

40th
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



SEVEN CRESTED CRANES
Asian Exodus from Uganda
The Role of Canada's Mission to Kampala
Roger St. Vincent
Team Leader
Number 3 in the Series, October 1993

Perspectives in Canadian Immigration Series



The Canadian Immigration Historical Society
La Société Historique De L'Immigration Canadienne

INTRODUCTION TO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

It has been several decades since the Canadian Immigration Historical Society published Roger Saint-Vincent's remarkable memoir of the 1972 expulsion of Uganda's British Asian population and, under his leadership, the movement of more than 6000 to Canada. In the interim, there have been a number of events to mark and indeed to celebrate the arrival in Canada of this highly talented group of people. At the end of April 1994 there was the "Journey into Hope" Symposium and Gala held at the University of Ottawa and the Museum of Civilization. On 2 October 2002 there was the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the South Asian Exodus from Uganda to Canada on Parliament Hill.

The Uganda Movement took place before Canada's commitment to resolving refugee problems was enshrined in law but at a critical time when the Government and the Immigration Department were coming to the realization that refugee crises were not just a periodic by product of the Cold War but a continuing phenomenon in the post-colonial world. As Canada moved to "universalize" its immigration system it had to assume a role in resolving refugee problems beyond Europe. In 1969 Canada had ratified the United Nations Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. In 1970, in considering the implications of ratification, Cabinet decided to adopt the UN Convention's refugee definition with its focus on victims of persecution who had fled their countries. At the same time Cabinet formally adopted the Oppressed Minority policy that recognized that occasionally Canada would be called on to assist people who were facing persecution or oppression but who were not Convention Refugees because they were still in their home countries. At the same time Cabinet affirmed that the relatively new point system would be used to select refugees and oppressed minorities on the understanding that visa officers had the discretionary authority to override the system in humanitarian situations given the extra assistance that would be made available to refugees as opposed to ordinary immigrants. These decisions were conveyed to visa officers in Operations Memorandum 17 of 2 January 1971 and it was these instructions that were in place when Saint-Vincent and his team set up shop in Kampala in September 1972.

In releasing this Anniversary Edition the Society has left the original text untouched but has added a short portfolio of photographs of Ugandan Asians arriving at the facility that the Canadian Forces established to receive the incoming charters at CFB Longue Pointe in Montreal. These photos, published here for the first time, were recently discovered at the National Library and

Archives and convey a sense of the warm welcome that was extended to the Ugandan Asians on arrival.

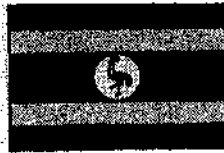
Readers of this memoir who are interested in learning more about the Ugandan Asian movement and its impact in Canada should note that in 2013 Carleton University in Ottawa will be launching an electronic archive of official documents, press coverage and related materials on the Ugandan movement.

Forty years on, the text of Roger Saint-Vincent's frank account of what it was like to manage a high pressure rescue operation in a far away and dangerous country remains as compelling, gripping and fresh as that long ago morning when he stepped off East African Airways flight 911 at Entebbe Airport and spotted his lucky omen – seven crested cranes flying in a perfect "V" formation.

--- Canadian Immigration Historical Society

October 2012

SEVEN CRESTED CRANES
ASIAN EXODUS FROM UGANDA



THE ROLE OF CANADA'S MISSION TO KAMPALA



ROGER ST. VINCENT
TEAM LEADER

NO. 3 IN THE SERIES "PERSPECTIVES ON CANADIAN IMMIGRATION"
THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OTTAWA, ONTARIO
OCTOBER 1993

SEVEN CRESTED CRANES

ASIAN EXODUS FROM UGANDA

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SEVEN CRESTED CRANES

THE ASIAN EXODUS FROM UGANDA

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Immigration Historical Society is pleased to publish Roger St. Vincent's account of the 1972 movement of Asian refugees from Uganda to Canada. This is Number 3 in the Society's series, "Perspectives on Canadian Immigration" (Number 1 was "A Man of Big Heart": The Memoirs of Maurice Mitchell and Number 2 was "Recollections of an Immigration Officer: The Memoirs of Fenton Crosman 1930-1968.)

On August 5, 1972, General Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of 80,000 Asians from Uganda. Although many of the Ugandan Asians were eligible for admission to other countries by virtue of citizenship -- mainly Britain, India or Pakistan -- others were stateless. For example members of the Ismaili Community, who had taken out Ugandan citizenship after Ugandan independence in the early 1960s were subjected to a process which in effect stripped them of their citizenship. There were many other individuals in post-colonial East Africa who did not qualify for citizenship anywhere. Canada decided to launch a refugee movement to "process without numerical limitation" stateless Asians. On August 24th, Roger St. Vincent, Officer in Charge, Beirut, was asked to head an Immigration team that would go to Kampala.

Although Canada's Immigration Service has mounted many refugee missions since the Second World War, it is doubtful if any has been as well and intimately documented as that from Uganda. Roger recorded telephone calls, telexes, meetings and other daily events in what became known as 'Roger's black book'. He has now organized his notes into this memoir.

The memoir will be invaluable to immigration staff and historians for the light it sheds on policy and operational issues surrounding the Ugandan movement. Students of public administration will be intrigued by this graphic account of what it's like to be at the place 'where the rubber meets the road.'

The memoir can also be read with pleasure by people who have only a general interest in immigration matters. Roger is not just a keen note taker, but he's a fine story teller with an eye for

vivid detail.

At one moment we are watching dainty birds weave their nests in roadside trees. Then we're inside a medical mobile tent, wilting in the over-100(F) temperature and gagging at the stench as technicians analyze stool specimens. Later, we're on the runway at Kampala's airport watching as Roger tries to decide what to do with a cheque for 1 million Ugandan pounds that a grateful Asian group wants to give the Canadian Government.

Along with facts and details, the memoir captures the emotions of working in a pressure cooker environment. There are occasional bursts of anger and frustration at officials in Headquarters and other departments. There are feelings of affection and respect for the members of the team and for the volunteers who helped them. There is satisfaction at having accomplished what seemed at times to be a 'mission impossible'. Above all, there is a deep joy at having rescued some frightened human beings from a tinpot but dangerous despot.

As the agony of the indigenous people of Uganda demonstrated in the years that followed, the Asians had every right to be frightened. The memoir records some examples of the horrors inflicted on the community -- beatings, robbery and rape. But beyond these attacks there was a growing fear that something much worse could happen in the volatile atmosphere being fuelled by the rantings of Idi Amin. There was a deeply felt fear that a new holocaust was in the making.

These fears help explain the vigorous efforts of the leaders of the Ismaili and other Asian communities to get their people out of Uganda. As Roger's memoir makes plain, the Canadian team was sometimes, in the heat of the moment, annoyed by the pressures from these communities. The team officials had been given a mission by the Canadian Government and they were working extraordinarily hard to achieve it. They bristled when it was implied that they could be doing more. They also resented what they interpreted as requests that they should ignore the criteria set by the Government of Canada for the selection of Ugandan Asians.

It is worth noting that in 1972 there were no formal refugee categories in Canadian immigration law and that the shift from a European centred Immigration program to a universal policy reflected in the so called "point system" was less than a decade old. We witness in this memoir a fascinating encounter between a group of highly motivated Canadian officials tasked with applying what in retrospect seem to be a sensible set of rules and a group of equally motivated community leaders trying to ensure that as many as possible of their members escaped to Canada.

In his memoir, Roger could have deleted references to these occasional tensions between the team and the Asian communities. But in almost every refugee movement, dedicated community leaders and dedicated officials can, and do, have honest differences of opinion and perspective. By not glossing over these differences, Roger has helped the reader understand an important facet of refugee movements.

In the case of Uganda, the important point is that after everything was said and done, both the ethnic communities and the Canadian government agreed that the movement had been a most successful operation.

Although the Society arranged for a light edit of the text (we are grateful to Mary Blickstead for her help) the memoir remains a very personal document. This is a record of what Roger St. Vincent saw, thought and felt as he directed the Uganda refugee movement.

The Canadian Immigration Historical Society is delighted to be able to offer this unique and valuable document to its members.

RETROSPECTIVE

In the autumn of 1972, two events of major importance captured the attention of the Canadian public--a federal election, and the Peace Treaty officially ending the Vietnam war on October 31, 1972.

These events completely overshadowed a tragedy that was taking place in Uganda at the time: General Idi Amin's decree ordering the expulsion of 80,000 Asians from the country.

Preoccupied with other events, it is doubtful if anyone paid much attention to Prime Minister Trudeau's statement admonishing the Head of State of another Commonwealth country for his base and racist action.

Canada's response was swift and generous.

It is important to remember that the quest to alleviate the anguish of the Asians and to assist them was achieved with eminent success. But it is also important to stress that the decree ordering the expulsion of Asians from that country must be remembered as an act of extreme racial prejudice and intolerance.

PREAMBLE

In spite of the exacting pace of events that took place throughout the duration of the "Uganda Operations," I kept daily notes, as developments unfolded. The notes constitute the basis of this report.

My Mission accomplished, I returned to Beirut, November 10, 1972. A few weeks later, the Director asked me to come to Ottawa with my wife to meet the Minister of Manpower & Immigration. Not wishing to create a precedent, I went alone to Ottawa to meet with Mr. Bryce Mackasey. During our brief meeting, he handed me a letter signed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Pierre Elliot Trudeau. The letter expressed the gratitude of the Government for the success of the mission.

I thanked the Minister for the backing received from foreign branch Hqs., for the secondment of officers and support staff. I told him that the personnel from NH&W, the DND Mobile Unit and the Canadian High Commission Nairobi played an important role. And that finally, teamwork and strong motivation made this achievement possible. A free hand in managing the Mission also

helped considerably.

After returning to Beirut, my wife and I flew to Yugoslavia for three weeks' annual leave. With my notes, "en clair" telegrams and newspaper clippings which I had brought from Kampala, I wrote the first draft of my report, in longhand. Shortly after arriving back in Beirut I was unexpectedly recalled to Canada for an assignment as District Administrator, Toronto (a job I had not requested). The telex inferred that IMMHO was unable to locate a "better qualified" person for the job! After eight months, however, I got a break.

In October 1973, I accepted an offer I could not refuse as Immigration Co-ordinator, for the 1976 Olympics and a transfer to Montreal. My secretary found time to type the first draft of my report during my weekly three-day absence on T.D. at Immigration Hqs., Ottawa. By the middle of 1975, I handed an unedited copy of the report to the M&I Librarian. Unfortunately, some attachments, photographs and the copy of the PM's letter are missing from that report.

Since I was not instructed by the Immigration Division to write a summary of this important event, I consider this narrative a personal document. I have intentionally described a number of incidents that I witnessed involving members of the team and Asians. There were moments of tension, apprehension and also elation. I would be remiss if I omitted to mention these as part of the narrative. I believe they reflect the sentiments of persons closely involved in a humanitarian mission. I shall let the reader be the judge.

I would like to dedicate this memoir to my wife, Marija, my lifelong companion with whom I share so many cherished memories.

Roger St. Vincent

THE MISSION

The telegram dated August 24, 1972 from the Director General of the Foreign Branch, Manpower and Immigration, Ottawa addressed to the Attaché M&I Beirut read.....

YOU ARE NOT UNAWARE OF GENERAL AMIN'S DECREE TO EXPEL 80,000 ASIANS FROM UGANDA ACCUSING THEM OF BEING PUPPETS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND SABOTAGING THE ECONOMY OF HIS COUNTRY. YOUR MISSION IS TO PROCEED TO KAMPALA AND BY WHATEVER MEANS UNDERTAKE TO PROCESS WITHOUT NUMERICAL LIMITATION THOSE ASIANS WHO MEET THE IMMIGRATION SELECTION CRITERIA BEARING IN MIND THEIR PARTICULAR PLIGHT AND FACILITATE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR CANADA. YOUR MISSION MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY NOVEMBER 8....."

I have always liked the TV series "Mission Impossible." The tone of this telegram conveyed a certain challenge which reminded me of the words...."should you decide to accept...." Shortly after receiving this message, Mr. G.M. Mitchell, Director of Operations, Foreign Branch asked me to go immediately to Kampala to set up the Mission with the help of support personnel who would be assigned as required. I was to liaise with the High Commission, Nairobi etc.

I hesitated to accept because we were extremely busy at the Beirut office - an "area office" looking after immigration applications from over 30 countries. I asked Mr. Mitchell if he had someone else in mind and his unequivocal answer was "You, Roger. It's within your area of responsibility". He intimated that if I did not accept, I would be recalled to Canada sooner than expected.

Unlike the tape which self-destructs in "Mission Impossible", I intended to pursue my career in the Foreign Service. Having made up his mind, Mr. Mitchell was relying on me to carry out the assignment successfully. The reassuring part of the assignment was that Maurice Mitchell ended his telephone conversation with the words, "You can count on the full support of the Branch."

I said I'd be on the first available flight for Nairobi. This was an assignment which had few precedents. It required setting up an entire office, training staff, co-ordinating interviews, medical examinations, hiring buses and arranging the transportation of several thousand Asians aboard charter aircraft.

The medical examination was to include blood and "stool" test, causing further complications in the process. All this and more needed to be done within a few weeks, given the November 8 deadline for all expellees to leave.

THE DREAM, THE VISION AND THE NIGHTMARE

When Major General Idi Amin Dada and his Army wrested control of Uganda on JANUARY 25, 1971 from President Milton Apollo Obote, it was the culmination of a dream-- from private in the armed forces to President of the "pearl" of East Africa, Uganda, land of the Kings of Buganda, Ankole, Toro and Bunyoro.

Under former President Milton Obote, the process of nationalization or ²"Ugandization" had already begun for some 88 Industrial and Commercial enterprises such as Hotels, Banks, Insurance Companies, Transportation, Mines, Textiles, Tobacco factories, Breweries etc. Europeans, mostly English and Asians continued to hold most of the responsible and better remunerated positions.

In October 1971, President Idi Amin ordered that a census of all Asians take place to provide vital data for the expected formulation of new policies on citizenship. The following month, Uganda immigration officers required all Asians travelling out of the country or returning to Uganda to produce census receipts. A stiff penalty was imposed on those who failed to comply with the registration requirement.

In early December 1971, Radio Uganda aired the President's bitter attack against Asians whom he said " were engaged in fraudulent and corrupt practices, cheating Africans and isolating themselves within their own communities!"

At a Conference held December 9, attended by Asians from the 20 Districts of Uganda, the General, declared that he was cancelling applications for Ugandan Citizenship for some 12,000 Asians, most of them British Passport holders, on the basis that they had procrastinated in applying for Ugandan nationality preferring, as the General put it "to let this vital question remain unsettled."

In the months that followed, President Idi Amin attended the Conference of the Organization of African Unity at Rabat, Morocco. He subsequently visited several Arab countries, including Libya. Soon after, he ordered all Israelis to leave

¹ a quote from Winston Churchill

²in Kenya it was called "Africanization"

Uganda. Having provided special training in, for example, matters of Internal Security, the Israelis were now deemed to be enemies of his regime, spies and collaborators with the British in a plot to overthrow the General, reinstate colonial rule and gain control of the economy.

The "Asian Question" was brought up several times in the following months by the General and, on August 5, 1972 he announced:

"ALL BRITISH ASIANS NUMBERING ABOUT 80,000 WILL HAVE TO BE REPATRIATED TO BRITAIN-THEY MUST LEAVE WITHIN 90 DAYS. NON-CITIZENS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES (OTHER THAN UGANDA) MUST ALSO LEAVE WITHIN THREE MONTHS"

The General let it be known that he had a vision and was warned that the situation in Uganda was becoming explosive. "God has directed me to save the situation".

For tens of thousands of Asians, the nightmare had already begun.

DEPT'L. MEETINGS-CABINET DECISIONS

(NOTE: the following paragraphs summarize some of the early messages on the Ugandan situation.)

IMFOROTT 1006 AUG 10- Appraisal of the Ugandan Asian problem at intra/inter-departmental meetings which took place in Ottawa on August 9, revealed that too little was known about the matter to formulate any decisive policy or action. It was inferred that the Immigration Attaché at Beirut had the expertise and the resource people to process applicants from Uganda.

If a crisis should arise, additional officers or teams would be mobilized. It was not intended at this time to relax the selection criteria, although it was realized that if there were humanitarian considerations, a Cabinet decision would be required, as well as special funding.

The RCMP Visa Control Officers in Beirut had access to their liaison sources in the Uganda and a Visa Control Officer could be sent to Kampala, as well as, a Medical Officer from the Rome office or from NH&W, Ottawa. The situation would be monitored by maintaining close liaison with the High Commissioner, Nairobi.

EXTEROTT 344 AUG 18-The Cabinet gave preliminary consideration on August 17 to the "Asian Expellee" question, and the Prime Minister expressed the view that Canada should assist on humanitarian grounds to alleviate the problem faced by Britain. Specific proposals were to be elaborated for the Cabinet meeting of August 23. Representations for assistance were received from the British High Commissioner when he called on the Prime Minister, August 18.

EXTEROTT 346 AUG 18-In anticipation of an immigration team being despatched to Kampala, the High Commissioner at Nairobi was asked to send Mr. Reginald Smith, First Secretary, to Kampala to survey the availability of office accommodation. The team would proceed to Kampala within 7 to 10 days after the Cabinet decision was known. It was estimated that 20,000 persons would apply for immigration.

IMFOROTT 1751 AUG 18-The Director of the M&I office in London and the Immigration Attaches of the Athens, Beirut and Rome Visa Offices were asked to designate one Officer for the Kampala Team and to proceed with preventive inoculation, ensuring that the officer be ready to leave at short notice.

IMFOROTT 1753 AUG 18-The Minister's interest is stressed. Statistics are requested on Asian applicants, including their nationality and occupational groups. It is emphasized that the selection criteria will not be relaxed. If additional officers are needed, they will be answerable to the Attaché, M&I Beirut.

After consulting with Mike Molloy, I replied to the above telegram, confirming that the letters received at Beirut from Asians in Uganda did not provide sufficient details. Formal application forms (IMM OS8) sent in reply to these letters could not be expected to be returned to Beirut for some weeks, given mail delays. It could be expected that many applicants would be businessmen, merchants, managers, etc. For an early and accurate assessment, applicants would have to proceed to Kampala. I had Mike Molloy in mind as the best qualified person to send to Uganda.

NROBI 894 AUG 21-In reply to EXTEROTT 346 of Aug 18, the H.C., Nairobi suggests that 4 or 5 officers be sent initially and that hotel accommodation be made at the International Hotel, Kampala. Office space would be made available at the IPS Bldg. situated close to the British High Commission, on a monthly basis.

IMFOROTT 2048 AUG 22- The submission to Cabinet would likely propose that:

- a) Canada accept at least 3,000 of the Ugandan Expellees
- b) An Immigration Team be despatched to Kampala as soon as necessary arrangements can be made.
- c) The Team processes with all possible haste and without numerical restrictions. Asians who meet normal criteria and need no assistance.
- d) If the number of applicants accepted as in c) falls short of 3,000, the Minister has authority to invoke the policy of "OPPRESSED MINORITIES" and make arrangements for the transportation and reception services, as well as, allowing for the admission of otherwise unqualified applicants deemed capable of successful establishment with such special assistance as deemed necessary. The Attaché, Beirut should plan accordingly, ensuring sufficient stock of Forms IMM OS8, 1000, AP Warrants, etc. The London office could be of assistance should additional forms be required.

