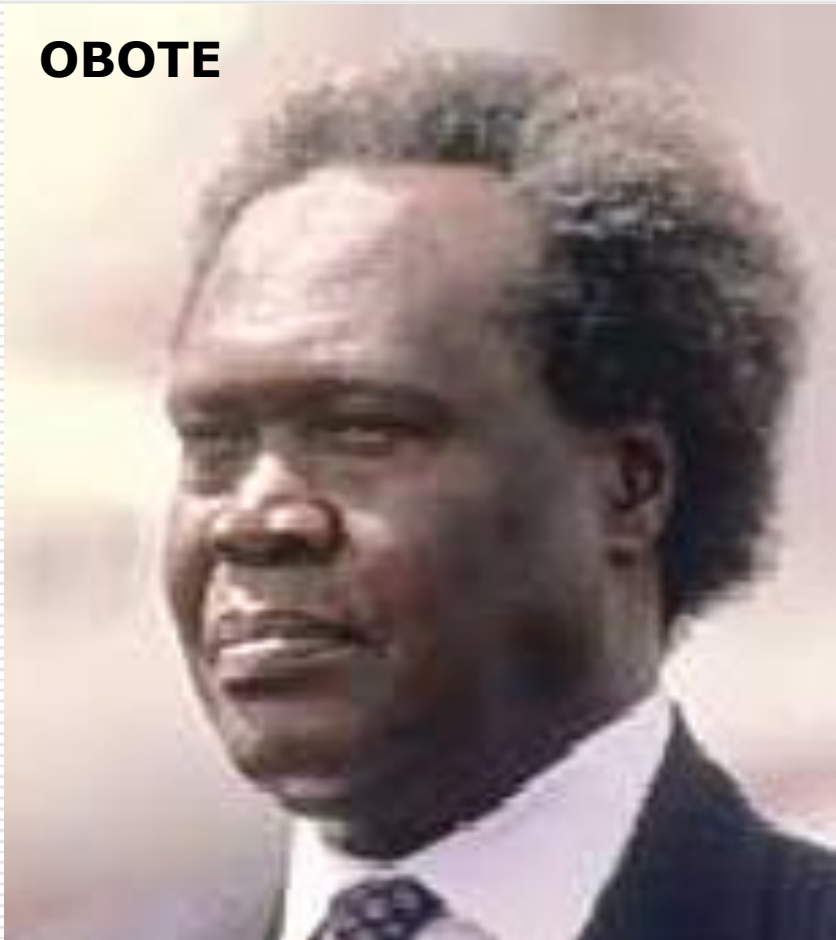
Consequences

- ❑ **Kenya 1968:
15,000**
- ❑ **Tanzania
1970s:
20,000**

Obote Ousted in Coup

24 January 1971

OBOTE



AMIN



Idi Amin Dada Takes Power

**His Excellency
President for Life, Field
Marshal Al Hadji Doctor
Idi Amin, VC, DSO, MC,
Lord of All the Beasts of
the Earth and Fishes of
the Sea, and Conqueror
of the British Empire in
Africa in General and
Uganda in Particular**



Anticipating Trouble



- ☐ **Establish contacts Jan/July**
- ☐ **Monitor & report**

Expulsion Order

August 4, 1972

- **"I want the economy to be in the hands of Ugandan citizens, especially black Ugandans. I want you troops to help me protect the country from saboteurs."**

