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

<table>
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<th>African Perception</th>
<th>Consequences</th>
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<td>Wealthy</td>
<td>Kenya 1968: 15,000</td>
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<td>Aloof</td>
<td>Tanzania 1970s: 20,000</td>
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<td>Exploitative</td>
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Obote Ousted in Coup
24 January 1971
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
“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

All shops owned by aliens to be sold
British Media: August 7, 1972

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

- Accept legal obligations but...
- Seek assistance from other countries
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
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

OTTAWA — The first plane, en route to about 140 expelled Ugandan Asians is expected to land 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 unseen Canadian official said: "If they are not out of the country by Nov. 15 they will be. 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
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
COMMUNICATION CHALLENGE

60 day limit

No time for mail

McMaster’s numbering machine

Uganda Argus
Opening Day: 6 Sept

- 10 block line
- Zavie keeps order & loses shirt
- 2588/7764, 57 interviews
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
Turning the Corner: early October

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

Sami Marodali
1st visa
Canadian Team

VTU

MED TECHS
Management and Morale

Black Label management
The Airlift

- 27 Sep
- 30 hours
- Escalated frequency
- Safe departure
28 SEPTEMBER 72
CFB Longue Pointe: Operation UGX
COTS
and COUNSELLING
The Man, the Gun & 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

BUSINESSMAN

CANCER RESEARCHER

ARTIST