The officer staff would consist of the Officer-in Charge Beirut and 4 Officers. Canadian support staff would be provided by the Central Processing Office with the Department of External Affairs providing one additional

support staff. Advise if 5 support staff will be sufficient. Dept. NH&W providing 2 Medical Officers and so is Stage "B" (RCMP). Cabinet decision expected Friday August 25. Liaise with Nairobi and be prepared to proceed to Kampala with R. Smith of HC Nairobi bearing in mind full team could arrive one week later. Programs and Procedure Branch looking into question of transportation for immigrants by regular or special carriers.

I confirmed to Mr. Mitchell that I would leave Beirut on Aug. 27 and told him the proposed support staff seemed adequate.

STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

EXTEROTT 359 AUG 24-"THE CDN GOVT HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN UGANDA SINCE AUG 5 WHEN PRESIDENT AMIN ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO EXPEL TENS OF THOUSANDS UGANDA RESIDENTS OF ASIAN ORIGIN. THE SSEA (the Secretary of State for External Affairs) EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRESIDENT AMIN WOULD RECONSIDER HIS DECISION BECAUSE OF THE DIMENSIONS OF THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM WHICH IT WOULD CREATE. I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT HIS APPEAL AND OTHERS LIKE IT FROM COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE NOT DETERRED THE UGANDA GOVT. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT AMIN HAS MADE SOME MODIFICATIONS IN THE CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE EXPULSION ORDERS, WE HAVE NO REAL ASSURANCE THAT THEIR EFFECT MAY NOT BE TOTAL. HE HAS ALSO REFUSED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE OF 90 DAYS WHICH HE SET. IN AN ATTEMPT TO EASE THE EFFECT OF THIS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM, BOTH ON THOSE FORCED OUT OF UGANDA AND ON THE PEOPLE OF BRIT WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE FORCED TO SHARE THEIR ALREADY OVERCROWDED ISLAND WITH A TIDE OF INVOLUNTARY IMMIGRANTS FROM UGANDA, THE CANADIAN GOVT IS PREPARED TO OFFER ASSISTANCE.

A TEAM OF OFFICIALS OF MANDI AND NH&W IS BEING DESPATCHED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO KAMPALA TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FROM THOSE ASIANS WHO APPLY TO COME TO CANADA. THIS STEP WILL ENABLE US TO FORM A CLEARER IMPRESSION OF THE NUMBERS INVOLVED AND OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES MAY HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO DEAL URGENTLY WITH THOSE WHO WOULD NOT NORMALLY QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION. SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND, THE MINISTER OF MANDI HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO INSTITUTE A PROGRAM OF ADMISSION ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS.

I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT REMAINS THE HOPE OF THE CDN GOVT THAT GEN AMIN WILL CONSIDER THE EFFECTS OF HIS DECREES NOT ONLY ON THESE LONG-TIME RESIDENTS OF HIS COUNTRY BUT ON THE ECONOMY OF UGANDA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH CANADA HAS MADE A CONTRIBUTION. I MUST ALSO OBSERVE THAT GN AMINS REGRETTABLE EXPULSION DECISIONS, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD APPEAR TO BE CONTRARY

TO HIS COUNTRY OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE UN CHARTER AND DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES OF THE COMMONWEALTH DECLARATION OF 1971 IN WHICH MEMBER STATES REITERATED THEIR BELIEF IN HUMAN DIGNITY AND NON-RACIALISM.

FOR OUR PART WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER AN HONOURABLE PLACE IN CDN LIFE TO THOSE UGANDA ASIANS WHO COME TO CDA UNDER THIS PROGRAM. ASIAN IMMIGRANTS HAVE ALREADY ADDED TO THE CULTURAL RICHNESS AND VARIETY OF OUR COUNTRY AND, I AM SURE THAT THOSE FROM UGANDA WILL, BY THEIR ABILITIES AND INDUSTRY, MAKE AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO CANADIAN SOCIETY".

AMIN STATES

UGANDAN ASIANS

Kampala, Thursday

MAJOR-GENERAL Idi Amin announced here yesterday he was cancelling applications for Ugandan citizenship from an estimated 12,000 Asians, most of them British passport-holders.

Some of the applications had been outstanding for seven or eight years, he told the closing session of a nationwide Asian conference here.

"My government does not consider itself in any way bound to process such applications and repatriate them as having been automatically cancelled by lapse of time," he said.

He went on: "All those interested in obtaining Ugandan citizenship will have to make fresh applications. These will be processed in accordance with new qualifications my government is now drawing up."

He gave no indication what these qualifications would be, or when they would be published, but he said they were being drawn up based on the results of a special Asian census held six weeks ago.

Gen Amin made clear he was far from satisfied with the way Asians here regarded Ugandan citizenship. "Many of you have not shown sufficient faith in Ugandan citizenship," he told the conference, which was being attended by 10 Asian representatives from each of Uganda's 20 districts.

NEW EXIL RILE

for Uganda

ASIAN

Kampala, Sunday: Asians wishing to travel outside Uganda must produce evidence of having registered during last month's special Asian census here, Maj. Gen. Amin's Ministry of Internal Affairs announced yesterday.

It said that "for the time being" census receipts were being checked by immigration officers as Asians left the country.

Any Asian surrendering his census receipt to another person would "suffer the consequences," the announcement added. All Asians here were required to register during the census or face losing their residential status.

The census was designed to provide statistical information on the estimated 80,000-strong Asian community here as a preliminary to the formulation of policies on such questions as citizenship.

Ugandan Asians meet over their future

Kampala, Wednesday

ASIAN representatives attending a special Government-sponsored conference here tonight discussed details of memoranda they will present to Major-General Idi Amin before he announces his government's new Asian policy tomorrow.

When the conference opened this morning, the delegates were warned by Uganda's Defence Minister, Mr. Charles Oboth-Ojumbi, that the future of the 80,000-strong Asian community in Uganda depended on the outcome of their deliberations.

The conference was called by General Amin last week to enable Asians to identify their problems and discuss them with a cabinet representative.

The General will issue his policy statement when he closes the conference tomorrow afternoon.

Each of Uganda's 20 districts is represented at the conference by a delegation of 10 Asians. Mr. Oboth-Ojumbi said today they should prepare a set of memoranda setting out problems at district level, and in addition, a single memorandum setting out the problems facing the Asian community as a whole.

Most of today's session was taken up with a discussion of citizenship, immigration and business licensing — the three subjects about which Asians are most apprehensive. Only some 30,000 Asians in the country are Ugandan citizens.

TOLD TO ATTEND MEETING

ASIAN

Kampala, Saturday: Asians from each of Uganda's 20 districts have been directed to attend a three-day conference here next week to discuss the problems facing this country's Asian community, Radio Uganda announced.

The decision to hold the conference follows several weeks of bitter attacks against the Asian community here by Idi Amin.

He has accused Ugandan Asians of cheating Africans, engaging in fraudulent and corrupt practices, and isolating themselves within their own communities.

The radio said the conference would open on December 7.

Uganda Views Final Plans To Expel British Asians

KAMPALA, Aug. 8, (Agencies) -- The Ugandan cabinet met here Tuesday for final discussions on President Idi Amin's plans to expel the thousands of Asians living here who hold British passports.

Diplomatic sources said that, in addition to the mechanics of the expulsion process, they expected the ministers to cover Britain's threat to review its economic aid to Uganda -- now running at about 4.5 million sterling annually -- if the Asians are ordered out.

General Amin has already said that he is not worried by the possibility of economic ties being cut.

The president is expected to make a definitive policy statement on the Asians after hosting a luncheon here Wednesday for the British and Indian high commissioners, the Pakistani ambassadors, and leaders of Uganda's Asian community.

According to the president about 80,000 British Asians will be affected by his directive that they be repatriated to Britain within three months.

In addition to these, General Amin said Monday night that all non-citizens of other nationalities who were "sabotaging the economy" would also have

to leave. Like the Asians, they have three months in which to go.

There has been no editorial comment here on the expulsion decision, but the independent "Uganda Argus" Tuesday carried a front page report from its London correspondent claiming that the British Prime Minister, Edward Heath, had personally ordered a halt to the "shuttlecocking" of British Asians.

In recent weeks numbers of British Asians from East Africa have been refused entry to Britain for lack of an entry voucher. Many of them have found that no other country would allow them entry either.

According to the Argus report, Heath felt that this policy was "needlessly provocative."

British Asians here now appear resigned to waiting until Wednesday to learn the true facts of their position here. Few, however, are optimistic of a change of heart by General Amin.

All banks here are closed until Wednesday in an apparent move to stop Asians making large withdrawals. And General Amin has said that troops are being sent to reinforce

(Continued on page 2)

the alert and ordered to guard all border crossings, apparently in a move to stop Asians awaiting expulsion from smuggling out their possessions.

Gen. Amin said his decision to expel all British Asians here had been taken for the good of Uganda, because the country could no longer tolerate economic sabotage.

He had made up his mind, he said, and it would "never be changed." He added however, that Uganda would go through "one of the most difficult periods, and people must be prepared to bear any inconvenience

Uganda's borders to prevent Asians smuggling out their possessions.

Departing residents here are allowed to take with them only 50,000 shillings when they leave, and 20,000 shillings (about 1,130 sterling) a year thereafter.

General Amin noted that Britain had other problems besides its Asian passport-holders, and suggested that it should sort out the situation in Northern Ireland before it became "even bigger than Vietnam."

He announced that Uganda's security forces had been put on

PLANNING THE STRATEGY-NAIROBI, KENYA

The six-hour night flight from Beirut to Nairobi via Nicosia provided very little comfort in economy class. The Immigration and Customs officers at Embakasi Airport asked few questions and I proceeded to the New Stanley hotel, registering at 10.30 am, August 28, 1972. Once refreshed, I walked to the Canadian High Commission, a few minutes away.

The secretary remembered me and said that the High Commissioner was expecting me. Mr. W.G.M. Olivier had only recently been appointed and he was anxious to discuss the Uganda Asian problem. He mentioned that events were taking a turn for the worse and suggested that a meeting be held at 11.30, with other members of the Commission, to identify priorities. I agreed and asked if I could make use of the Comm Centre facilities while at Nairobi to send "en clair" and encoded messages. He agreed and added that the facilities of the High Commission were at my disposal. From the start, I knew that he and I would get along very well.

Reginald Smith, First Secretary, Philip Boyes, Second Secretary (Development), Stan Buryanyk Administrative Officer and his Assistant, John McNeish attended the meeting. Mr. Olivier suggested the full-time presence of a "liaison" officer at Kampala. It would be Reg Smith or Phil Boyes. If need be, both might be present at Kampala. They were to insure continuous contact with Nairobi and assist with clearances and protocol matters with the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). We discussed logistics and support staff. John McNeish would go to Kampala and look after all financial and administrative matters, under my jurisdiction.

Being no further items to discuss, the meeting ended. In my discussions with Reg S. and Phil B., it turned out that no firm commitment was made for any specific office space. I was relieved to hear that since they could not visualize the space or needs for each medical examiner i.e. for undressing and small waiting rooms etc. The encouraging fact was that space was available. Moreover, Phil B. was flying to Kampala the following morning and would inquire about typewriters.

Noting the contents of telex IMFOROTT 2048 AUG 22, I decided to expand on the categories of applicants who should be selected. The new breakdown (Annex "A") was sent to IMFOROTT in telex for approval.

The Director of Operations agreed to the new breakdown provided

statistics were available prior to the arrival of the Asians. I designed two statistical forms for Officers to record basic information on accepted and refused Asians. One form contained information such as age, marital status, trade, destination, nationality. The other was a breakdown of vital information on Asians passengers arriving in Canada. My experience as "booking" officer handling the Czech Refugees, Vienna '68 served as a reminder to anticipate this need.

In a telephone conversation with Mr. G.M. Mitchell (GMM), he provided full passport details of the first four support staff due to arrive in a week. I stressed the need to telex the full passport particulars of anyone joining the team. This was required by the Uganda MFA and their officials were adamant on that point. I also asked for the services of Mike Molloy, from the Beirut Visa Office. Mike had made a few trips to East Africa and was familiar with Asians. I ended by saying that Phil B. was in Kampala and would find out about my clearance ('clearance' by the Uganda MFA refers to permission to enter under protection of the Government granting such clearance.)

At 9.15 am on August 30, I telephoned Phil B. and gave him the particulars of the four members which he could hand in to the Uganda MFA for an early clearance. He added that he expected my "clearance" to come through by 5 pm. and confirmed that typewriters could be rented. This was excellent news.

Dr. D. McRae, Regional Director for NH&W telephoned from the Rome Visa Office to inform me of the arrival of Drs. M. Piché and R. Duncan. I stressed the need for complete passport details to obtain permission from the Uganda MFA before seeking entry to Uganda. If they intended to come to this area, I added, they should come to Nairobi pending their clearance. Hotel reservations could be arranged at short notice. Dr. McRae agreed to call back and added that Dr. M. Piché would be in charge of the Medical Section Unit. I knew him in the days of the Canadian Government Immigration Mission, at Karlsruhe and Salzburg, 1948-1952 and Paris 1963.

Dr. McRae also confirmed the arrival of a Department of National Defence Medical Section Unit, consisting of laboratory and X-Ray technicians to carry out the blood and parasitic tests. Based on information supplied by the Canadian High Commission, the Immigrants Medical Section Services Division of NH&W had concluded that local facilities were inadequate.

Faced with an abnormal demand for such tests, it was feared that they would be unable to respond with alacrity. I now realized that each immigrant would have to undergo a thorough Medical examination, including a stool test, to detect any endemic

infection. From previous experience, Asians were free from parasitic infection. The two tests were more hurdles bound to slow the entire process.

The implementation of the tests seemed to be contrary to the intent expressed in the P.M.'s Statement "we will assist in every way possible, even invoke Special Ministerial authority...to take in people who do not meet the selection criteria..." The Immigration Medical Section Division, NH&W, made the right decision insofar as the X-Ray Unit was concerned. I believe that they manage to hoodwink the members of other Departments on the question of blood and parasitic tests. Those who made that decision disregarded the complications that the tests involved. Obviously, they did not care to give it much thought. I also knew that I could not influence this decision.

IMMFOR 2602 AUG 29-This message served as a reminder that all selected clients should be granted Assisted Passage Warrants for their onward transportation to Canada. This was also another hurdle in the process since interviewing officers would have to explain the repayment conditions etc...

I telephoned the Rome and Athens Visa Offices to inquire about Floyd Tufts and Jacques Drapeau who were designated to report to Kampala. I was told they were inoculated against the prevalent tropical ailments and that they were ready to leave. I reminded Roger Martineau and Hal Fry to send their passport details without delay to obtain clearance from the Uganda MFA for their entry and stay in Kampala. I asked that they bring as many Immigrant Applications, IMM OS8 and Canadian Immigration Identification Record, IMM 1000 as they could spare.

I received confirmation that the four support persons from the Central Processing Office, Immigration Hqs., Ottawa, were arriving September 3. Another telegram mentioned the possibility of the Minister of Manpower & Immigration coming to Kampala, accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Zavier Levine. Mr. Olivier and I did not agree with this decision. Not only was it bad timing, but the High Commissioner was not accredited to Uganda and could not have accompanied the Minister, as protocol would dictate.

It was also uncertain how the General would react to the visit from a high profile Canadian politician. The General had said all along that the "Asian Problem" was a "British Problem." If we were to help the Asians and the British, we should keep a low profile. It was unanimously agreed that a postponement of the Minister's visit would be in the best interests of everyone since the selection operations had not even started.

With the full backing of Foreign Branch and cooperation from Dr.

McRae, NH&W Rome, the High Commissioner and External Affairs GAA I felt more confident about the outcome of the Mission. With 4 Counselling Officers, 4 support staff from CPO Ottawa, John McNeish as accountant and a Canadian secretary from Yaoude, the operations should start in a matter of days after we arrive in Kampala.

There were a number of questions still to be tackled, such as office space, furniture, typewriters, and a myriad of minor things which tend to crop up at the least moment.

Phil B. telephoned from Kampala at 15:45 to say that the MFA Uganda had given their "nulla osta" to my entry into Uganda "in principle". He added that I should contact Mr. Ahamed, the Manager of the IPS Bldg. in Nairobi and seek his assistance to secure space in the IPS Bldg. in Kampala.

When I met Mr. Ahamed he seemed anxious to help. He thought there should be no problem securing office space. He gave me the name of his colleague in Kampala and said he would contact him concerning my visit. I added that we wanted to rent office equipment such as filing cabinets, typewriters, and furniture. As we parted he said I could count on the co-operation of his colleague for most of our needs.

As I was due to depart for Kampala next morning, I spent part of the afternoon recapitulating and making projections of the team's output based on 4 Counselling Officers interviewing 12 clients per hour, 8 hours a day, 6 days a week. On that basis the target figure of 3,000 Asians could easily be processed and documented for departure by the third week of September. Two unexpected developments would preclude the realization of these hasty objectives:

- a) the delay concerning the arrival of the DND technicians and their mobile Medical Section unit, and
- b) the decision by Cabinet to double the intake of Asians from 3,000 to 6,000

A GOOD OMEN-PRELIMINARY GROUNDWORK

Thursday, August 31: I left the New Stanley Hotel at 05:30 am for the Embakasi Airport. The East African Airline flight EAA 911, a daily flight to Kampala's Entebbe Airport, usually departed on schedule at 07:30 am. During the flight, I recalled my previous trip to Entebbe and I remembered that there was only one Ugandan Immigration Officer to examine the 50 or so incoming passengers. It would take 45 minutes to clear Immigration and Customs controls.

The ground hostess waited until all passengers had disembarked to escort us to the arriving lounge. Some Asian passengers seemed apprehensive. As we waited for the last passenger to disembark, a tourist pointed to a bevy of birds flying low. There were seven graceful crested or crowned cranes flying in a perfect "V" formation. As they flew past and over the control tower I thought "this could be a lucky omen". The crested crane is the national bird of Uganda and appears on their national flag and currency.

It must have been a lucky sign since I managed to get through Immigration and Customs examinations in a record 10 minutes. I searched for Phil B. or Reg S. both of them were in Kampala and knew the details of my arrival. One of them should have met me on the occasion of my first arrival. When I was certain they were not around, I hailed a taxi to the International Hotel. The drive in the battered Peugeot took one hour. I thought that this time I should pay more attention to the road since I expected to be travelling back and forth to Entebbe International Airport. Because of recent military tension, this road was of vital importance.

Members of the Team were to travel this stretch of road many times in the next two months, as our activities moved into high gear. Most would delight at the abundance of tropical fruits, and stop at roadside stalls to savour sweet bananas, matoke and fried cassava. Others may enjoy watching black and yellow weaver birds building "upside-down" nests among jacaranda and palm trees. In daytime, they would see thousands of fruit bats hanging from high branches while the majestic kites dominated the skies.

They would also experience, firsthand, the warmth, simplicity and ready smile of these people. This tranquil rural scene was in striking contrast to the treatment about to be inflicted on Asians, regardless of their contribution to the economy. Their President, General Idi Amin Dada, and his soldiers, a primitive lot from the northern Nilotic tribes, were bent on using brutal

means to achieve the President's wish that all Asians leave.

It was 10:30 am when I approached the front desk clerk at the International Hotel. As I signed in both Reg. S. and Phil B. came to greet me. My first reaction was to ask them why I had not been met and both replied that I had been here before and they felt "I knew my way around". Reg S. said he would like us to get together as soon as possible. I replied that I first needed to unpack and refresh. The room was a small suite, capable of accommodating a small group of people for meetings and discussions.