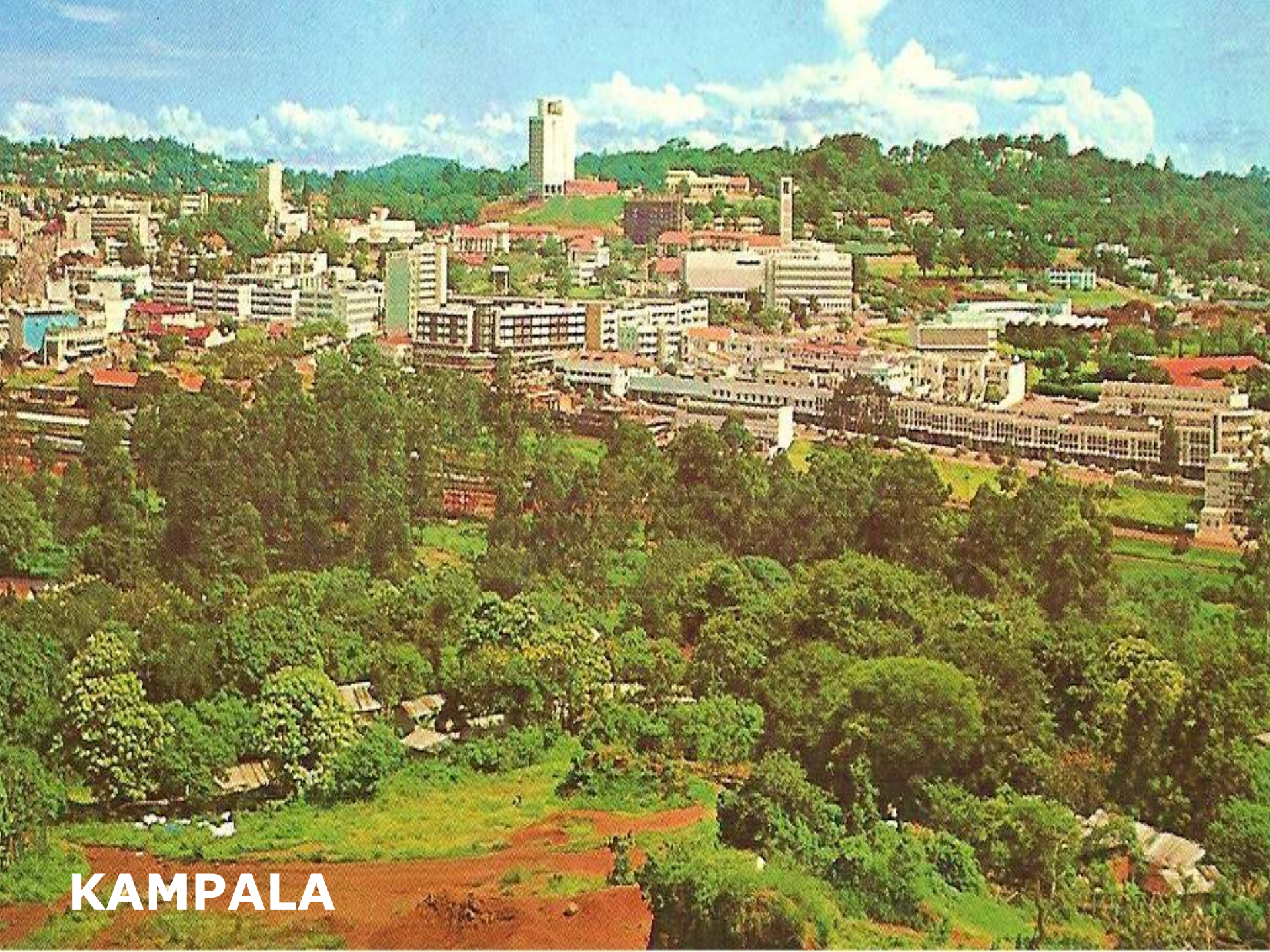
-The Times 4 Aug 72

Calls to London show the desperation of Asians in Uganda

Uganda says no room for 40,000 Asians with British passports

Uganda Orders British Asians to Leave

ALL SHOPS OWNED BY ALIENS TO BE SOLD



KAMPALA

British Media: August 7, 1972



**...all Asians who are not
Ugandan citizens -
around 60,000 - must
leave Uganda within 90
days.**

CABINET

UNITED KINGDOM PASSPORT HOLDERS IN UGANDA

Note by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and
the Secretary of State for the Colonies

British Reaction

1. After discussion with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer I have had the attached memorandum prepared in order to focus for my colleagues the principal aspects of the situation which confronts us and the main decisions which we have to take. It falls into the following broad sections:-

☐ Accept legal obligations but...

b. The steps which we have taken, and are taking, to make it more manageable, both by concerted international action (including an effort to arrange for the resettlement of many of the Asians in other countries) and by direct pressure on President Amin himself.