When we got together, I gave them three urgent messages from the High Commissioner:

- 1)-The Manager of Falconbridge Mines said that one of his "top men" had been harassed and he was not returning to Uganda.
- 2)-Impress upon R. Fisher, Chief of Canadian University Service Overseas that his volunteer teachers must be made fully aware of the difficult situation developing and to let either RS or PB know of their reaction "to continue under the present circumstances".
- 3)-Contact the MFA with regard to the clearance for the DND technicians and their equipment i.e. Mobile Unit-treat as a first priority.

Reg Smith realized the importance of the messages and took off to deal with them. This left me free to go with Phil B. to the IPS building to look over the office space provisionally accepted by Reg and Phil for our operations.

The offices, located on the seventh floor, consisted of two separate spaces, approximately 600 and 700 square feet each.

They were totally inadequate to accommodate five officers, six support staff, two Medical Section officers and their typists with additional room for the Asians to be medically examined. In addition there was no room to accommodate our needs when the time came to add more staff, either Medical Section or Immigration, into the operations. I could not imagine people using the single elevator all day long! I asked to meet with the rental agent to look at much larger premises.

Mr. Peter Dow, of Martin Hayman Enterprises, was a very worried real estate surveyor. He was having problems because so many Asians who were his best customers, were not renewing office

accommodation. The situation, he was aware, did not augur well. I told him the space on the seventh floor of the IPS Bldg. was inadequate for our needs but I would like to keep an option open. as it might be suitable for the technicians of the Mobile Unit.

I asked about office space on the first floor, and after some hesitation, he said it was now available. The total area was 2700 square feet and rented for \$6,500 for four months minimum. I tried to visualize how the space would be allotted for the Medical Section, Counselling Officers and room for the registry and files. It was exactly what we needed.

I asked Peter Dow to prepare the lease by this afternoon since it could be given to Reg S. who was returning to Nairobi in the evening. The High Commissioner was empowered to sign the lease in the name of the Crown.

We shook hands on the deal and I asked him to arrange for the space to be cleaned up next day. He said he would try. As we parted he told me he had refused to rent the space to the British Immigration Team on a short-term lease! As a result, they were now accommodated at street level, below us, with hardly any ventilation. He expected the British High Commissioner would rebuke him once he found out.

My next contact was Mr. A. Mevdghi, Manager of the Jubilee Insurance Co., IPS Bldg. I went to his office on the seventh floor where I received a warm welcome. Preliminaries over, I told him about our immediate needs and he offered the "loan" of two typing desks and chairs and the services of his secretary to make local purchases of items such as soap, towel, toilet paper etc. He added that his telex facilities were at our disposal. It had been a very profitable day.

Peter Dow had said I should meet with Mr. Broadfoot, of the Administrative Office of the British High Commission (B.H.C.) regarding office furniture and char people. "He is an old-timer who knows a lot of helpful people," he said.

Charles Broadfoot was everything P. Dow had said and more. He was discreet and made no comment when I told him about our office accommodation. He agreed to look after the question of a P.O. Box, telegraphic address and the provision of two telephones! He and his secretary "knew the right people". No problem seemed too complex. He was pleased to accommodate our needs and to co-operate with us. The sooner we could get operational, the sooner we could take Asians who would otherwise have to go to the UK.....

When I broached the question of officer furniture and mentioned

what would be required, he excused himself to make a telephone call. When he returned, he had already arranged for me to meet Mr. I. Roche, a British expatriate carpenter, at 10:30 the next morning, September 1, at our leased premises.

On our way out Mr. Broadfoot introduced Phil B. and I to Mr. T. Emson, Liaison Officer from the UK for the British Immigration Team and Mr. D. Adams, advisor from the Foreign Office. They volunteered information about their progress stating that as of August 30, they had processed 1,700 Asians from a backlog of 3,000 applications held prior to General Amin's Decree of August 5.

I had time to pay a visit to the British Immigration Team Leader, Chief Immigration Officer, Kevin Croakham. He had been selected from the senior ranks of immigration officers at Heathrow Airport. He seemed very reserved and ill at ease. I mentioned that I started my career serving at the Canada-USA border ports. That common denominator seemed to help and he became more receptive. I explained that we would be setting up shop just above him, on the ground level entrance to the IPS Bldg. That's where they should have gone, he said, adding that his Hqs. did not want to pay the high rent. They now had to work under difficult conditions.

I accepted his offer to observe their operations. There were 14 officers, recruited from the London and Dover Immigration offices. The officers asked few questions. It was basically a "paper" operation requiring no particular skill. It consisted in verifying the identity, checking the passport details and validity. If these checks were satisfactory, the officers issued an entry voucher (the equivalent of an immigrant or resident visa) in the passport. They also used a hand operated press to place a dry seal over the photo on the voucher. They kept statistics on a register. The passport was handed back and it was over within 15 minutes! No selection criteria, no Medical Section examination, X-Ray, blood or "stool" tests, no Stage "B", no Assisted Passage, no charter aircraft. What a breeze!

Their clients were, without exception, holders of British Passports which said they were British subjects. This notation is similar to the one in Canadian passports, years ago. The passport did not entitle the holder to take up residence in the UK unless he/she had a Voucher. As for the Medical Section examination, he said they would be properly "screened" on arrival at London airport and referred for a full Medical Section if necessary. As British subjects, Asians were not subject to background checks.

I invited him to see me once we were operational. Our

requirements would be very different from theirs and I entertained little hope of FSBQ relenting on any of the Medical Section tests or AP Warrants..

Reg S. was waiting for me when I returned to the hotel. I briefed him on what I had accomplished so that he could keep the High Commissioner up-to-date. He told me the H.C. had called him earlier to ask about the X-Ray facilities in Kampala.

I had already inquired about this matter when I spoke with the Brits. Whatever facilities existed would not be acceptable by the Immigration Medical Section Services, i.e. the lack of full-size negative films. Access to the X-Ray Unit at Mulago Hospital would be denied to our clients as their stock of X-Ray films was needed for the sick.

He mentioned that the Uganda MFA had agreed to give clearance "in principle" to all members of the Canadian team. This cleared the way for all members joining the team later. The expression "in principle" meant that a "full clearance" would follow after receipt of passport details. Since Reg S. was returning to Nairobi that evening, I wrote a draft telex for IMFOROTT, London, Athens, Beirut and Rome Offices stating that "clearances in principle" were received for the persons selected to go to Kampala. I gave the name of our hotel and asked for the arrival details of each officer.

Mr. Peter Dow appeared at the hotel at 6:30 pm with the final draft of the lease which I gave to Reg. S. Mr. Dow turned down our invitation for refreshment explaining that he had so much to take care of and so little time to do it, even after normal office hours. The situation was getting much worse he said.

A call I had booked to Mr. Mitchell, IMFOR Ottawa, came through at 8:20 pm. The latter agreed with all the decisions I had taken including the option for the seventh floor office space. He mentioned that Assisted Passage should be granted only to those who met our selection criteria and were unable to pay. He added he would be on leave from September 4, and George Reynolds would replace.

I had done more in one day than I had expected. We could have moved into our office space the following day with a few typist desks, chairs and started "showing the flag." The one major drawback was that I would be unable to handle enquiries or hand out application forms. I had to wait for the staff and the forms.

The British team officers were now processing only those Asians who were British passport holders and who formed part of the backlog that existed before the August 5 Decree. I deduced that

those who would apply to Canada would be for the most part, moderately affluent Asians who had not applied for "entry vouchers" nor Ugandan Nationality.

Friday, September 1: Phil B. received a call from the HC Nairobi asking that I get in touch with the Consul at the Embassy of France, Kampala. We met with Mr. P. Jacquemain at 10:00 am and offered the use of an office and his house if we had need for space.

I explained that I had already located and rented space, nearly the size of their Embassy, in view of the large number of Canadians expected shortly to select Asians. He added that he was concerned that some Asians may transit through France and apply to stay there. I could only say that there should be few Asians transiting through his country. France never made any public statement about assisting the Asians.

We discovered the next day that the office had been cleaned up by the caretaker's newly hired staff. The electrical wiring had been checked by a qualified Asian electrician who wanted to apply for Canada as soon as we "opened our door". Our first client! I said his services would be needed for the installation of the X-Ray viewers, but he would retain his priority if he stayed a little longer.

Mr. I. Roche, the Channel Islands' expatriate carpenter arrived precisely at 10:30 am, accompanied by his foreman. I explained our need for flexible and semi-permanent partitions for the medical unit and tables and chairs. Roche said that he might have problems finding plywood and qualified men. I agreed to settle for minimal quality if it could last three months. But I wanted the partitions and a counter by Monday morning! He winced and agreed, adding "if you're not fussy about quality."

Mr. Roche said he knew an Asian chap called Chader who would make the chairs and tables. He owned a small furniture shop at Jinja, on Lake Victoria, some 50 miles from Kampala. When we parted I said the doors would be opened early to-morrow morning to receive the partitions and the counter. He winced once more.

The two desks promised by Mr. Mevdghi of the Jubilee Insurance Co. were brought from the seventh floor to our office. Mr. Mevdghi offered to accompany me to a store selling quality second-hand furniture. I asked the Asian owner about renting the furniture but it was not his policy. I bought three typist desks and chairs, all in excellent condition. The owner offered to buy them back later at 80% of the sale price--if he was still around.

Saturday, September 2: The Uganda MFA had informed Phil B. that

they would not wish to see any members of the Canadian immigration team arrive at Entebbe, before the afternoon of September 4.

This was because of the official visit to Uganda by President Jean Bedel Bokassa (later he crowned himself Emperor Bokassa I) The latter was to be met by President General Idi Amin at the airport and the airport personnel would be busy attending to protocol related matters.

I met with Mr. G. Hawkins, Counsellor at the British HC (he was expelled a week later) and with Mr. Broadfoot about our progress to date. I told them that barring any unforeseen delays, we could open our doors on Wednesday, September 6, helping to ease the pressure on their immigration team. The queues of Asians inquiring for vouchers or information for the UK were getting longer every day. There was nowhere else to go.

Back at the hotel, I was met by J. Castonguay of the CBC. He was contacted in Kinshasa by his Canadian Bureau Chief and told to go to Kampala to interview Canada's team leader. The interview took place in both official languages. I explained at length how I intended to proceed with the selection of Asians. The CBC crew had already interviewed a number of Asians and their reaction at being expelled. After two days and more interviews with Asians on the streets of Kampala, the CBC crew were told to leave. They were not "accredited."

At 12:15, Mr. Oseku of the Uganda MFA called to say that a full clearance was approved for the members of the Canadian immigration team whose names were submitted to the MFA. The clearance was approved by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Defence. Another official of the MFA, Mr. Etiang later confirmed that the delay for the clearances was due to President Bokassa's visit. I told Phil B. that it would now be pointless to have Nairobi send a telex to FBHQ, Rome, Athens etc. to disregard the previous information about not arriving before Monday evening. There was no time and the messages had caused enough confusion.

At 1:00 pm I returned to the office and watched Mr. Roche and his helpers unload 2X4's and plywood from a small truck. The panels were ready-cut and only required assembling. The parts for the counter were also ready. I was sure that possibly Mr. Broadfoot or even Mr. Hawkins may have pressed Roche to get the material together and put up those partitions and the counter without further delays. They were really anxious to get us going. This was first class service.

Despite some contradictory information from Nairobi concerning

the arrival of team members, we decided to take no chances and to leave for Entebbe airport in the morning, to meet members of our flock. We agreed to depart from the hotel at 6:30 so as to arrive at Entebbe with sufficient time to survey the layout and the personnel at the airport.

Sunday, September 3: Because Phil B. loves to drive I suggested he drive the rented car. I soon realized, however, that he was driving much too fast for my liking. Noticing my discomfort he said he had been a stock car racer and knew how to handle cars.

On the way to the airport I checked the information we had received about the arrival of team members. Some were due to arrive at 0830 with East African Airline Flight EAA 911 Sunday, September 3 from Nairobi. To make this connection, they would have had to arrive at Nairobi the previous day i.e. Saturday, and stay overnight at Nairobi. The Airline clerk at the EAA desk did not have a list of the incoming passengers. When the plane came to a stop, I watched the passengers disembark. I knew Tufts and Dr. Piché, but they were not aboard. We returned to Kampala, somewhat disappointed.

I returned to the office and saw that work was in progress on the partitions and the counter. Some partitions were already standing. I was impressed with the fast pace and I told them so. Mr. Roche mentioned that "Chader" would arrive around 3:00 pm to discuss the question of furniture.

At lunch Phil B. introduced me to a Canadian nun, Soeur Rachel Dagenais who had been in Uganda for 23 years as a nurse and teacher attached to the White Fathers's Mission outside Kampala. Speaking to me in French, she said: "90% of the Africans do not want the Asians to leave."

She told me about a young nun who was stopped by Amin's soldiers. They took the car and killed her so that she could not identify them. There would be similar incidents in the weeks to come, affecting Asians mostly. She wanted to offer her assistance and I noted her telephone number in case Dr. Piché had need of her services.

THE ULTIMATUM! I met with Mr. S. Chader and his assistant, both Sikhs who were responding to Broadfoot's plea to help us. I came straight to the point. I needed 30 plain chairs, 15 chairs with cushions and 10 plain tables, no drawers. These would have to be delivered by Tuesday, two days hence, since we were committed to open Wednesday September 6 at 07:30 am. He said it could not be done. I said that unless these items were delivered as I asked, our doors would remain closed and he would be responsible for the delay. When I said I would keep Mr. Broadfoot informed of our,

meeting he became very concerned and finally agreed to do his best. I could ask no more and, I repeated that I wanted plain and functional furniture. They left hastily to return to Jinja. Informing Mr. Broadfoot about the meeting he felt certain that most if not all the order would be delivered.

When I returned to the hotel I was handed a message from Nairobi. It concerned Gerald (Gerry) Campbell who was arriving that evening at 19:00 hours. Again, Phil and I headed for the airport and once again I felt very uneasy at the thought of riding with Phil, the stock car driver.

We had no problem picking out the young blond immigration officer and welcomed him as soon as he went through immigration control. He had 100 lbs. of excess luggage, the tools of our trade consisting of forms ³IMM OS8, ⁴IAR, ⁵1000, ⁶AP Warrant. The customs officer never asked about the forms which were part of what was obviously excess baggage. All the baggage and bundles were placed in the wagon and with a full load we headed for the hotel. As we talked on the way back to Kampala, I sensed that Gerry felt the way I did about our "chauffeur." I made up my mind that, as of to-morrow morning, I would rent a mini-bus and hire a driver. I intended to fulfil my mission, without any driving incident.

Briefing Gerry on developments, I mentioned that Mike Molloy was joining the team and other officers from Rome and Athens. I also mentioned the support staff from the Central Processing Office, Immigration Hqs. I made him aware of the local situation, and what our attitude should be toward other occupants in the hotel. There were listening devices and Internal Security personnel all over the hotel. I was very pleased to have him aboard, and there was a lot he could help with, starting early the next day.

³Application for Immigration to Canada

⁴Immigration Assessment and Record form-also a statistical form

⁵This form is completed for each visa issued. It is a permanent record.

⁶Assisted Passage-the form is completed when Canada (M&I) pay the fare on a recoverable basis.

ARRIVAL OF THE MEMBERS OF CANADA'S MISSION-

Monday, September 4: Labour Day was just another working day as I went with Gerry C. to the IPS building to show him the office. The carpenters had made a lot of progress assembling the parts for the long counter. At 10 am I received word from Phil that the Ottawa contingent had arrived and was already at the hotel. They had followed the instructions in the last telegram about arriving on Monday. But, they didn't inform us of their ETA. This was the group that had been expected the previous morning.

They were at the reception desk as Gerry and I arrived. Introductions were kept short as they looked drawn. We welcomed Mr. Zavie Levine, Assistant to the Minister, Jim McMaster from P&P (he was with CPO previously) and the typists, Mrs. Mary Ellen Hempel, Miss Jolène Carrière and Miss Ginette Leroux from CPO. They had managed very well -- going through Immigration and Customs without a hitch. They knew the name of the hotel and had shared two taxis. It had been a long and tiring flight transiting through Rome. For Miss Carrière, Miss Leroux and McMaster this was their first flying experience! All except Zavie L were told to rest for the day.

Dr. M. Piché and Dr. R. Duncan also showed up. They had travelled on the same flight as the Ottawa group but did not know each other. They brought medical supplies, X-Ray viewers and Medical Notification & Records forms. They too had no problems with Immigration and Customs. They knew the name of the hotel and said they had sent a telex to Nairobi about their ETA. That message was not relayed to Kampala.

Mr. Zavie L. and both doctors were anxious to see the office and the proposed lay-out. We went to the IPS Bldg. at about 10:30 am and I outlined how I envisaged the allocation of space and layout with the furniture expected to-morrow. Dr. Piché was shown his area where partitions were already in place. I introduced him to the Asian electrician responsible for the wiring of the X-Ray viewers. They discussed the most practical place to position the viewers that were to be brought after lunch.

They seemed satisfied with the proposed arrangements. The only comment I got out of Dr. Piché was simply: "on verra plus tard" (we shall see later). I had worked with him in Germany and Austria from 1948 to 1951 and again in France in 1963-64. He could be stubborn and sometimes inflexible when common sense dictated otherwise. I expected much of the same.

As I was leaving the office, Mr. Roche said he expected the counter and partitions to be ready soon.

Floyd Tufts, from the Rome Visa Office should have arrived on the same flight with the doctors, but there was no sign of him. The Uganda Customs had left a message earlier that we had received some packages from the Embassy, Beirut. Again, Phil B. volunteered to go to the airport. I asked him to page Floyd Tufts, in case he had arrived and was stranded. It was a good hunch. Floyd was still at the airport when he heard his name called. He told Phil he was waiting to re-board the same plane for Nairobi as he had not received his clearance to enter Uganda. Phil told him we had a clearance for his entry and even managed to retrieve Floyd's luggage from the baggage hold! It was fortunate that this was a refuelling stop.

Floyd told me he was instructed to go to Nairobi. I explained that we had problems with the Uganda MFA. I knew Floyd and I was very glad to have him on the Team. He worked well under pressure and could tackle any task.

After lunch, Zavie L., Reg.S., Phil B. and I met to discuss the press release for the Tuesday edition of the Argus newspaper, concerning the opening of the office. The text should reflect the sense of the PM's statement. We expected the announcement would bring a flood of applications from Asians. Zavie L. and Phil B. delivered the press release to the Argus editor.

Returning to the IPS at 4:30 pm, I saw that the counter was in place with shelves for the forms. The partitions were up and looked sturdy. I congratulated Mr. Roche for a job well done, in record time.

John McNeish, the Administrative and Financial Assistant, seconded from Nairobi, also arrived this day. He would have the task of keeping track of disbursements for cash purchases, advances for meals, laundry for the team members and all sundry expenses paid from the petty cash. He was instructed to arrange with the hotel accountant to collect and pay the hotel invoices for the staff, once a week. He was to draw funds against the \$25,000 Letter of Credit only to the extent necessary. J. McN was a congenial fellow who kept his cool under pressure. He was also well suited to his assigned responsibilities.

Returning to the hotel I found reporters from the Toronto Star and Montreal Star, as well as, some UK newspapers. I answered as many questions as I could about our Mission and modus operandi. They were surprised at the pace of progress in such short time. They were interested about the members of the team and where they came from. I said "our office will be ready for business on

Wednesday September 6. A few days after this interview, bad press on the General, forced many reporters to leave Uganda, post-haste.

That evening, we asked all members to come to an informal discussions. All appeared except Ginette Leroux who was still recuperating. I explained the roles of R. Smith and P. Boyes, seconded to our team from Nairobi. I introduced John McNeish and made it clear to everyone that he was answerable to me. He had his instructions concerning cash advances for meals and the payment of hotel room accounts.

Security of the personnel was emphasized. We rented a minibus and a driver was hired to transport the staff from the hotel to the IPS and vice versa, and on errands as required. At this point, I turned on my portable radio and whispered..... *there are members of the Uganda Security Forces in the hotel and listening devices "bugs" in the rooms and elevators.* Everyone will be provided with the office telephone numbers and should memorize the one for the hotel and my room number. I asked everyone to be at the IPS Bldg. early next morning to rehearse for DAY ONE.

When I received news that Mike Molloy had arrived at Nairobi, I telephoned him at the New Stanley Hotel and instructed him to take the next flight to Kampala. I was confident that with his assistance and that of Floyd, Gerry and the support staff, we could respond to the first waves of Asians applying for Canada. I told him to bring two large Canadian flags. We need to show our status as an extension of the CHC, Nairobi.

Tuesday, September 5: This was "familiarization day" for all members of the team. The forms were taken to the office, sorted and placed in the counter shelf. "Numbered" forms were placed in secure cabinets.

A Canadian girl, Michèle Macklin, came to offer her services after reading the announcement about our Mission. She was a model from Edmonton who had come to Uganda to meet the parents of her fiancé, a Ugandan Asian pharmacist. I hired her and she was assigned to the counter where she was bound to make a very lasting impression!

The first complaint came from Mrs. Hempel and Miss Carrière; they wanted electric, not manual typewriters. It never occurred to me that it could make that much difference. This was a problem for John McNeish to solve. If unsuccessful, we could ask the CHC Nairobi to lend us a few of theirs.

I noted Zavie Levine asking the staff what they were expected to do and they had no ready answers. I butted in and told him that not everyone had been briefed yet. Later, I heard him say loudly

"we don't have enough furniture" as he spoke with Dr. Piché. I told him to return in the afternoon. It made no difference at this point since the Medical Section could not start medical examinations until we had screened and selected applicants.

As I briefed each one about their tasks and their assigned work station for opening day, I looked for Zavie L. to listen in but he was no longer in the office. All three typists volunteered to work with Miss Macklin at the reception desk. Two of them would be on stand-by to act as replacements. Jim McMaster was responsible for the Registry and could not be spared. I told him I did not want to use file jackets. Attachments will be stapled to the application forms. We had to work out how to maintain the application forms in alphabetical order without the file covers.

Mike Molloy arrived with additional forms and visa stamps. He was introduced as my Assistant. He had visited East Africa before and understood the make-up of the communities i.e. Sikhs, Hindus, Ismailis and Christian Goans. I expected him to brief all the officers about his experience with these groups.

THE MIRACLE-At exactly 12:00, two trucks pulled up in front of the office and helpers unloaded 45 chairs and 10 tables. They were made of "ordinary" lumber, solid mahogany! I told Mike how to distribute the furniture between the Medical Section and ourselves. Mr. Chader had kept his promise and met the deadline. I pointed to the staff and our readiness, thanks to him, to attend to Asians wishing to apply for Canada as of to-morrow. I thanked him warmly and I told him to contact me if he wanted to go to Canada. He declined since he was permitted to stay to teach carpentry to the Ugandans.

Some of the furniture was re-arranged in the afternoon. The Registry had to be close to the counter for ease of servicing requests. The typists had their padded chairs and desks. The straight-back cushioned chairs were for the Medical and Immigration Officers. Rods and curtains gave privacy in the Doctors' office. Each cubicle was equipped with a small table for the Doctor's equipment.

The two telephones were also working and everyone was asked to memorize the numbers. The first call was to the High Commission, Nairobi. They were asked to telex these telephone numbers to IMMFOROTT, EXTEROTT S. GREY, NH&WOTT att Dr. Wood.

I called a meeting at 4:30 pm to review our plan of action and readiness to respond efficiently to requests for application forms from the hundreds of Asians expected next morning. It was during these discussions that Jim McM. made the brilliant suggestion that we use the hand-operated numbering machine that

he had brought from Ottawa. Each application returned would be stamped, starting with number 00001 and filed in numerical sequence rather than by name. This will save time and the applicant will have to memorize his file number.

After only 5 days in Kampala, suitable office space was located and fully furnished. We had telephones, teletype facilities, typewriters and an ample supply of forms--interviews could start on schedule, Wednesday September 6. Morale was high and all members of the immigration team were enthusiastic and motivated to play their part in this humanitarian mission.

THE IMMIGRATION COMPONENT IN ACTION

Wednesday, September 6: As the minibus drew alongside the IPS building, we were stunned to see, at our best estimate some 2000 people waiting in line. Order was being maintained by the building watchman and a 6'5 -inch Asian, with a voice to match his size.

The first Asians to apply had been waiting since 4:00 am. After awhile, we learned that some people were under the impression that an application form once completed assured them of receiving a visa. This in fact was the procedure followed by the British immigration team. Many would be disappointed.

The first-day applicants were mainly from Kampala but I expected that persons from out-of-town would soon arrive in droves.

To improve efficiency, three employees handed out application forms, one to each single person over 18 or heads of family. Photos were required and statistics were kept of the number of persons per application.

At one point, we heard a loud noise outside as some impatient Asians jumped the queue. There was a lot of pushing and jostling. Some people were being squashed dangerously against the front plate glass. Others were trying to force their way in and those inside could not get out. Zavie Levine went outside and, standing on a chair and with the help of the Asian "Goliath" managed to restore order. He warned the crowd that I was prepared to close the door unless they stayed in line.

On the suggestion of the building watchman, we decided to hire two security guards. It had never occurred to us that we would require such assistance, but we had no more problems with crowd control after that.

Mike M. was briefing Tufts and Campbell regarding the selection criteria based on the breakdown that was approved by IMFOROTT. We designed a basic form to keep statistics of the categories under which the applicants were selected. I wanted this breakdown as I expected HQ would ask for it at one point.

The first person interviewed was an African Pastor sponsored by the Kingston Diocese for one year's study. He received his visa after he was examined by Dr. Duncan.

Teams of reporters and cameramen swarmed all over the premises.

Everyone wanted to take photos of Miss Macklin. One reporter from Nairobi asked if Africans could apply. I said they could, however, the Asians were our number one priority because they were pressed for time given the President's decree. For his information I pointed to the person in the process of being interviewed, an African from the Sudan being interviewed by Mike Molloy.

John McN. came in with three electric typewriters to the delight of the CPO typists. Taking a short break, they tested each machine and appeared to be very relieved and pleased.

John McN. and I went to the Standard Bank to open our account with the \$25,000 Letter of Credit from the Royal Bank, as arranged by FM&A Section. Some of our creditors were anxious to cash the cheques we gave them.

The ladies at the counter were replaced only when they wanted a coffee break or to rest for a spell. Jim MCM and Miss Leroux were the ones to relieve them. Although working under constant pressure, they very polite and patient and smiled all the time! This seemed to encourage some Asians to chat, especially in front of Miss Macklin. One applicant remarked that the welcome was such a contrast to the cold and disinterested attitude that prevailed at the office of the British Immigration!

By 5:00 pm there were only a few people left. It was to be a familiar ritual each day, as Asians returned to the relative safety of their homes, before sunset. Some stayed with friends in Kampala, especially when they came from distant towns and villages. They felt insecure at night.

When the last Asian had been attended to, we closed the office and started to count the number of applications that had been handed out. We handed out 2,588 applications for a total of 7,764 persons. The Immigration Officers interviewed 57 Asians i.e., heads of family or single persons over 18, for a total of 167 persons. All of them had relatives in Canada. It was a very successful first day which left some staff very weary and tired but pleased with the accomplishment.

I invited all members of the Immigration Section to room 393 after dinner. They were more relaxed by then and I invited their comments and suggestions about to-day's work. Most said it was too early to comment because it may be different to-morrow. Similar meetings were held throughout the entire Uganda operations and they helped to maintain a spirit of teamwork.

I ventured to say that after a few more days the queues would shrink when we started to interview those who met the selection

criteria.

I brought a portable radio from Beirut and, most evenings, I listened to the BBC World News and the reaction in England to the Ugandan Asian "problem." That particular evening, with members of the team and Zavie Levine present, we heard the tragic news about the "assassination of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics by PLO terrorists. We were all saddened by the news, especially Zavie Levine.

The Special Assistant to the Minister reacted nervously and confided that possibly the Internal Security people could tell by his name that he was Jewish. It might be best if he left. He had booked a call to Minister Mackasey and it came through as we spoke. Zavie L. broached the question of Stage "B" (security clearance) and medical examinations, as I had asked him. If medical examinations could take place in Canada instead of Kampala, the Mission could fold in a few weeks. The Minister promised to discuss the matter and let the Director General FB know of his decision. Zavie ended by saying that he would return asap.

I told Zavie L. that a small group of Israeli technicians in Uganda had been told to leave by Idi Amin after he had visited Libya and cut a deal with Mo Ghaddafi for financial help. Zavie was booked to leave the next evening but he now wished to leave sooner. John McN. agreed to help him.

Later that evening, Georges Reynolds A/DIR. OPS, FBHQs. called to confirm that Stage "B" would be waived for Uganda Asians. This was in line with a recommendation I had made--the Asians in Uganda were Commonwealth citizens and law abiding people. I briefed him about the day's events and mentioned that Zavie L. volunteered to help with crowd control.

Thursday, September 7: I gave the keys to the office to Molloy to let the staff in by 7:45 while I went to see Kevin Croakham at the British Immigration Team's office. I wanted to discuss the matter of "tax clearance" for departing migrants. The queues at our doors on this Thursday, October 7 were as long as the day before.

Kevin said that a "tax clearance" form must be given to each Asian accepted for Canada. He let me have 2,000 forms. Departing Asians were required to complete these forms stating name, address and the income tax number. They had to present the forms to the Ministry of Finance for a "clearance stamp" to verify that personal taxes had been paid. Asians could not leave Uganda unless they produced the "clearance."

I thanked Kevin Croakham and made my way through the orderly crowd to the office. A security employee came to tell me that many people who had already filled out the application form wanted to turn the form in to avoid queuing up again. I instructed him to form three queues--two for people in need of forms and one for those returning their application. Everyone listened to the guards and chose the proper line.

I suggested to Jim McM. that a tax clearance form be given in exchange for each application turned in. He was to use the hand-operated numbering device set to start with number 00001 and in the "repeat twice" position. The number would be stamped on the top right hand corner of the filled application when turned in at the counter. At the same time, a "Tax Clearance" chit would also be stamped with the same number and handed to the applicant--that would be his file control number. The Asians were told that in a few days the Argus newspaper would publish a list of the file numbers of the ones invited for interviews. The "receipt" became a valuable document.

We had found a way to avoid typing thousands of index cards with names difficult to pronounce or type. The Argus newspaper would serve us well when time came to publish the list of file numbers. Although an Immigration Assessment Record form (IMM 1067) should be completed for each application handed in, the file number would remain unchanged at this stage. (The change could take place at the time of the interview.) It was paramount that everyone understood that applications would be filed in numerical sequence only. The system's one limitation was how to inform those who were refused? Maybe the solution was as those accepted: to publish their file numbers in the Argus as well.

Jacques Drapeau arrived from Athens and reported to the office at 10:00 am. After the usual introductions, Mike M. took some time to brief him.

The High Commissioner came to pay his first visit at 10:30, amid "organized chaos!" I introduced him to the staff and said the staff morale was high in spite of the constant pressure and demands on our services. I left Mr. V.M. Olivier with Zavie L. who wished to tell him about last night's conversation with his Minister.

I returned to see Kevin Croakham because something had troubled me about their backlog of Asian British Passport Holders (BPH). They had not started to accept applications from non-BPHs and they were still restricting interviews to those BPHs who had applied prior to the Decree date, August 5. He had no idea when he might start to process applications from BPHs who had applied after the date.

This was good news for us since we could be assured of having a much wider choice of skilled Asian applicants.

Our stock of application forms was diminishing at a faster rate than anticipated. I was relieved to hear that Georges Reynolds had called the Administrative Officer at the CHC Nairobi to confirm the dispatch of 3,000 application forms and 3,000 IMM 1000s. The counter staff were told to be parsimonious with the remainder of the forms and insist that applicants show cause for asking for more than one form. Some had resorted to subterfuges such as saying: "I have many children over 18...". If they lived in Kampala, they were told to have their over-age children come and apply in person.

Again this day, several Asians who turned in their completed applications were interviewed when they said they had relatives in Canada. Others were interviewed because their skills were in demand. In such cases, an "Assessment" form (IAR) was completed for accepted applicants. It was the responsibility of the interviewing Officer to insert the IAR serial number on the applicant's "Tax Clearance" slip as the new file number. The "file" was then passed to the typist, to enter the pertinent data on a form IMM 1000 (the landing document.) The new file number alerted the counter staff to identify those persons as accepted after interview and now in "process."

The Medical Section was not yet ready to examine the accepted applicants. The accepted Asians were told to watch for a notice in the Argus that would give their file number and the date of their medical examinations.

Jacques Drapeau was keen to be the first to interview applicants. He interviewed nearly half of the 82 Asians seen by the officers this day. Close to 1,500 applications were handed out. Most Asians in Kampala, who wished to apply, had done so. Asians residing outside Kampala were expected to come in over the next two or three days. Fewer applications were accepted at the counter because many lacked photographs. The photographer couldn't keep up with the demand.

The Counselling Officers started "paper sorting" the intake of completed applications. These were separated by categories and priorities in accordance with the agreed selection criteria. (Annex "A")

Two Canadian wives came to offer their services. Mrs. Banfield, the wife of the radar technician at Entebbe Airport. The other was Mrs Heather Leighton, wife of a CIDA teacher. They were both introduced to Dr. Piché. Mrs Leighton had nursing experience.

I was unaware that René Couplier, Chief Visa Control Officer, Beirut, intended to come to Kampala. He did not know about the Minister's decision that "no background checks" were required on Asians as they were British subjects. I was concerned that his presence might cause the Internal Security Police to ask embarrassing questions since we had not asked the MFA for his "clearance". He gave me his RCMP Identification Card and asked that I return it to him at a later date. He decided it was best if he left for Beirut first thing the next day via Nairobi.

Friday, September 8: The queues were much shorter and orderly today. As someone remarked, the Ugandans knew there was no point in arriving early since the Mission stayed open until the last person was seen. The three ladies at the counter were always courteous and pleasing as they had been from day one. I wanted to know the mix of nationalities who came to the counter and I asked the ladies to keep statistics of the nationality of persons asking for applications forms. This information could be helpful in answering questions from Immigration Hqs.

The High Commissioner came to the office as members of the press and photographers were milling around taking photos of Asians and the staff. I discussed with the H.C. an invitation I had received from Radio Uganda for an interview on their program "Guest of the Week." He had no objection and I added I would refuse to answer questions which were not directly related to the Prime Minister's statement on the Asians.

More Asians handed in their completed application forms that day than on any previous day. The Counselling Officers interviewed an increasing number of spontaneous applicants who met the selection criteria. At noon, for some unexplained reason, the queues had disappeared! We surmised that all applicants had received their applications forms and were either filling them out or waiting for photos.

The ladies at the counter complained about the lack of high stools. While at lunch at Chez Joseph's Restaurant, next to our office, I explained to one of the owners about this predicament, while eyeing the bar stools. He said, "Take what you need".

The "requisitioned" bar stools remained on our inventory--the owners of the restaurant, three Asian brothers, closed a few weeks later and headed for Montreal!

In the afternoon, officers alternated between interviewing Asians and sorting the application forms that were returned. By 5:00 pm, I had the result of the one-day survey I had requested from the counter staff concerning the nationality of Asians seeking forms:

NATIONALITY	TOTAL:-1,305
BRIT. PASSP. HOLDER	585
UGANDA	293
STATELESS	208
INDIA	199
KENYA	10
TANZANIA	8
PAKISTAN	2

The findings were surprising, especially with regard to the ratio of applications from "stateless" Asians.

I happened to be in the hotel lobby when a call came through from Mr. S. Grey, in Ottawa for Mr. Olivier, the CHC, who was meeting with Canadians working with CIDA and CUSO. He said he had an important message and would call again. I could visualize the Seychelles switchboard operator making certain that the voice taping device was functioning and ready when the call came again for Mr. Olivier. The latter was actually a non-person, since he had yet to present his credentials to the President, General Idi Amin!

Georges Reynolds called that evening for the daily stats and told me to contact London if I needed more application forms. I was reached again at 9:00 pm by a reporter from the Toronto Star. I confirmed that I held applications for 1,400 persons. I also confirmed that apart from the Canadian and the British Immigration Teams, no other country was accepting applications from Asians, at this time.

Saturday, September 9: All the Immigration members of the Team reported at the office at 8:30 am today to screen all the applications on hand, and decide who should be interviewed. The typists were asked to type lists of 75 "file numbers" for each day and the date of the interview as pre-arranged. Only the heads of family were invited. Dr. M. Piché remained adamant that medical examinations would not start until the DND Mobile Unit was operational!

We started to receive telegrams from people in Canada offering various types of assistance to named Asians. These were kept in alphabetical order, at the counter. When Asians at the counter claimed such offers, the telegram was located and they were immediately interviewed.

The members of the Press including those from the Montreal Star and the Toronto Star, never seemed satisfied with the information given to them. I could not say when we would start issuing visas. nor when the medical examinations would begin. I said we could

begin as of Monday, September 11 since we had two doctors. However, the non-arrival of the DND Mobile Unit from St. Hubert, P.Q. was holding up the process. When they persisted, I referred them to Dr. Piché.

By 2:30 pm, the Officers had pre-selected over 500 applicants--single and married applicants. Of these, 300 were to be invited for interviews over a four-day period. Lists of "file numbers" were typed.

Sunday, September 10: I delivered the lists of file numbers to the Argus newspaper at 9:30 am, Sunday. Floyd T. came along to meet the editor. The latter assured me that the lists would appear starting Tuesday, September 12 and repeated for the next three days. The notices invited the holders of the file numbers to appear for interviews only on the day indicated. It was short notice for those invited for Wednesday, September 13--however, most of them lived in Kampala.

I met Mr. Mevdghi, Manager of the Jubilee Ins. Co. who had been so helpful on my first day. Always mindful and considerate, he asked my permission to place some 300 folding chairs outside the office. He thought that women, small children and elderly people should sit while waiting to be called. It was a thoughtful initiative and I agreed. I supervised the layout of the chairs so as not to impede the movement of people in and out of the office.

Late that evening, I reached the Attaché in Rome concerning the assignment of officer T. Colfer as an additional member of the team. Roger Martineau was able to confirm details of his arrival.

At midnight Mr. M.G. Clark, DGFB called to get up-to-date data for a meeting with the Minister. I mentioned that Dr. Piché refused to examine anyone until the Mobile Unit was fully operational. I confirmed that we had adequate space available for the medical technicians from DND. Mr. Clark expressed concern about the medical delays. I asked for the loan of an Information Officer to look after the members of the Press who were pestering us with questions. He agreed to help.

Mr. Clark brought up the subject of charter flights and "clearances." I referred him to Mr. W. Licari, of the CHC, Nairobi who was familiar with the contacts that had to take place with the Air Transport Agency for East African Airlines, sited at Arusha, Tanzania. It was the Headquarters for the airline of the East African Community. This was my first indication that charter aircraft might be used.

Monday, September 11: "It's in the mail!" and still no sign of the promised shipment of additional application forms from Supply

and Services Canada and London, England. With only 50 forms left, I had no choice but to order 2,000 photocopies of the IMM OS8 from a local printing office. One hour later they were ready for delivery. In the interval, I had told the staff at the counter, to use any tactic to delay and slow the process of handing out these few forms until the printed ones arrived. It had been tense during that hour and much jostling occurred.