☐ Seek assistance from other countries

c. The problems, mainly domestic, which will confront us if we decide to accept the legal obligations which we have accepted to date.

2. The decisions required under each of these heads are indicated at the appropriate points. I would ask my colleagues, in considering them, to bear in mind that we are dealing with a man, in the person of President Amin, who is fundamentally irrational and unreliable. We cannot tell how he will react if he thinks that we are provoking him too far; and here it is relevant to remember that we have substantial interests in Uganda and that some 7,000 British subjects ("belongers") are at present in that country. But considerations of this kind, which might



Kampala Road

Cabinet Decision

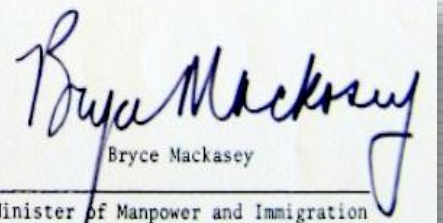
24 Aug 72

Context

- ❑ Election
- ❑ High unemployment
- ❑ Immigration scandals

Decision

- ❑ Process with all possible speed up to 3000 applicants who meet normal requirements
- ❑ Invoke Oppressed Minority Policy if needed



Bryce Mackasey
Minister of Manpower and Immigration

PM Sets the Tone

**"...we are prepared to offer an
honourable place in Canadian life
to those Ugandan Asians who come to
Canada...I am sure that [they] will,
by their abilities and industry,
make an equally important
contribution to Canadian
society."**



**Pierre Elliot
Trudeau**

Public Reaction

Ottawa says no limit to be set on Asians

From Associated Press, Reuters
and The New York Times

OTTAWA — The first plane-load of about 145 expelled Ugandan Asians is expected to arrive in Montreal on or about Sept. 24 and an Immigration Department spokesman said yesterday there will not be a limit to the number Canada will accept.

An anonymous Canadian im-

il they are not out of the country by Nov. 8.

Every morning, thousands of Asians are lined up outside the Canadian office in Kampala waiting to be processed, the spokesman said.

Although travel arrangements have not been completed, the Asians are expected to fly to Canada on commercial jets chartered by the Canadian government.

Number not certain

Canada will admit Asians being ousted by Uganda

By TERRANCE WILLS
Globe and Mail Reporter
OTTAWA (UPI) —

holding British passports have been ordered to leave Uganda by President Idi Amin.

processing of applications from those Asians who apply to come to Canada.

mand, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration has been authorized to institute a

Citizen Cartoon

Sep. 1972

**You won't
find any job
discrimination
in Canada
because of
racism, colour
or religion.
Mind you, you
won't find any
job either.**



Beirut Marching Orders

to Roger Saint-Vincent:

Your mission: proceed to Kampala... process without numerical limitations... Asians who meet the Immigration selection criteria, bearing in mind their particular plight and facilitate their departure for Canada.

Canadian Immigration Policy Context 1972

- ❑ No refugees in 1952 Act
- ❑ 1962: Racial barriers dropped
- ❑ 1967: Point System
- ❑ Universality



Canadian Refugee Policy Context 1972

- 1969 ratified UN Refugee Convention**
- Sep. 1970 Cabinet sets refugee selection rules**
 - Jan. 1971 Ops Memo 17**
 - Oppressed Minority Policy**

Beirut to Kampala



- ☐ **Saint-Vincent arrives 31 August**
- ☐ **Office & Equipment**
- ☐ **Team**



APOLO HOTEL

COMMUNICATION CHALLENGE

60 day limit

No time for mail

McMaster's
numbering machine

Uganda Argus

CANADA
CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION
IMMIGRATION SERVICE
INTERVIEWS
I.P.S. BUILDING, KAMPALA

Holders of the following reference numbers are invited to appear for Interview Wednesday, Sept. 13, 8:30 to 12:00 and 2:00 to 4:00.