Floyd Tufts brought two applications to my attention. They were from Asian sisters, born in Uganda, who had completed a secretarial course in London. I called them and with their father's permission, they agreed to work for us. If they lacked experienced, the Chiha sisters were very willing to help us. One was responsible for typing the lists of file numbers that were published in the newspaper. The other sister went to the Medical Section to be trained at typing MN&R forms. They were each hired at 1,200 Uganda shillings per month (CAN\$ 170.). John McN. rented two typist desks and chairs for them. (They had their own typewriters.) They were pleased with the pay and Canada their first employer!

Mr. Mevdghi came to talk to me about furnishing the two air conditioned offices on the seventh floor, at his expense. One office was needed by John McN. to keep track of the vouchers and payments of accounts. The other office was for Phil B., Reg S., myself and visitors.

By 09:30 there were long queues of Asians returning their completed forms while in other lines they waited patiently to obtain application forms. I put three employees at the counter to accept the completed forms. With only one numbering machine, I allotted blocks of number to the other two and they were asked to enter the numbers by hand on the application form as well as the "Tax Clearance" chits. This action prevented any further bottlenecks.

Mr. V.G.M. Olivier paid us another visit. He repeated how impressed he was with the friendliness and patience of the ladies at the counter. As a first impression of Canadians, this was a plus for the Mission.

The High Commission left us for an important rendezvous. He was to present his credentials to the President of the Republic of Uganda, General Idi Amin Dada. The venue was State House, in one hour. To offset the smaller stature of both Mr. Olivier and Reg. S., it was de rigueur for Phil Boyes to go along. The latter was a match in size and weight for the ex-Ugandan heavyweight boxing champion at the Rome 1964 Olympics, who was then Corporal Idi Amin. In accordance with Protocol, Mr. V.G.M. Olivier was now shedding his status as a non-person to become Canada's High

Commissioner to the Republic of Uganda, resident at Nairobi, Kenya.

After the ceremony, the CHC. confided to me that the General had said, "Canada is free to take the Asians". This was encouraging since the General could have insisted, as he had in the past, that the "Asian Problem" was solely a problem for Britain to solve. The General may have realized that Asians would leave in larger numbers and sooner if other countries like Canada were prepared to accept them.

Queues are queues are queues! One patient African Ugandan had stayed in line for nearly one hour before reaching our counter. He was surprised to be told that the queue for the British Immigration Team was at the lower level. He remarked that he had joined this queue because it was more orderly than the one below! Undeterred, he smiled at the staff, said good-bye and left.

The first immigrant to receive an immigrant visa was a single Asian girl, Miss Semin Kassam, destined to Welland, Ontario. This was the home town of Officer Floyd Tufts who interviewed her. She had her full medical documentation, including the X-Ray and stool report.

Our first client with a Uganda Certificate of Identity, came in for an interview. He was P. Radia, the fiancé of Miss Macklin, the model from Edmonton, working at the counter. He described the steps he went through to obtain this document. He was Asian, born in Kampala. Unable to obtain a Ugandan Passport, the Passport Office agreed to issue the Certificate without a Re-entry Permit. We issued him with a Minister's Permit to allow him to proceed to Canada with his fiancée.

By 4:30 pm, there were no Asians in sight. We received 1,338 completed applications for a total to-date of 2,670. Based on a ratio of nearly three persons per form, this represented about 8,000 persons. The counter personnel had handed out 1,200 applications. The Officers interviewed 53 persons and everyone remarked that the application forms were very well completed, mostly typewritten-when done by hand, it was superior calligraphy.

For the first time, the typists managed to keep up with the workload and completed the forms 1000's (landing document) for all the applicants interviewed and accepted by the Officers. Three officers were screening the day's incoming applications while Mike M. interviewed non-stop. Another four lists of file numbers were typed to be published in the Argus--280 clients for September 19 to 22. Occasionally, I would ask Dr. Piché if his Section would soon be ready. I kept reminding him of the mounting

backlog and the mess we were going to be in unless the Mobile Unit got here soon.

By coincidence, at 10:15 pm, Saul Grey, Co-ordinator at External Affairs called to say that provided the MFA gave its "clearance," the seven DND technicians were ready to leave. They would fly through London arriving Entebbe aboard EAA at 21:45, Tuesday September 12. The Mobile X-Ray and Laboratory equipment had left Canada and would be flown to Entebbe by BOAC Cargo from London.

Saul G. said there must be closer liaison between MANDI, EXTER, NH&W, NDHQ and Nairobi. I had reminded the C.H.C. on several occasions to copy messages to all departments, including DOPS (Colonel Christie), responsible for the technicians. (I was not kept informed about the participation of the DND technicians until after the fact and I resented it.) FBHQs. could possibly be faulted for this oversight. Before hanging up, Mr. Grey said, "I hear that all British were asked to leave Uganda"--I denied it saying it was not so as of this moment.

I passed the gist of this conversation to Reg S., Phil B. and Dr. Piché. I asked the doctor why his department had not moved before on the technicians' need for a clearance. He said they needed passports before the details could be sent to Nairobi or Kampala for clearance. It made sense. Reg S. said he was now in possession of the passport details and was going to submit them to the MFA. He would not tell me when he had received the details.

Tuesday, September 12: Rest does not come easy after a long day's work. At 00:25 am Mr. Clark phoned to discuss the points I had raised with Saul Grey earlier. He was not in full agreement with the need for liaison as raised by Saul G. and I could sense a battle for turf. After I provided him with the latest statistics, he agreed that the question of medical examinations was now crucial.

He said that discussions concerning the use of aircraft charter were in progress. The flights would depart Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or possibly only Mondays and Thursdays. The first flight was due at Entebbe September 19 or 20. Specific information would follow as soon as possible.

I had trouble getting back to sleep after that news. The Mobile Unit had yet to arrive. Dr. Piché remained adamant refusing categorically to pre-examine applicants accepted after Immigration interviews. To-date, one visa was issued to a single girl who had left via a schedule airline! Yet, I was being told that I could expect the first charter flight in one week--this was madness! I could not fill the aircraft if I had no Asians with

immigrants visas ready and willing to travel.

I was still awake at 1.25 am when Roger Martineau called from Rome to say that Officer Floyd Tuft's wife was admitted to the emergency ward of the Salvator Mundi Hospital and she needed him at her side as soon as possible. I referred Floyd to John McNeish and told him to get back to Rome by whatever means available. I was very sorry to see him go and I had counted on his presence for the duration of the operations. All the staff wished his wife prompt recovery. He did not return to Kampala. Terry Colfer, also from Rome, was the expected replacement.

I made a quick review of the staff requirements in anticipation of the increasing workload and sent a telegram to IMFOR giving my assessment of future needs. The telex had to be sent from the Grand Hotel as the Jubilee Insurance telex operator lacked a priority key. It was inconvenient when urgent messages had to be sent.

Gerry Campbell brought up the question of giving embarkation cards to applicants who will be travelling via charter. Once we agreed, on colour, size etc. I met with the local printer and told him what our needs were. He could fill our order and added that we should let him know about other requirements, as he was leaving Uganda.

For the second day, there were no Asians in sight by 4:30 pm. We received 1,068 applications bringing the total intake to 3,736 applications for about 11,208 persons. Everyone remained after hours to tidy up, placing applications in numerical sequence in the filing cabinets. The Officers were busy preparing the daily stats tally. It had been a long hard day's work.

Seven days had passed since the mission's immigration component became operational. Every member of the team had shown a great deal of enthusiasm in performing their assigned tasks. They were very conscious of the humanitarian aspect of the mission. Some of the support staff found themselves assisting people from a country they knew little about. Their motivation was heightened by the fact that they were helping people who welcomed the opportunity to go to Canada. Their team spirit transcended personal differences. As a token of my appreciation, I invited them to dinner at the International Hotel.

ARRIVAL OF THE TECHS & MOBILE UNIT

Wednesday September 13: Dr. Piché was delighted to receive confirmation of the arrival of the Department of National Defence lab technicians. Phil B. went to meet them at Entebbe airport. One was wearing his uniform! We were fortunate that he had not been mistaken for a mercenary! On this very day, General Amin ordered the seven-man team of the British Army Special Training Unit, seconded to the Ugandan Army, to leave in 48 hours. We were now welcoming a team of seven Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, although for very different reasons. They were Medical Technicians:

J. Stronach	Ben Moser	Bob McPhee	Bill Maloney
John Martimbault	John Deschamps	R. Daigneault	

There were other arrivals, namely Dr. Roger Leclerc from Rome and Miss Rosanne Hughes, Secretary to the Canadian High Commissioner, Lagos, Nigeria. She was the first of three Head of Post secretaries to be seconded to our operations. I had not requested the additional help and I believed External was by-passing MANDI and taking the initiative. I would find work for them to do, in a few days.

If this day was marked by arrivals, we were sad to lose our model from Edmonton, Michelle Macklin who was leaving us sooner than planned. Her fiancé was threatened by members of the Ugandan Security Forces and they decided to depart next day travelling via London. I sent a telegram to the London office about their arrival. I also asked London to follow-up their arrival in Montreal or Toronto. This was meant to alert the information officer at FBHQ, so that he could arrange for a press interview on their arrival.

Unfortunately, on arrival at Heathrow, Mr. Radia was refused entry and even held incommunicado under order of deportation! Because of my telex, the Director M&I London, Mr. J. Bissett, made enquiries. He was very upset when told of Mr. Radia's detention and pointed out that the latter had a valid visa for Canada. Thanks to Mr. Bissett's intervention, they resumed their journey, but not without loathing for the Brits.

We were relieved that neither Miss Macklin nor Mr. Radia mentioned anything about the London incident to the press on arrival at Toronto. If it had been published, it could have been very awkward for the Foreign Office, since Britain asked us to help Asians. I spoke with Kevin Croakham, Chief of the British

Team and he said that Immigration Officers at Heathrow had not used their heads....

With the arrival of the Mobile Unit and its technicians, it was time to discuss the three main phases of our operations in order to avoid bottlenecks. Phase one was the interview and selection of Asians while phase two involved the referral of accepted Asians to the Lab Unit for X-Ray, stool and blood tests. The third phase was the referral of Asians to the Medical Section for a physical examination. Each phase could only cope with a pre-agreed number of clients.

This was our second day interviewing applicants who had responded to the newspaper notices listing 75 file numbers and the day of the interview. It proved very efficient and effective. I was now able to monitor with accuracy, every aspect of the operations. The number of interview appointments had to be related to the number of medical examiners available and the rate at which the technicians could process Asians for X-Rays, blood and stool tests.

By 9:00 am only an occasional caller appeared. Most applicants desirous of going to Canada had applied and all were familiar with our procedure of inserting notices in the newspaper. Asians whose file numbers had not yet appeared in the notices, could consult the copies of future lists on the office window.

Since September 6, we had dispensed 7,900 application forms. Of these, 4,503 were turned in and numerically filed for paper screening.

In the evening, Dr. Piché introduced the seven DND technicians. Sgt. John Stronach was their spokesperson and we discussed the question of office space for the Mobile X-Ray Unit. The space had been secured two weeks earlier and they were keen to start. And so were we. They impressed everyone by their genuine desire to play their part.

Thursday, September 14: The technicians showed up early to inspect the space adjacent to our mission. It was close to the Medical and Immigration Sections. They were pleased with the arrangements and started to plan the layout of the M.U.

Two more Canadian ladies came to volunteer their services. I hired Mrs. MacKenzie, wife of a CIDA technician, to replace Miss Macklin at the counter. She categorically refused to be compensated for her services asking only to be transported to and from her home. The other lady, Miss Beverly Oldham was the daughter of a Canadian Professor at the Makerere University. Dr. Piché needed a typist and I introduced her to him. John McN.

rented yet another typewriter.

We were now 22 Canada-based personnel and another Volkswagen Minibus was leased with driver to cope with the demands for transportation between the hotel, office and Entebbe airport.

In the face of an increasing backlog of Asians awaiting interviews, I discussed with the officers the question of augmenting the call-up rate of interviews from 60 to 70 cases. Mr. Mitchell promised to send additional officers and the staff agreed to the call-up increase. Three more lists of interviews were compiled, ready to be taken to the newspaper. Copies were immediately posted on the office window.

Many anxious clients were now familiar with our habit of placing copies of the lists in the window before they were delivered to the newspaper. They also checked for the reference numbers of their relatives or friends, especially those residing outside Kampala. With these three lists, we were inviting people to appear for September 19 to 21. It was again stressed that married persons should not appear with their dependants until advised to the contrary.

We received confirmed details this day about the arrival of the Mobile Unit. Dr. Piché and J. Stronach, could not agree when the unit would be operational after its arrival. I stressed that a charter flight that could carry 150 to 192 passenger was due in 8 days. Moreover, there was a backlog of 931 persons (345 cases) accepted. Not one Asian had received a visa. I told them that I was preparing a special notice for the newspaper that would read "Asians who were accepted for Canada after interview, are asked to appear with their dependants for medical examination." The notice would be taken to the Argus for publication two days after the Mobile Unit arrived. It was a desperate move--but I had no choice.

I met with Bill Barnes, representative for Pacific Western Airlines who insisted that his only interest was in the number of passengers we would be booking on each flight. He was not empowered to act as PWA's Liaison Agent at Entebbe Airport as was the case with the Air Canada agent. Only CP Air provided excellent liaison at Entebbe and Nairobi.

The strains of a heavy workload of interviews were starting to show on the officers. The rate of interviewing was increased and they had a tough pace to maintain. Even the CPO typists were having problems trying to keep up with the avalanche of forms IMM 1000 to be typed. John McM. could not keep up with filing, attachments and sorting forms by number.

Friday September 15: When Mr. M.G. Clark called from Ottawa at 00:30 am I repeated that it was unrealistic to expect a full complement of passengers aboard the first flight. As we spoke, of the 931 persons interviewed and accepted by Immigration, not one visa had been issued. The Medical Section would still not start examining until the Mobile Unit was operating. That was a few days from later, if all went well. He said the first charter was postponed to September 27th.

On the question of charter aircraft, I mentioned that many Asians had money to pay their way. Some said they had no hesitation to buy an "around the world ticket, first class" rather than leave their non-transferable funds with the Government. The more time we spend explaining the conditions of the Assisted Passage Loan the more disinclined they were to accept. The idea of a loan was akin to charity. Many said outright that we were doing enough for them! Also, this would restrict their plans to travel indirectly to Canada visiting relatives and friends in the UK, India and elsewhere. They preferred to take advantage of that possibility. Yet others said they would like to postpone their arrival in Canada until the Spring. Others were dreamers, prepared to wait up to November 8, in case the General changed his mind!

I felt there should be no problem in filling flights once we had accumulated a backlog, that is, after the 1,000 accepted applicants had undergone medical examinations. They would have to decide if they wanted to travel via chartered aircraft. I guaranteed 140 passengers for the first charter.

I received confirmation that a signed "separation statement" would be an acceptable document in the case of married persons in Uganda whose dependants resided outside Uganda and could be medically examined at short notice.

A long queue of Asians returning application forms greeted our arrival at the office on Friday morning. Many had come from towns such as Masaka, Mbale, Jinja and villages; most would not return home. Their journeys had taken them through a series of military check-points where many were robbed. They genuinely feared for their lives. By 2:00 pm, all counter enquiries had been attended to.

Many professionals, British passport holders and nationals of India accepted our advice about the qualification requirements, under Canadian standards, to practise their professions as Mds., Engineers or Teachers. A few were unrealistic about their qualifications. Since they had the option to go to the UK or India or possibly remain in Uganda as "exempted" i.e. needed in a specialized capacity, we could easily defend our decision to refuse their applications.

In many instances, the exercise of "discretionary authority" under Section 32 of the Immigration Regulations was warranted. It was used when the "norms" or the total number of "points" did not truly reflect the ability of applicants to establish themselves successfully in Canada. They were adaptable, had proved it and were ready and willing to go anywhere.

Dr. Piché was reminded once again that we had over 1,100 applicants ready for medical examinations. He said his team was ready and anxious to get started! I also mentioned that it was my intention to request the officers to refer any accepted single applicants to the medical unit and then to his section for medical examination. He and his colleagues had now been in Kampala 11 days and had little to show for their presence.

Later that afternoon, Dr. Piché and Sgt. Stronach confirmed that the mobile unit would be operational as of Monday, September 18. I immediately sent to the newspaper the notice concerning the medical examinations of some 1000 Asians accepted after interview. This was the good news I had been waiting for since day one i.e. September 6. In my estimate, we had lost 10 days because of the delays. To catch up, we had to maximize the rate of interviews and medical examinations, keeping in close touch with the technicians of the M.U. In a few days, the workload and pressure would be felt by all as we geared up for the real challenge.

Presuming that the 1,000 accepted clients would all appear for X-Ray, Lab. tests and Medical Examinations for September 19, 20 and 21, I decided not to invite any new applicants for interview during those three days to avoid confusion. The officers would be kept very busy screening outstanding applications. They would have the opportunity, finally, to issue visas to Asians medically "passed" by our doctors.

The survey we held this day showed that 70% of those interviewed said they would prefer to pay for their transportation. The reasons were previously stated. Fortunately for them, the Government of Uganda, and more precisely the Ministry of Finance had not yet imposed any restrictions on the sale of airline tickets for Asians.

Between 6:00 and 6:30 pm, the technicians and a few of us watched the unloading of two diesel generators weighing some 800lbs each! They were to be used if we had a power failure. None ever occurred.

THE ELUSIVE GOAL-A BACKLOG OF ASIANS FOR THE CHARTERED PLANES

MOMENTS OF TENSION-SNAGS WITH THE M.U.-THE MISSION IS OPERATIONAL

Saturday, September 16: The headlines in the Argus caused some to reflect more seriously about the increasing military activities taking place south of Masaka, near the border with Tanzania. It reported that guerillas, in the pay of the former President Milton Obote, had entered Uganda to launch an uprising against General Amin. All the road blocks leading to the airport and Kampala were strengthened and guarded by soldiers of Amin's Nilotic tribe. Most were illiterate and often unable to speak any other language but their own. Primitive, shabbily dressed and always short of money, they saw this as an opportunity to "shake down" Asians and members of other tribes who showed up at road blocks. The advice to the members of the mission was unequivocal--the movement of all personnel was restricted to the hotel and office, by minibus. No one was to venture out until it was decided that it was safe to do so.

The technicians were in the final stage of assembling and setting up the Mobile Unit. We discussed the need to monitor applicants referred to the X-Ray and Lab Units. A form was designed with space for the name, age and file number. Three additional lines carried the words X-Ray, Blood Test and Stool Test. The last line was for the appointment date with the doctor. This slip would be given to all selected Asians sent to the M.U. The technicians would place their initials and date after each of the three basic requirements when each person had complied.

The Medical examination would be scheduled three days after the applicants had complied with the MU tests. The Immigration Section would provide the Medical Section with a copy of the list of appointments for the day of their physical examination as well as the application forms so as to match the MU results with the file.

At 3:00 pm, John Stronach reported the M.U. was fully operational.

Dr. Piché showed me a telegram he had just received from Health & Welfare, Ottawa. The Department was sending Peter Griffith to assist him with financial and administrative tasks. I hoped he would also give John McN a hand.

The typists were very pleased to tell me that they had typed all 410 outstanding "Canadian Immigration Documents" (forms IMM 1000) concerning Asians who had been selected to date. This meant that each "file" contained the basic immigration documentation. It would facilitate the task of Visa Officers when they received the "file" from the Medical Section.