8.30 to 10.30	10.30 to 12.00	2.00 to 3.00	3.00 to 4.00
174			
248	398	530	622
290	409	531	623
295	410	539	624
304	411	544	625
		550	627
305	412	551	631
306	413	567	635
307	426	568	641
324	428	577	642
329	430	579	646
337	450	580	649
339	458	586	669
341	462	587	670
343	468	601	676
350	505	610	689
364	506	615	693
367	507		694
368	510		
378	511		
382	517		
397	523		

Only those heads of family or single persons whose REFERENCE NUMBERS appear above will be interviewed. All other holders of reference numbers will be invited through subsequent newspaper notices or contacted by mail. If you hold a reference number please refrain from contacting this office unless invited to do so.

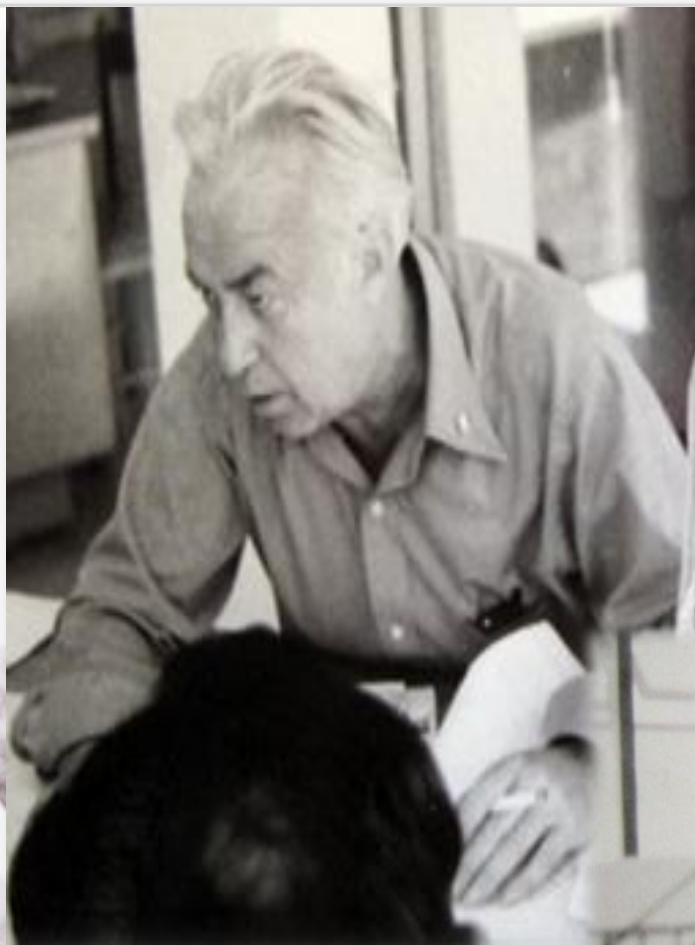
Opening Day: 6 Sept



- ❑ 10 block line
- ❑ Zavie keeps order & loses shirt
- ❑ 2588/7764, 57 interviews







PROCESSING

MEDICAL DELAYS

- ❑ **DND Med Techs
7 days late**
- ❑ **Technical
problems**
- ❑ **No medical
exams w/o test
results**



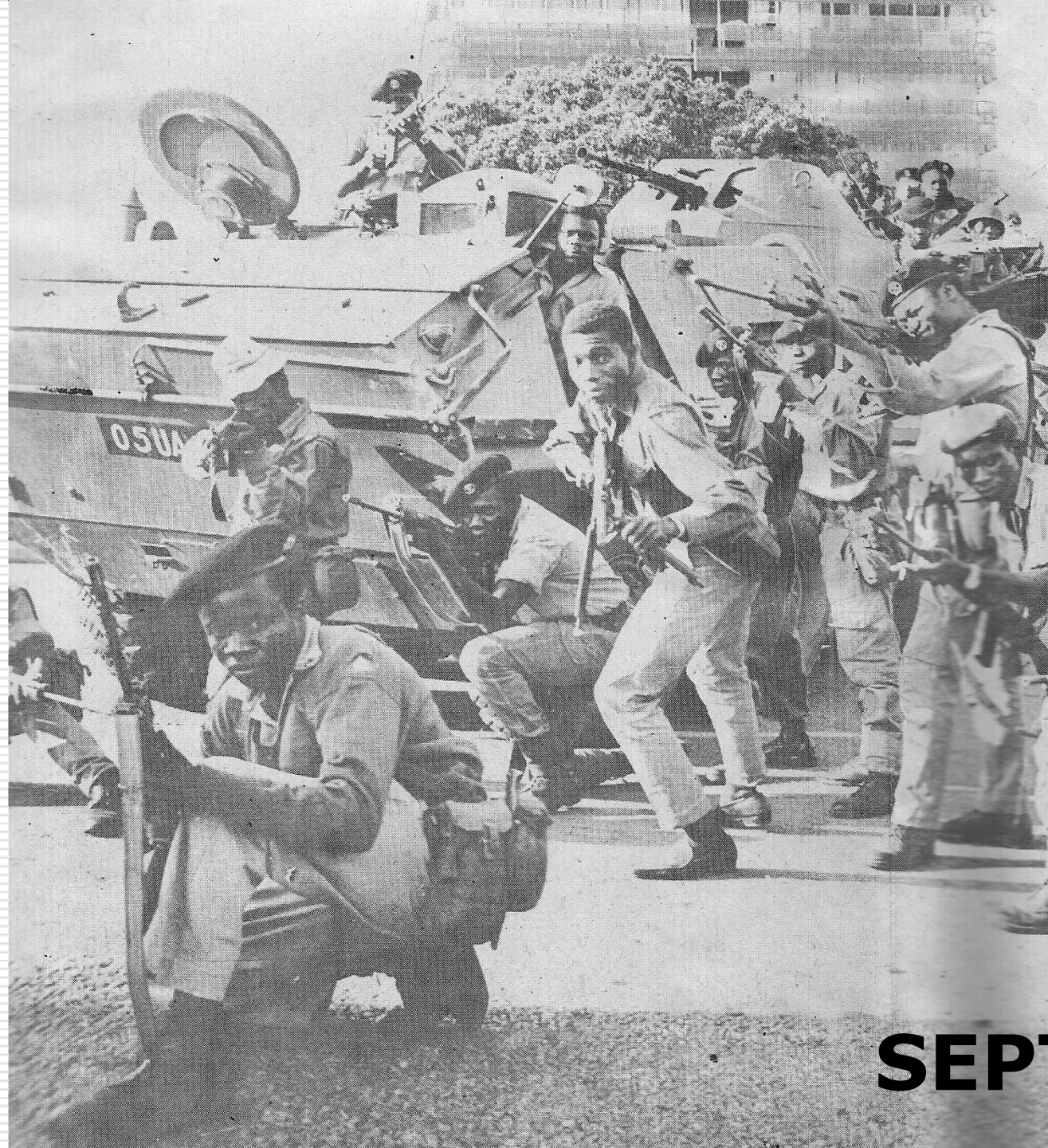
13 September 1972 Cabinet

Mackasey's

Big

Decision





CRISES of LATE SEPTEMBER

Turning the Corner: early October

Sami Marodali
1st visa



- ☐ **Medical team catches up**
- ☐ **Reinforcements**
- ☐ **Weekend blitz**
- ☐ **Visa - Travel Unit**



Canadian Team

VTU



MED TECHS

Management and Morale



**Black Label
management**



The Airlift

- ❑ **27 Sep**
 - ❑ **30 hours**
 - ❑ **Escalated frequency**
 - ❑ **Safe departure**
-