Sunday, September 17: When Dennis, our Ugandan driver, showed up at 9:00 he looked very distressed. His left eye was swollen and bloodshot. He told us that Internal Security men beat him up for no apparent reason. He was otherwise fit and drove Dr. Piché and I to the Entebbe airport. We were to meet Dr. Abear, another addition to the Medical Team and an old acquaintance of mine.

On the way to the airport an unmarked light blue Peugeot with four male occupants waved us to stop. Dressed in black suits, they spoke to Dennis in the Buganda dialect. Speaking English, they asked for our passports. They returned the documents and said "you may go." Dennis said they were from the Security Forces but they never produced identification.

We met Dr. Abear as he cleared the Uganda Immigration. After the usual exchange of greetings, we told him we were anxious to return to the hotel. As we left the airport and headed to Kampala, we were stopped at a road block that was not there only a short hour ago. Dennis spoke to the soldiers who did not know what to do. They spoke no English and waived us on as they knew there was another road block not too distant. Dr. Abear asked what was going on. We told him as much as we knew. Fortunately, the next road block was manned by the Uganda Police, British trained. They were polite and after checking our documents, they waived us on. It was a traumatic experience for Dr. Abear who said he was not briefed about the situation and he muttered something about returning to Athens soon.

When we arrived at the hotel, someone mentioned there were strong rumours that the guerillas had infiltrated the country. It was said they might try to seize the airport. It could be a prelude to the invasion of the country and the return of Milton Obote. The tension heightened another notch when it was said the guerillas had encountered little resistance entering Uganda from Tanzania. This would be the second day of confinement for the staff.

Monday, September 18: I wanted both John Stronach and R. McPhee to accompany me to the office. I wanted to be absolutely sure that the Mobile Unit was fully operational. I had a cursory look at their set-up and was assured that everything was in order. Twelve days had passed since immigration officers had started interviewing Asians and the backlog of accepted applicants stood

at 1,160 persons. It was vital and imperative that Asians go through the full process from this day on, so that we could start issuing visas and fill the charter.

Out of 70 applicants invited, either single persons or heads of family, 63 showed up by 9:00 am. I could only presume that those who failed to appear had problems reaching the centre of the city. All the accepted Asians were referred to the Mobile Unit.

My hopes were dashed when I paid a second visit to the Mobile Unit before noon. John Stronach and Robert McPhee had a series of complaints:

- :the temperature in the tent where the X-rays were developed was in the 100°F-they could stay no more than 10 minutes at a time in the tent;
- :they required another film dryer to cope with the larger number of persons X-Ray'd;
- :the blood tests could not be analyzed because of the excessive heat.

I could not understand why these problems had not been anticipated. Someone obviously omitted to explain that Kampala was in the heart of Africa, at the equator. It should have been expected that it would be hot. The tents were not meant for the tropics--too few air vents that were too small. Snags and snafus that should not be.

The problem with the blood tests was resolved by arrangements with the Danish clinic. The latter was still functioning and had boasted that they could handle as many as 150 blood tests per day. They were most co-operative and refused to be compensated. The other two problems were resolved when we rented a portable air-conditioning unit and a dryer from the Kodak Agent in Kampala, the next day.

I reminded Dr. Piché that these delays continuously thwarted the aim of our mission which was to move Asians to Canada. The technicians would have to make up for lost time. We had deadlines to meet and the first charter was due in a few days. He sympathised and said he had to report the problems faced by the technicians to H&W Ottawa. He would keep me informed of their reaction.

Dr. Piché remained adamant--no one was to be examined by any doctor unless he was in possession of an X-Ray and the tests results! The doctors were still idle, 12 days after Immigration began interviewing. They could examine without the X-rays and

tests for a few days to get Asians into the process. He refused.

If the applicant was accepted after the Immigration interview, he was given a referral slip to the MU and also an appointment date with the Medical Section which was always three days hence. Each Officer kept lists in duplicate, containing 40 entries and the date of referral to the Medical Section. They inserted on each line the file number, ages and the number of persons per case. When the list totalled 40 persons, a copy was passed to the Medical Section.

It was not a very successful first day of "operational status" for the Mobile Unit. By 5:00 pm, the X-Ray Unit had processed only 39 clients--a disaster! Some of the Asians interviewed this day returned with stool samples in the early afternoon. The lab technicians reported delays in receiving the results of the blood tests from the Danish Clinic. It was evident that the clinic had overestimated its capacity to process requests for blood tests on a large scale.

The technicians needed more time to adjust to their working environment to cope with a heavy demand for X-Rays and tests. It would take a few more days before the various phases of this operation could be meshed to generate visas and passengers for the charter. I also had to report to IMFOR the causes of the further delays and prepare the Director of Operations for the possible lack of passengers aboard the September 27 charter flight.

Later that evening, I spoke with the technicians to discuss our predicament. They assured me that when they got the dryer and air conditioning unit the next morning, they would work double shifts to make up for the delays. They were sincere. I reminded them that we had a backlog of over 1200 Asians and I wanted to make certain that the charter for September 27 would be filled or nearly filled to capacity. I was counting on them to make it so.

At 9:00 pm that evening most of the personnel came to room 393 to listen to the taped interview "Guest of the Week." I had taken the Editor of the Argus to the interview as my tutor and he made certain that I did not answer irrelevant questions. I stressed that the selected Ugandan Asians would be welcomed in our country. They would be joining a large segment of their ethnic community, who were well established and whose members had made a positive contribution to the development of Canada's socio-cultural and economic fabric.

Tuesday September 19: At 5:55 am Larry Carroll and Hal Malone arrived at Entebbe. Larry C. had travelled to East Africa from Beirut and I knew his talents. Hal M. came in answer to my

request for someone to attend to the media and, hopefully, keep some control over them. I welcomed them and gave them a short briefing of what had taken place to date.

I arrived early at the office to see if the notice published in the Argus newspaper on September 15 had produced the expected results. The notice requested persons who had been accepted to report this day for a medical appointment. They had responded in such numbers that I had to increase the counter staff to cope with the flood of requests. Those Asians who signified they were prepared to depart with the September 27 flight were given the X-Ray and Laboratory control slips and immediately referred to the M.U. The Officers completed the line concerning the date and time (am or pm) of their appointment with the doctor. Where applicable, they were told to bring their dependants as well. The others were also given the Mobile Unit control slips. However, they had to return in three days time for the tests and medical examination. At this moment, the outlook was good to excellent for the first charter.

Larry C. had joined Mike M. and Jacques D. sorting and selecting suitable applicants for interview from the 5,136 completed applications that had been turned in at the counter as of yesterday. We were receiving numerous telegrams from Canada offering assistance to named Asians. Jim McM. had the responsibility of sorting them out and updating a list of their names at the counter. If someone appeared at the counter, and claimed to have received an offer from Canada, his name was checked against the list. If we had an offer for him, he was asked to produce his "Tax Clearance" chit to locate his application form. He was referred to a Counsellor for interview.

Hal M. busied himself taking snapshots of the personnel and Asians as the latter were interviewed. He escorted members of the press as they questioned Asians inside as well as outside the office. Hal also volunteered to help with any task when he was not occupied.

I selected Gerry Campbell to be Head of the Visa and Transportation Unit(VTU). The officer at the visa desk was also responsible for the medical data entries on the Landing Certificate and to issue visas. The Transportation Desk looked after the ticketing or booking of emigrants and issuing the coloured boarding passes according to the Charter Airline. Gerry arranged to charter buses to transport Asians to the airport and ask for police escorts.

The job entailed liaison with Pan Am and other Canadian Airline representatives at Entebbe. Gerry C. also had to prepare a telegram, providing statistics concerning the number of single

and married persons, ages of children, special diets etc. The telex was sent to the Canadian Armed Forces Longue Pointe Reception Centre Montreal. I assigned more officers and support staff to help him. This assignment gave Gerry C. more responsibility than anyone else. He proved he could carry out his responsibilities with great success, to the very end of our charter flight operations.

The first persons seconded to the booking Desk were Miss Rosanne Hughes from the H.C. Lagos and Mrs M.E. Hempel, CPO Ottawa. They were given office space on the seventh floor, where they could work in a more quiet environment. It was not the most convenient arrangement since the accepted Asians had to find their way to their office to book on the chartered flights.

Whenever Asians recounted some of their terrifying experiences on their way to Kampala, we listened intently to their stories. The road blocks had taken their tolls of impounded cars, stolen money and in many cases, beatings. They seldom returned to towns and villages near the border with Tanzania. They would stay with relatives or friends in Kampala.

The newspaper headlines reported General Amin's Samba Battalion's triumphs against the enemy. It could not report the high rate of desertion among his soldiers, for better pay, rations and brew.

At 6:00 pm the technician in charge of the section examining the stool samples placed a plastic bag on the counter which he said contained the "surplus to requirement samples". In a very serious tone he asked what he should do with them. The suggestion I made surprised him. At any rate it must have worked because he never returned to ask a second time! He too had complained about the heat in their tent. I told him to take the two large fans in our office that had been loaned to us by the Manager of the Jubilee Insurance.

Will Licari, Second Secretary at the Nairobi CHC, telephoned on two occasions to keep me informed of the deliberations at the East African Community Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania. The talks were slow but progressing with regard to the landing clearances for the Government of Canada chartered flights. It was a well known fact that when the British Government asked to airlift all Asians destined to the UK on BOAC and BRITISH CALEDONIAN, the request was refused. The decision could be reviewed only if the two airlines agreed that East African Airlines would get its share of the business! Moreover, the Uganda representative had insisted that his Government receive a "kickback" of 20% of the fares paid by passengers flying BOAC and British Caledonian! Whatever the outcome of the deliberations, it would have no bearing on the question of issuing Assisted Passage Warrants, on

a repayment basis.

Wednesday September 20: Telex IMMFOROTT 1646 received to-day told us to continue to issue A.P. although it was inferred that the flights might be provided at no cost to the Asians. The telex also mentioned that G.M. Mitchell, Dir. of Ops. would come to Kampala and would be the escort officer on the first charter from Entebbe to Montreal. This would take place one week from today!

Three additional lists of Asians to be interviewed September 27, 28 and 29 were delivered to the Argus. Don Lygo was still in Nairobi and seemingly busy. I called to tell him to report to Kampala for Saturday. He would have a new assignment, as of next Monday.

Since the problems with the M.U. appeared to have been solved, it could now be said that the mission was fully operational. One challenge remained. We were short of the 140 passengers I had promised for Charter #1. We must continue to pressure Asians with visas to depart with this first flight.

Thursday, September 21: A large crowd turned up as the staff arrived at 8:00 am. Some Asians went to the M.U. while others came for an interview. The Lab technicians were pleased to tell me they could cope with 200 persons per day or 70 cases. However, this good news had to take into account the limits placed by the Head of the Medical Section on the number of persons each doctor would examine per day i.e. 40 persons. There were four doctors, but Dr. Piché could only examine part-time. This meant between 130 to 150 persons.

I had set a goal of 150 visas per day in order to fill three charters per week. This target assumed that 30% would depart via other scheduled airlines. It was critical, for the success of the operation, that we build up a backlog of Asians with visas who agreed to depart with chartered aircraft. So far, we had failed and this was serious cause for concern.

The effectiveness of Gerry C. and his VTU booking desk staff was tested today. It was the first time that Asians went through the three main processing phases i.e. selection interview, the X-Ray, blood and stool tests and the physical examination by the Doctors. After the Asians were examined by the doctors they were referred to the seventh Floor where the booking desk was located. Miss R. Hughes inserted the medical data on the Landing Document for the visa officer's signature. The clients were then referred to Mrs. Hempel who tried to convince them to depart for the September 27 charter. Notwithstanding her dedication, too few Asians had consented to depart aboard Charter #1.

Asians again volunteered information that travelling to Kampala was becoming more dangerous every day. They witnessed beatings, rapes by soldiers and unnecessary long delays because of searches. They feared that this might happen, even in Kampala. At 4:00 pm, there was panic in the centre of the city. The General's armoured truck vehicles with heavy machine guns rolled back and forth below our offices. At once, all the Asians had left our premises, including the Uganda Security guards! Reg. Smith called from the hotel and suggested that we stay at the office until further contact.

I had no intention of letting any member of the staff leave until I felt it was safe. Reg. Smith tried to telephone the CHC but had been unable to get through. I tried and, by sheer luck, I reached the CHC in less than a minute. I reported the incidents as I saw them and I placed the phone near the glass window so he could hear the roar of the engines of armoured half-tracks. I told him we were in no apparent danger and that Reg. would call later.

As I replaced the phone, Dr. Piché came to tell me that a high ranking police officer had come and gone while I was on the phone. He told him that there had been rumours of guerillas having reached Kampala. The rumours were false. The army and Security Forces were placed on alert. We could now proceed to the hotel.

When all the half-tracks had disappeared, the mini-buses shuttled the personnel to the hotel. Mike M. and I remained until everyone else had left, securing the filing cabinets locking the main office doors as well.

When Mike and I arrived at the hotel I noticed Reg Smith sitting near the main entrance with a soldier next to him. He was visibly uncomfortable and when I asked what was happening he said he was being "detained." There were many soldiers milling around.

The soldier asked that I refrain talking to him. I said that Mr. Smith was a diplomat and that I wished to speak with his superior officer. He said I could see the officer when he returned.

I told Reg I would be back shortly after I'd gone to my room with some documents and cleaned up. I was hardly in my room a minute when there was a knock at the door. It was the room attendant who said that my friend had been arrested by the Army. He was very concerned. I thanked him and returned to the lobby. Reg. Smith had just been released and we went to my room.

He said the Internal Security Police were checking the identity of the persons in the hotel with whom he had spoken. It looked suspicious. A higher ranking member of the Internal Security

Forces released him immediately when Reg. showed his diplomatic accreditation card. He explained that the persons he had spoken to were Canadians working for the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian University Student Overseas. The staff were told to stay in the hotel this evening. It was the safest place in town.

News of recent incidents in Uganda must have made headlines in the "Rome Daily American" newspaper because Dr. McRae telephoned asking to speak with Dr. Abear. Since he was not in his room, the call was transferred to me. He reported that Mrs. Abear was concerned about the safety of her husband. I reassured him that we were in no danger and took the opportunity to ask him to contact Roger Martineau and have him telephone M. G. Clark at FBHQ for the following:

- a) need for an additional officer;
- b) should we continue to issue AP Warrants;
- c) there were fewer eligible applicants;
- d) the criterion should be relaxed when warranted.

When Mr. Mitchell called from Ottawa he suggested we speak in a French-Canadian dialect to detract those taping the conversation. We were soon cut off, a reminder to speak clearly. The call came again and we spoke about the first charter and medical examinations. I said the staff morale was high and that the incidents did not seem to affect our work.

Friday, September 22: The headlines in the Argus confirmed yesterday's deployment of military forces was based on rumours that guerilla elements had entered the city to kidnap or kill Government Ministers. Another article read: "A High Court judge was arrested by the General's own Security Forces..." The judge had the gall to release a British businessman and Mr. Medvani, the richest Asian in Uganda, after they had been ordered detained. The judge ruled there was no hard evidence to detain them and they left Uganda. No one knew what happened to the judge....

The tension was quite visible in the faces of Asians standing in long queues as we arrived at 8:00 am. The large number of applicants also indicated that yesterday's events had caused many to give more serious thought to an early departure.

The pressure was increasing on the staff assigned to the V&TU. They were being swamped by applicants who had complied with the Immigration and medical requirements and wanted their visas. Again, the booking desk staff tried hard to convince Asians to book for the Charter #1. A few accepted but, we could not coerce them to do so.

Dr. Piché told me that an additional doctor was arriving shortly.

This good news allowed me to increase the number of interviews to 80 per day. I took note that the rate of "no show" was also increasing. From September 25 to October 3, over 1,400 persons had been invited for interviews. The lab technicians established a record to-day. They reported the results of tests on 205 stool samples.

We were all familiar with the contents of the small plastic cups that the applicants carried to the lab unit. A number of times, the Asians came to the counter to ask questions about their application or the next step to follow. Unwittingly, they would place the cups on the counter! This gesture inevitably caused the personnel to react briskly--no information until the plastic cup was first handed to the technicians!

Over 300 visas were issued since the M.U. had come into operation, five days ago, but only 83 persons had agreed to depart with the first charter. We were going to be hard pressed to fill the first flight unless we resorted to more drastic measures. When I checked the day's output with Gerry C., the Visa Desk had issued 67 visas this day for a total of 370 to-date. The staff at Booking Desk had 101 persons booked for Charter #1. It looked brighter although it was still far short of the 140 passengers I had expected for this flight.

Then W. Licari called from Nairobi CHC to say that he had not yet received word of a "landing clearance" for the first charter!

Saturday, September 23: In the early hours of today FBHQ asked that we prepare a telex on the categorization of the passengers e.g. single, married, ages of children, religious sect (for diet purposes) aboard the first charter. I confirmed that this data would be sent by telex after the departure of each charter to the DND Reception Centre at Longue Pointe, Montreal. Garry C. agreed that we had most of this data--we would ask Asians about any special diet at the time of booking. The form designed while in Nairobi, on August 30, was meant for this purpose.

I was also told that Mr. Saul Grey, External Affairs Liaison and Mr. Mitchell would arrive at Nairobi, September 25, to meet with the Canadian High Commissioner. They would depart for Kampala the next day and return to Canada aboard the charter, September 27. The escort officer, Mr. Mitchell, would provide the Asians with information regarding the reception arrangements at Montreal.

At 11:00 am Reg S. told me that the Uganda MFA had given its approval for the "landing clearance" of the charter due in four days. I impressed on members of the team the need to give priority to those willing to depart with the charter of September 27. The technicians agreed to work, although it was Saturday, to

eliminate the backlog of blood and especially stool tests. Selected spontaneous clients were also referred to the M.U.

Mike M. was keeping track of the number of persons who were ready to undergo their medical examination after completing the X-Ray and lab tests. There were now 800 and I was hoping that many of them could be convinced to fly with the charter. When I checked with Gerry C., the visa desk had issued 67 visas that day for a total of 370 to date. The booking desk had succeeded in convincing 101 persons to depart with charter #1. The prospects looked a little brighter although it was far short of the 140 I had promised.

As a result of the paper-screening bee of the past days, we were in a position to invite, as of Monday, September 25 and the next 12 working days, 940 persons for a total of 2,500. Copies of these lists were immediately posted on the office window so that the clients could consult them before they were delivered to the Argus newspaper. In 13 days i.e., since September 6, we had received 5,779 completed applications for a total of 17,000 Asians.

Sunday, September 24: This morning I discussed the various steps of the workflow with Mike M., Gerry C. and the CPO typists. Because of the ever increasing number of Asians referred to the VTU on the seventh floor, from the Medical Section, it was time for a change. I suggested relocating the VTU to the main floor for a more efficient and effective workflow. The CPO typists, who had complained about the noises and the difficulty of concentrating with so many interruptions, would relocate to the quiet of one office on the seventh floor.

After lunch Mike M., Gerry C. and I went to the office to get into the moving business. It took us most of the afternoon to shift the furniture and complete both moves. Each typist wanted the same desk, chair and typewriter and this meant moving one typist desk to the 7th floor and bringing another desk to the ground floor.

Monday, September 25: When the personnel from the immigration and Medical Sections were all present, that they were briefed about the new physical changes concerning the visa and transportation unit. It was explained that once the applicant has been medically examined, the doctor's secretary would escort the applicant to the visa desk waiting area. She would hand over the file to the Visa officer together with the result of the medical examination.