28 Sep 72

28 SEPTEMBER 72



CFB Longue Pointe: Operation UGX



CURRY



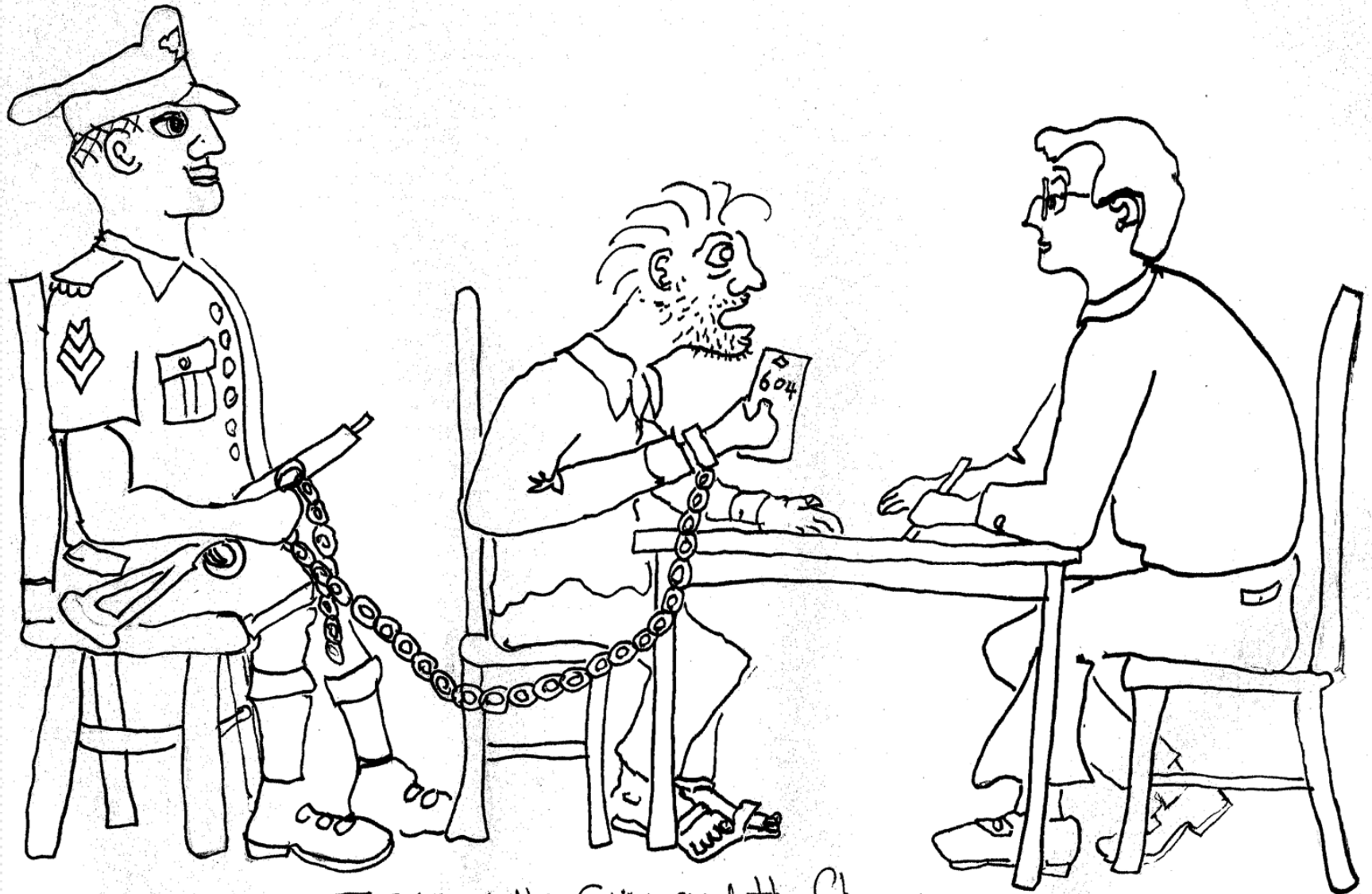
COTS



and COUNSELLING



The Man, the Gun & the Chain



THE MAN, the GUN and the Chain

—KAMPALA Oct/72

UGX – The Final Tally

8 November

- ❑ **31 flights**
- ❑ **4351 pax / 69 babies**
- ❑ **6,175 visas**
- ❑ **Many would follow**



The Policy Legacy

- ☐ **Refugees -1976 Immigration Act**
- ☐ **Alternate refugee definitions**
- ☐ **Flexible criteria for refugees**
- ☐ **Private sponsorship**
- ☐ **WUSC Refugee Student Program**
- ☐ **Uganda and Indochina**

The Human Legacy



SENATOR



BUSINESSMAN



**CANCER
RESEARCHER**



BUSINESSMAN



ARTIST

THE CANADIAN
IMMIGRATION
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



cihs-shic.ca

LA SOCIÉTÉ
HISTORIQUE DE
L'IMMIGRATION
CANADIENNE

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