When there were no serious physical impediments, the visa officer inserted the serial number of the Medical Notification & Record form (MN&R) on the Canadian Immigration Document (IMM 1000.) The

form 1000 was signed and handed to the applicant. He then asked if he was interested in flying to Canada with our charter flights. If he showed an interest, the file was passed to the booking desk. It was up to the staff of the booking desk to do a hard selling job and get the Asian to "go charter." In a matter of days, the VTU became and remained the busiest unit throughout our operation. It also absorbed the largest secondment of staff to cope with the workload.

When applicants had to go through several phases of a process, at different times, it was no wonder their files were often mislaid. This meant a lot of searching for Jim McM. For instance, telegrams from Canada offering assistance were considered urgent. A bona fide offer of assistance meant an immediate interview if the offer could be matched with the application. Jim earned my praise for his steadfastness with a very demanding task.

We had discovered that it was much easier to call Rome to have a message transmitted to IMFOR Ottawa than to call Ottawa from Kampala. The same held true for IMFOR Ottawa. At 10:00 am Roger Martineau called from Rome to provide further details of Maurice Mitchell's arrival and the despatch of 1,500 IAR forms.

I was at the counter on and off from 8:00 to 12:30 streaming clients reporting for interviews, laboratory tests or medical examinations. The counter was the one place where pressure never seemed to let up. One had to be polite yet quick and decisive. Bottlenecks were to be avoided at all costs.

That first contact had to be a distressing experience for many who, only a few weeks ago, had never thought about Canada. They now found themselves seeking our assistance and were grateful for our presence. They could not go elsewhere than the U.K.

Gerry and J. McN inquired about the rental of airport buses and space at the East African Airlines Bus Terminal in Kampala. They both reported that it was much too crowded for our needs. Gerry asked the hotel Security Manager if he would allow us to use the ample parking space at the back of the hotel. He agreed and said he would be available early Wednesday am.

We had to be certain about the procedure at the airport and, again, Gerry approached Bob Barr of Air Canada. He was to familiarize himself with the airport configuration and the departure where the buses would be parking. Reg Smith said he would inquire about the airport passes that had been promised.

CHARTER # 1

Monday, September 25 (continued): The notice concerning the departure of the first charter had to be delivered to the Argus. This announcement read:

ANNOUNCEMENT CANADA

THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THAT THE FIRST CHARTERED FLIGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA (AIR CANADA) WILL DEPART ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27. ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN BOOKED FOR THIS FIRST FLIGHT MUST ASSEMBLE AT THE NORTH PARKING LOT (OFF TERNAN AVENUE) OF THE KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL AT 08:00 AM WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27. BUS TRANSPORTATION TO THE AIRPORT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR FLIGHT PASSENGERS ONLY--A CHARGE OF 15 SHILLINGS PER PERSON FOR TRANSPORTATION WILL BE COLLECTED. AN AIRPORT TAX OF 15 SHILLINGS WILL ALSO BE LEVIED AT THE AIRPORT.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO TWENTY (20) KILOGRAMS PER PASSENGER (OVER TWO YEARS) PLUS A SMALL FLIGHT BAG. NO EXCESS BAGGAGE WILL BE ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARKING FACILITIES OF THE HOTEL ARE FOR PATRONS ONLY AND THEREFORE FLIGHT PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT THE HOTEL IN MOTOR VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARK IN THAT AREA.

The staff of the booking Unit were so busy that they could not break off for lunch. Sandwiches and coffee were brought in and they did not finish working until 8:00 pm! The success of the first charter rested heavily on their shoulders as they tried very hard to convince applicants to depart in two days' time by charter. They had succeeded in booking 135 persons, but with only one day to go it was doubtful that we could get many more people to depart on such short notice. And they had to get their "tax clearance" stamped by the Ministry of Finance in order to leave the country.

Tuesday, September 26: When I arrived at the office a Mrs. Nancy Di Gregorio, wife of a Canadian teacher, offered to assist and was immediately ushered to Gerry's booking unit. He needed more help.

ARRIVAL OF G.M. MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, FOREIGN BRANCH AND MR. SAUL GREY, COORDINATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Mike M. met G.M. Mitchell and Saul Grey at Entebbe Airport and briefed them on the way to the hotel. (I couldn't leave the counter to go to the airport.) Phil Boyes and John McNeish were on the same flight, returning from a short rest in Nairobi. The Ottawa visitors came to the office at 10:15 am and Mr. Mitchell was introduced to all the Canadian staff and the volunteers. He was surprised at their numbers. He was also surprised to hear from the CPO typists, that they did not wish to return to Ottawa at this time! Their morale was high and they wished to continue to the end. They knew the routine very well and did not feel in any personal danger.

One CPO typist, Ginette Leroux, mentioned that her fiancé was getting a little impatient at her prolonged stay--they had talked about their marriage plans just before her departure. Mr. Mitchell told the typists they could return when they wished.

We met on the seventh floor to discuss several crucial matters:-

- a) the need for additional officers. I was limited to a maximum of 80 interviews per day for the three officers. They were overworked. I had to build up a backlog of clients to fill the chartered flights. Four officers were needed on the line.
- b) I needed an officer to assist Gerry C. in the Visa & Transportation Unit.
- c) Asians students were anxious to know if Canada could help them-many, in their third year of university studies would be prepared to work although unskilled--they would prefer to resume their studies in Canada. We had 60 students.
- d) Some medical practitioners had passed the Entry Certificate for Foreign Medical Graduates. They wanted acceptance as "resident interns." Those who failed the ECFMG could apply to another country.
- e) Humanitarian Cases. They posed a problem. As an expedient, if they had children of working age, the parents could be accepted as persons with funds to sustain themselves. There were genuine hardship cases--partly crippled persons etc. Special

authority should be sought for a dozen such cases.

The Director of Operations agreed that persons referred to in c), d) and e) deserved consideration and it would be discussed with Mr. M.G. Clark, DGFB. The best news was that we could stop issuing AP Warrants. By Cabinet decision, the Government of Canada would pay for the chartered flights.

I broached the question of a paid weekend to Kenya for some of the staff, especially the typists from CPO. He agreed and said I should do the same for the officers if I felt a need for it. A weekend at Mombasa by the beach would make a world of difference. I pointed out that Phil Boyes and John McNeish, who travelled with him from Nairobi, had both been away from Kampala for a rest of four days.

I stressed that my ongoing concern was the lack of a backlog of "visaed" Asians for the charters. I repeated what I had told Mr. Clark: at this stage, most Asians had access to funds to pay their fare. Many wished to visit relatives outside Uganda before going to Canada. Some simply wanted to arrive in the Spring.

I explained that other complications were delaying the departure of Asians. It was a requirement that they present their "tax clearance" certificate at the time of departure. The Tax Office was slow in responding to the flood of requests. All the departing Asians were also entitled to claim, under the "Immigrant Treatment" provision, the equivalent of 50 Ugandan pounds in foreign currency. Once Asians were in possession of the "tax clearance" and the "Immigrant Treatment" allowance they were expected to depart from Uganda. Some delayed their departure to sell their assets--others hoped for a change in the General's Decree as a result of the U.N. and world pressure. Whatever reason they invoked, we could not force them to fly by charters!

Mr. Mitchell understood all of these problems. He felt that it was difficult to assign more officers to the team at this time since many of them were on courses or training. He accepted my request for one more interviewing officer to build up the needed backlog. I told him that Don Lygo was in Nairobi because the High Commissioner wanted someone there to look after Asians wanting information. However I decided to pull him out in a week. I needed to be relieved at the counter where I spend a great deal of my time directing the applicants to the various sections or units.

Decisions at the counter had to be 100% accurate when it came to "streaming" applicants i.e., sort and control the flow to so many sections and units. Only an experienced officer could be assigned to that vital role.

Maurice M. kept making notes and agreed that it was more complex than was assumed by the HQ.'s staff. He observed how we compiled the day's tally of interviews, the statistical breakdown for those booked for the charter and the number of persons in the "medical stream". We had 138 Asians booked for to-morrow's Charter #1.

It was short of the 150 passenger target everyone worked so hard to achieve, but close to the minimum of 140. We had issued 515 visas to date and not one Asian was booked for Charter # 2. The Dir.Ops. noted that we had interviewed 631 cases for 2,000 persons--of these, 524 applications were accepted for 1,300 persons. We had been busy.

I sensed that after GMM returned from leave, he had not been fully briefed by Bud Clark about the problems I had discussed with him. I wanted to be frank and repeated to him what I believed was the cause of my predicament--the Mobile Unit. I told Maurice that whoever had insisted on the DND mobile unit must bear the blame for its late arrival, the poor briefing of the technicians and the situation we were facing. (I was later to learn that it was GMM himself who had insisted on the Mobile Unit--see p.77 of "A Man of Big Heart": The Memoirs of Maurice Mitchell, published by the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, Ottawa, 1988.) The immigration component was operational September 6, whereas the mobile unit did not become fully operational until 12 days later! The fact that Dr. Piché had categorically refused to allow his team of doctors to examine those Asians we had accepted, pending the availability of X-Rays and lab test results later, compounded the problem. By now, Mr. Mitchell had a very clear idea of the problems and causes for the delays. He would be well able to brief the Director General, M.G. Clark, on his return to FBHQs.

That evening, Reg Smith confirmed that the next morning, the High Commissioner would lead the convoy to the Entebbe Airport with S. Gray and G.M. Mitchell. I was not consulted nor asked to join the "show." It was too important an occasion to share with those who had made it possible.

The three buses ordered by Gerry C. arrived at the back of the International Hotel parking area at 6:15 am. Most of the Immigration staff were present. The volunteers from Gerry's VTU were also present, at his request, to lend a hand. John McNeish's knowledge of Swahili was very helpful in maintaining discipline with the bus drivers and hangers-on.

The Asians were orderly and everyone booked for the flight showed up. Gerry had boarding cards printed in different colours (red, blue and yellow for each of the three airline, A/C, PWA, CPA)

and, after checking the name off the flight list, each person was handed a boarding card. No one carried excess luggage.

Mr. Mitchell and I had a last chat in the hotel lobby. This had been an exhausting trip for him. It was far from over since he was the Escort officer on the flight and was bound to be asked a lot of questions about the reception arrangements in Montreal. Saul Grey came to say good-bye and I really couldn't understand why he had come. Both men headed for the Mercedes waiting in front of the Hotel. The Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. G.M. Olivier, was already in the car and waved to me.

They headed for the rear of the hotel to lead the convoy of three Uganda Public Transport buses with Canadian flags draped over the hoods and front. The now accredited High Commissioner rated a police escort. The latter made certain the convoy would pass the army road blocks without incident or delay. It was an impressive sight.

A more impressive and uncommon sight awaited the convoy on arrival at the Entebbe International Airport--the Air Canada stretch DC8 with the distinctive maple leaf logo. I saw this same sight on successive A/C flights--I felt a great sense of pride. Gerry Campbell briefed me on the events at the airport--everything had gone well-- and then handed me the flag that had been on the hood of the first bus. I kept it.

Wednesday, September 27: There was no respite for the staff reporting to the office at 8:00. They were reminded that we had few Asians booked for Charter # 2. We invited 150 persons to report to the Medical Section and a further 80 new cases were called for interviews. There were very few refusals after interviews. However, there had been a marked increase in the number of "no-shows." To meet our target, the interview rate was increased to 100 per day.

A telex I received only a few hours after Mr. Mitchell was airborne outlined the schedule of future charter flights. The next flight was in three days and another two flights on October 4 and on 6! At this moment we had 30 persons booked for the next charter! This was completely absurd and unrealistic! Maurice Mitchell would straighten this out once he returned to HQ.

There appeared to be a lack of dialogue between Foreign Branch Operations and the Financial and Administration section on this vital question. Since September 15, I had given clear explanations why we could not fill the charters: the late arrival of the mobile unit, the lack of a backlog of "visaed" applicants ready and willing to fly with the charter flights etc. Why wasn't the message getting through? Was there no one listening to what I

had been saying? Was someone intent on making me the scapegoat for this mess?

The telegram was a complete about-face from telex 895 dated September 12 which had clearly stated that there would be "two or three flights per week."

At the first opportunity, I had to tell Mr. Mitchell that my situation reports had been ignored and the expectations based on the new schedule were unrealistic. The blame fell four square on Foreign Branch Hqs. The team could not be blamed for any shortfall because of a schedule based on fiction rather than fact.

The new schedule was discussed at length, that evening, in the presence of the High Commissioner, Dr. Piché and the M.U. Chief, John Stronach, Mike Molloy and Gerry Campbell. Short of a miracle, everyone agreed that without a sufficient backlog of passengers, the next flight would be almost empty, as well as the others to follow. I thought that there might be a possibility of easing the situation, temporarily. I suggested that, as of tomorrow, the Medical Section should agree to examine all applicants accepted after interviews with immigration officers, who signify their willingness to fly with the charter. We might achieve some measure of success.

Dr. Piché spoke against this temporary solution and refused to co-operate. I said that I was overruling him. As of to-morrow, we would refer applicants to his section--this was an emergency.

This was our only opportunity to build a backlog--the accepted applicants could undergo the tests after the medical examination. All other applicants would be deferred and given later appointments. I added that I would call FBHQs. and demand the cancellation of two flights i.e. one on Oct. 4 and one on Oct. 6.

I did not receive a call from Ottawa and the one I placed never went through. An urgent telex would be dispatched in the morning which should reach FBHQs in time to cancel the flights. I wondered if Mr. Mitchell had a chance to discuss the points I had raised. He had shown signs of jet lag on arrival at Kampala; it might be worse on his return to Ottawa with Asians asking all sorts of questions. By the time he arrived in Ottawa, he would have been travelling for over three days, with little rest.

SETBACK FOR CHARTERED FLIGHTS #2, #3 AND # 4

Thursday, September 28: It was encouraging to see the large crowd of Asians awaiting our arrival this morning. The officers would be able to start streaming applicants who wanted to depart with the next charter. We would also put into motion the plan discussed yesterday i.e., to refer accepted Asians opting for the charter, to the Medical Section before they were sent to the M.U.

The High Commissioner paid us a short visit before leaving for Nairobi. He said he would inform Saul Grey (with copies to everyone else) endorsing my request to annul some flights. He left with a better understanding of our operations and the problems we were facing.

Dr. Pouliot arrived on September 28, to replace Dr. R. Duncan who had departed aboard Charter #1. We were in for a very hectic day at the counter streaming those Asians who agreed to fly with the charter and giving them preferential treatment. The booking Desk staff worked desperately hard to convince applicants to depart with the "next" charter. However, there was one provision that escaped our control--Asians who were accepted for the next flight could not vouch that they would obtain their "tax clearance" on time!

By mid-afternoon I had to tell the counsellors to stop referring applicants to the Medical Section after the interview. Their staff was unable to cope with the change in procedures--they mislaid or lost files. The temporary change created nothing but confusion. Dr. Piché was far from sympathetic to our plight. Yet, I knew that a few doctors were very willing to go along with the change, at least for a few days.

Some stateless Asians did not possess a Ugandan travel document and were told to apply for one at the Uganda Passport Office. Anticipating some reluctance from the government to issue travel documents to stateless applicants, I had 1,500 "Affirmation For Visa" forms printed. These forms would be most useful in a few days.

With only 82 Asians booked for the charter flight of Sept. 30, our failure was bound to frustrate not only our political masters but also, the brass at FBHQs. The success of Charter #1 would soon fade.

A breakdown of statistics was prepared for FBHQs.:

Applications received	6,355	Interviewed to-date	785 cases
visas issued	663	Pending medical	927 pers.
Awaiting interviews: 2,500 persons in next 11 days.			

Friday, September 29: There had been no reaction from FBHQs. to cancel the flights I mentioned in my telex. It was too much to expect that the Asians accepted today would get their "tax clearance" from the Finance Dept. in time for to-morrow's flight. We could only hope to do better in the next few days and start the core of a backlog.

To confirm our worst expectations, some Asians who were booked on the next day's flight, returned to say they had been told to return Monday to get their "tax clearance". It was a hopeless, embarrassing and terribly disappointing situation. We now had only 73 persons booked for the next charter, instead of 82 as of this am.

Because of pressure, I forgot about Don Lygo who was in Nairobi. I called and asked him to get on the next flight to Kampala! I understood and even sympathised with him when he asked to "finish" the interviews in Nairobi. However, the emergency was in Kampala. Some of the staff were showing signs of stress trying to cope with a heavy interview load. I also told the C.H.C. that the Asians in Nairobi could wait. They were not facing a deadline to leave.

The Pan Am Agent in Kampala, Bruce McNally, was very helpful to Gerry C., offering the use of his telex facilities and agreeing to liaise with the Ugandan Airport authorities on our behalf. He confirmed that it was unwise to have two flights on one day as it would cause the Customs and Immigration Services to work at an even slower pace than normal. (Some Customs Officers were from the Kampala office and were not used to search work.) Since the transient facilities at the airport were being used by BOAC and British Caledonian, it would be chaotic if these airlines had flights at the same time as us! Ideally, there should be one flight every two or three days, departing at 1:00 pm.

Saturday September 30: John McN ordered only two buses to transport the Asians boarding Charter # 2, departing this Gerry was assisted by J.McN and the volunteers from the VTU. We expected 73 Asians and only 60 showed up. Phil Boyes was in the lead car with a detail of police escorts. The convoy reached Entebbe Airport without any incidents at road blocks and the boarding operation went very smoothly.

Dr. B. Collins arrived aboard the PWA flight and would remain for a week. The escort officer, Frank Sharp, stayed at Las Palmas

when the aircraft stopped there to refuel. He was to rejoin the same aircraft on its stopover in Las Palmas and counsel the immigrants.

Back from the airport, Phil B. delivered a message to Radio Uganda to be read at 6:00 pm. It concerned Charter #3 and invited Asians with visas to gather at the parking lot of the hotel at 7:00 am Monday October 3. The announcer changed some words, adding "Asians must leave if they have a visa". We hoped many would heed the hint. When Gerry C. returned from the airport, he saw that I had moved his booking unit closer to the Medical Section to achieve an even better workflow. Each one had done his best to book more persons. It was time to give some of them a break. The CPO typists and Jim McM were allowed to call home and reassure their families about their health and safety.

Sunday morning, October 1: Jim McM and I went to the office to attend to the many telegrams from Canada offering assistance. These had to be matched with the application forms. Nearly all the telegrams were sent after the Asians had managed to call contacts in Canada. They gave their "file numbers" to hasten the process of locating and attaching the telex. It also made it possible to invite the applicant sooner, on a priority basis.

Don Lygo(DL) showed up at the hotel at 3:00 pm and came to the office to familiarize himself with the operations. He repeated how busy it was in Nairobi. He was in for a surprise. He had yet to see what "busy" meant to us.

At 7:00 pm, I ask Dr. Piché, Stronach, Molloy and Campbell to join me in my room. I told them that I had not heard from FBHQs. and I failed to see how we could meet Hqs. expectations. As a temporary solution, I was prepared to suggest to FBHQs. that we allow some Asians to proceed to Canada without a medical examination, X-Ray and lab tests, for the next two flights. It was as if I had dropped a bomb! I said that it should be evident from the more than 600 persons examined so far that Asians were a healthy people and that the medical examination could take place at the Longue Pointe Reception Centre. This occurred in 1956 with the Hungarian refugees at that same centre!

Dr. Piché was against the suggestion and refused to comment about the health of the Asians. I said I would discuss it with Mr. Mitchell who might wish to do the same with his counterpart at NH&W, Ottawa, Dr Wood. The immigration component would continue to give priority to those persons wishing to fly with the charter, even if this action was biased.

At 10:00 pm, I took a call from the DGFB, Mr. M.G. Clark, who wanted to know why only 60 Asians were aboard Charter # 2. I

could not believe what I was hearing! I asked if he had been briefed by M. Mitchell. He had not. I found myself repeating the same refrain! I added that as a consequence of all the delays, there would likely be fewer Asians aboard Charter #3, departing the next day.

I had the impression that my explanations were not sinking in. Someone was in a corner trying to extricate himself from a sticky wicket and was poised to point the finger at the team leader in Kampala as the obvious "sacrificial lamb" to blame for this fiasco! They had refused to listen to facts and kept going on a different track.

The good news was that there would not be any "twin" flights on October 4 and 6. I gave my word that in five working days we would have a backlog of clients and that future flights would be full. Mr. Clark agreed to discuss with Dr. Wood the question of Asians going forward without a medical examination. He ended the call saying he might be coming to Kampala. I hoped so and soon!

Monday, October 2: Early today Gerry C. and J. McN supervised the Asians boarding the lone bus to meet Charter #3. Only 48 passengers had appeared. We had gone from three buses to two. And now one! We could not do worse.

Milt Schellenberger was the escort officer aboard the incoming charter. There was insufficient time before departure for him to come to the office. He confirmed by phone that Management had accepted the view that flights would be scheduled Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays. Sanity had returned.

The Editor of the Argus, who was always very cooperative, accepted our belated announcement for Charter # 4 departing October 4 and promised it would occupy a prominent place in tomorrow's Argus.

Everyone seconded to the booking Desk had concentrated on one goal--cajoling, and at times even coercing, applicants with visas to depart October 4 or on the next Charter i.e. October 6. I was determined to keep my promise for full flights starting with the October 6 flight. The staff was behind me. Some of our methods to achieve our aims may have been rather radical e.g., restricting the validity of the visa once a person accepted to depart via chartered aircraft.

By 6:00 pm the visa unit had issued a record 174 visas--68 Asians were booked on Charter # 4 and over 90 on Charter # 5. The outlook was encouraging and the credit went to Gerry's staff at the booking desk. They did a fantastic job.

Mr. Mitchell's call came at 9:00 pm. We were cut off after a few moments--(perhaps the telephone operator had to change the tapes!). The call came through again at 9:15 pm. I was to accept all Asians, whatever their nationality, including those who had nowhere to go--this would apply to Asians with Ugandan passports who, in theory, were not affected by the Decree. They were all skilled people.

This was good news since the Asians who had Ugandan nationality knew well that they were not likely to be spared the wrath of illiterate soldiers or members of the Internal Security Forces. The latter would always consider them "Asians", and subject them to harassment. They would wish to leave.

The other good news was that Maurice (Mo) Benoit was arriving aboard Charter # 5 i.e. October 6, with three relief typists. George Reynolds, Mr. Mitchell's assistant was coming to get a hands-on feeling of the operations and to discuss the changes in the revised charter aircraft schedule. It looked very promising. I knew exactly where I wanted big Mo B. to put his talent. It was also time to remind Maurice M. about a week-end off for some of the personnel.

Mr. Mitchell remembered that I brought up the subject of a week-end for some of the staff, on September 26. It was a similar privilege that had been enjoyed by the Nairobi H.C. staff seconded to the mission. The National Day of Uganda, Monday, October 9, would provide a perfect occasion to allow some members to take three days off. We would not compromise the operations since three more CPO typists were arriving. He agreed with the suggestion without reservations. The cost of the expenses would be absorbed under Project 32.

I mentioned the offer of a three-day vacation to the staff and many agreed they needed a break. Mombasa, on the coast of Kenya, was the preferred destination. John McN would make all the arrangements.

Tuesday, October 3: When we turned up at the office some stateless Asians inquired about a document which would enable them to proceed to Canada. They were refused a "travel document" by the Passport Office. I explained to Phil B. the purpose of the "affirmation statement" I had printed in the event of exactly this situation. He was asked to go to the Uganda MFA and seek their approval of the "affirmation statement" which would be issued only to Asians proceeding to Canada with the charter planes.

At 4:00 pm, Phil B. returned from the MFA with the news that they would let the stateless Asians use the "Affirmation Statement"

provided the Passport Office was not requested to stamp and issue re-entry permits on the document. We had no option but to accept. The stateless Asians had no intention of returning to Uganda in the immediate future.

The U.S. Consul paid a visit and proudly announced that the U.S. had pledged to accept 1,000 Asians. The applicants would have to be young persons with degrees or other qualifications. Their dependent parents would be excluded but could join them once the latter were admitted and could sponsor them! Not very humanitarian in scope. I suggested he accept 1,000 stateless Asians--there were not that many left and they were well qualified. He did not bite.

The consul was impressed with the zeal shown by the staff and especially by the mobile unit- which was unique. He admitted visiting the British Immigration mission and said "there was no comparison. In confidence, he said the "USA had moved too slowly, too late, and the best had been selected by Canada. This sounded like something that Kevin Croakham, British Immigration Chief, would say!

This was another frantic day for the M.U. technicians. They carried out 260 tests and X-Ray'd 144 Asians. It was a record, exceeding their highest expectations. The working conditions were still difficult with the technicians having to develop the plates in a 110 °F chemically saturated environment.

Sgt John Stronach reaped a most deserved reward that evening, a treat for his staff from all of us. The VTU issued 108 visas--not a record--but they were pressing toward their goal of a full flight for Charter flight #5 on October 6th. The usual notice to the Argus newspaper was delivered for publication in tomorrow's newspaper. Most Asians were showing up, convinced by now that the General would not change his edict on Asians.

The call from Mr. M.G. Clark came at 7:00 pm, unusually early. He suggested that officers who needed a rest should travel with the outgoing charters to Las Palmas. This was the refuelling point for the PWA chartered planes and they could remain there for a few days, returning to Kampala with the next incoming empty plane. I mentioned that the Spanish authorities had raised objections to the fact that immigration officers could not be considered as crew "supernumeraries." They wanted to prevent their debarkation. It turned out that Gerry C. and Jacques Drapeau were the only volunteers for Las Palmas.

I provided him with the most recent statistical data and confirmed that Charter # 4, leaving tomorrow, would carry no more than 83 Asians. However, as I had stated a few days ago, the next

and all following flights would be filled. This should end the bitter disappointments experienced with chartered flights 2, 3 and 4.

Later that evening, I received a call from a Toronto Star reporter who wanted the most recent statistics. I provided the information but refrained from giving him information about the political situation in Kampala.

When discussing the day's operations with the staff that evening, I mentioned that there were no Asians applying at the British Immigration Office, although we were never short of clients. Some of the racist articles in the London Press about Asians were turning them against applying for the UK. Front-page photographs showed people carrying placards at Heathrow telling Asians to go East! Many showed up at our counter saying that they would not go to the UK although they had vouchers. They were eligible and qualified.

Wednesday, October 4: Phil B. was again anxious to volunteer and drive in the lead car of the convoy of two buses heading for Entebbe. They boarded PWA Boeing 707 and left at 1:00 pm via Las Palmas. The U.S. Consul popped in to complain that the printer refused to print his affirmation for visa forms. He refused to favour the consul's request because "Canada had responded without hesitation to the plight of Asians". The printer was too busy and suggested the Consul have his printing done in Nairobi!

Kevin Croakham, accompanied by the Counsellor from the British High Commission, came to pay a visit. They both looked perplexed. For the past days, Asians had failed to show up and claim their entry vouchers to the UK. They had published repeated notices in the Argus with no results. The Counsellor said that 40,000 passports had been issued to British Asians since 1962, after Uganda gained its independence. Yet, only 24,00 vouchers had been issued.

I dispelled the notion that Asian British passport holders went only to the UK or possibly back to India, Pakistan, Goa etc. The Counsellor and Kevin Croakham were unaware that Canadian Immigration officers had visited countries in East Africa for years, responding to requests for emigration and issuing visas to many Asians. They then "sponsored" or "nominated" relatives. This explains why, for the past three weeks, we had received so many telegrams from Canada for offers of help from relatives. I also told them I had no doubt that some British passport holders were also processed outside their country of permanent residence-- a common occurrence under Canada's Immigration Policy of "universality".

I told them I estimated that a third of the Asians granted visas so far, approximately 400, were British passport holders. Obviously, my explanation did not account for the remainder. However, some must have returned either to Pakistan, India or the Gulf states where there was much money to be made--some must have passed away since 1962! Still, others possibly had been "exempted" by the General and had wished to remain. Finally, the bad press in the UK has not been conducive to make Asians feel welcome. We had no such problem.

I believe that the Counsellor was relieved that large numbers of British passport holders had in fact vanished and would not be claiming the outstanding vouchers. He could now conclusively say so to the Foreign Office. The English newspapers no longer stated that England would have to absorb 60,000 Asians--they now expected only 28,000. We were committed to accepting 6,000 and this now reduced their numbers to 22,000 -- a more acceptable figure for the English public.

I was pleased to greet the arrival of Dr. F. Stubbing whom I knew from my days at the Rome visa office. He was replacing Dr. Leclerc who was leaving aboard Charter # 4. I gave the latter a sealed envelope containing the annual evaluation reports for M. Molloy, L.Carroll (Ottawa), K.R.Carter (ex-Beirut posted to Milan), Paul Simard and B. Davis both at Beirut. The evaluation reports had been completed the previous day at the request of FBHQs.

I was going to miss Dr. Leclerc. He was the only one who never hesitated to exceed his quota of 40 medical examinations per day.

With Don Lygo, four Counsellors were now assigned to interviews. Together with Jacques D., Larry C. and Mike M. they would be busy as I had increased the interview call-ups to 100 cases.

In the late morning, Miss Jolène Carrière asked to return to the hotel because of "tropical malaise." In the absence of the two buses, I asked an Asian who was parking alongside the building if he would drive Jolène C. to the hotel. He was happy to do so and I told him I would personally attend to his request when he returned.

It had been another arduous day but we were on the right track making progress toward a backlog of Asians for future flights. The booking Desk registered 142 Asians for Charter # 5, due out in two days. This was the type of news that I had wanted to communicate to the Director General of the Foreign Branch for the last two weeks.

As I arrived at the hotel, John Paddick, the Australian migration

officer wished to discuss certain aspects of our selection and I invited him to join us in room 393.

John Paddick was accredited to the Australian High Commission, Nairobi, as Consul. In Kampala to show the flag on behalf of Australia he was extremely keen to select high profile and qualified Asians so that "Canberra" would accept his recommendations. He explained that he spent a lot of time preparing detailed (and very expensive telegrams) on each selected applicant.

Unfortunately his director, and the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs did not share his enthusiasm and dedication, and he was utterly frustrated at the number of rejections of his superiors. He envied the authority given to Canadian immigration officers. "Your officers can make decisions based on a generous selection criteria, either to accept or reject (which was seldom the case) after an objective interview. I had to wait two weeks for a decision by Canberra and it was rarely yes."

I said Canada had made it clear it would accept several thousand Asians and obviously I had to have a "blank cheque" to get this movement off the ground. Decisions had to be made here. It was true that the immigration officers already had discretionary authority and were familiar with the generous guidelines for this special movement. I co-ordinated the various phases of the operations and seldom interfered with their responsibility. I provided guidance. He admired our efficient and effective methods. He could not conceive of achieving anything so ambitious. Later, he was to show his admiration by supplying the team members with cigarettes and refreshments, at no cost. That evening, I invited him and his High Commissioner for dinner.

Mr Chiha, the Sikh father of the two Asian typists I had hired, asked to see me on an urgent matter. A resident of Uganda since 1929, he owned a small outfit organizing safaris. He had had many close encounters with wild animals and was not the type to panic. On the previous night, a Ugandan African had come to his house with a piece of paper and said he was taking over his house, all the furniture and the three cars. He knew the Africans very well. Unflustered, he detained the person and telephoned the Security Forces. When the latter arrived, they took the imposter to the Police Station and after a few questions, shot him in the presence of Mr. Chiha.

He did not know if the person they had shot was part of a gang, but he feared his family might be in danger. He wanted to leave Uganda with his two daughters whereas a few days prior to this incident, he had agreed that his daughters would keep working for another two weeks.

He offered to accommodate us on condition that his daughters move into the hotel with the other CPO girls. I agreed, figuring that Project 32 could absorb the small disbursement. They had been most enthusiastic to work for and with the Canadians and particularly liked the CPO typists who looked after them so well.

The parents wanted to return to India although they had few relatives there. Actually, they had more close friends going to Canada. It was interesting to watch the two girls tell their parents they did not wish to go to India. Born in Uganda, they had never been to India nor did they have ties to that country. They had, however, been to England and had led a different life here. They managed to convince their parents to go to Canada.

Thursday, October 5: The headlines in the Argus this morning must have scared every Ismaili Asian in Uganda: "Asians attempt to smuggle 1,000,000 pounds." The money had been brought to the Mosque for a humanitarian purpose. The security forces were tipped by bank employees, when the money was drawn from the general funds account of the Ismaili community. What the security forces did not know, and did not care to know, was that the money had been drawn for distribution to its members to purchase air fares out of Uganda. Several Ismailis were arrested although most managed to escape by stealth.

Mr. Christiansen, Chief of the International Committee on European Migration, Geneva, came to see us saying he had instructions to set up an examination centre for stateless persons. He was primarily interested in the medical examination of Asians. As I escorted him to Dr. Piché, he said the medical examinations would be cursory since Asians would be fully examined in Trawaskirchen Camp, Vienna.

When Mr. Christiansen returned from his talk with Dr. Piché, we discussed how we had handled documentation for the stateless Asians. I let him have a cancelled copy of our "affirmation for visa" form. I added that the Uganda MFA had officiously accepted the form and given the Canadian mission permission to use it, provided they were not asked to issue re-entry permits. He was not certain he would need to use it.

The doctors had been unable to examine 50 persons out of a total of 250 invited for the medical examination. The rate per doctor had been increased as agreed. We had expected 15 to 20% "no show" but, this was not the case today. The doctors said they were overworked. I discussed it with Dr. Piché and he agreed that these 50 persons would be examined in the morning. He asked the doctors to arrive promptly at 8:30 am and to pull their weight. Fortunately, all 50 Asians were able to stay with friends in Kampala.

After I closed the office I caught sight of Kevin Croakham, Chief Immigration officer for the British team. Not one Asian had showed up at his office that day; our queues had stretched around the IPS Bldg.

It was a paradoxical situation. Canada's Prime Minister had said in his statement of August 24: "the Canadian Government was prepared to offer assistance to the people of Britain who would otherwise be forced to share their already overcrowded island with a tide of involuntary immigrants....."

This decision and the statement were the results of pressing representations by the British High Commissioner's visit to the P.M. The situation had turned around 180 degrees. We were now the ones who were extremely busy while the British immigration team had little if anything to do and waited for clients. Kevin Croakham's laconic assessment of the situation was: "we have been ready to fold up for some time, you Canadians took the cream...".

The Pan Am Agent in Kampala, Bruce McNally, was briefed about the new schedule of chartered aircraft. That evening he brought two friends who would be leaving Uganda--Don O'Sullivan and Robert Dorothy, both with Caltex. They said that without Asians they were unable to maintain their operations and would fold up in a few weeks. The staff was briefed about next day's Charter # 5, the arrival of the typists and my replacement at the counter, Mo Benoit.

FULL CHARTERED FLIGHTS AHEAD

Friday, October 6: The technicians were eager to help Gerry C. and John McN. to supervise the 145 Asians boarding the buses transporting them to the airport for Charter # 5. Frank Sharp had, once again, debarked at Las Palmas. An old acquaintance, I wished he would come to Kampala. Obviously, Las Palmas was much more pleasant.

Everyone was most anxious for the arrival of the additional staff on Charter # 5. They would provide needed relief. And with the office closed, Monday, October 9, for Uganda National Day, some of the staff would enjoy, for the first time in over a month, a well earned rest.

I met with Kevin Croakham at 10:00 am and I asked him if he intended to stay open on Uganda's National Day. The unequivocal answer was "no". However, a few immigration officers would be "on standby" to attend to emergencies. We should also abide and keep the office closed. It shouldn't prevent us from doing some "housecleaning."

At noon, George Reynolds, Mo Benoit, Mrs. Hélène Labelle, Peggy Watson and Veronica Clarke came to the office. We were all pleased to welcome them, and I, to meet George R. once again. Our "veteran" typists, who had worked so hard for the past month, were thrilled as they embraced their newly arrived colleagues. It created quite a commotion and Asians wondered what was happening. We all headed to Joseph's for lunch.

Mo Benoit, was also in good shape after his long journey. I told him he was replacing me at the counter, a very important cog of our operations. I personally introduced Mo B. and George R. to everyone.

During lunch, I briefed Mo about his duties. At the counter, I certainly did not exude the charm or the patience of a Miss Michelle Macklin or any of the CPO ladies. However, with Mo at the helm, I expected things to be fine, albeit different. The job required firmness and Mo B. was the right man. Shortly after his new assignment, word got around that the Asians referred to him as "Ghengis Khan". It was most unfair.

Gerry C. reported that all passengers for Charter #5 had left as scheduled. He prepared the telex containing the data needed by R. Lefebvre, Co-ordinator at the DND Reception Centre, Longue

Pointe, Montreal, concerning the family composition, diet information etc.

After lunch, the newly arrived relieving staff were briefed by the "veteran" CPO typists. They were anxious to leave, in a few hours, for their deserved long weekend to Mombasa, Kenya. They would fly in the company of Jim McM., Jacques D., Gerry C., Miss R. Hughes and some technicians who had decided to join them. They thanked John McN who had overextended himself to satisfy each of them concerning the air fares and hotel reservations. Some last minute departure changes had occurred, but John came to their rescue once again.

The relief typists got to work and by the end of the day, the booking Desk had 125 persons booked for Charter # 6 on October 11, and 23 persons for Charter # 7 of October 12. Even if the next few days were not productive, a backlog of 656 visas existed to be claimed by persons flying with the charters, or opting for commercial carriers. I was now confident that all flights would be filled provided there was no change to the present schedule.

At the usual evening session, I discussed the plans for the next three days in the presence of George R., Mike M., Mo B., Larry C., Don L. and the CPO typists. I mentioned that the pace would be less hectic from then on. However, for the past week I had planned to review, for the last time, all the applications that had been refused i.e., "screened out" for interviews. The review was necessary in view of the more generous selection approach suggested by IMFOR.

The exercise would require a tremendous effort but would give us more confidence in responding to possible criticisms of our selection criteria. Those refused would be told to contact other embassies or High Commissions, even the UN. As for citizens of India and Pakistan, their countries had made arrangements to assist and repatriate them via Mombasa.

This culling exercise would take place over the next three days i.e., Saturday, October 7 to Monday 9, unless it could be completed sooner. With few other office activities likely to interfere during that period, we could all concentrate on the task.

I gave everyone a copy of the guidelines, Annex "A", which had been approved by FBHQs, and further notes received from Mr. Mitchell regarding stateless persons. They were reminded that we should call Asians in for interviews in doubtful cases. George Reynolds and Mo B. would go through all applications refused for interview. If either of them felt an applicant should be interviewed, the file would be passed on to Mike M. for review.

If Mike said "yes", I would review, and make the final decision.

Saturday, October 7-Monday, October 9: The exercise lasted the three days and was completed at 8:00 pm Monday, October 9. We reviewed 6,000 applications and selected 1,988 applicants for interview. A list would be typed, inviting 145 "heads" of family and single applicants per day from October 18 to October 31. Since the rate of persons who "failed to appear" had remained constant, the exercise should yield a sufficient number of accepted persons to ensure that by October 31 we would issue close to 6,000 visas.

All outstanding forms IMM 1000s were typed by the newly arrived CPO typists. This meant that on the morning of Tuesday, October 10, when the staff reported to work, we would be up-to-date in all phases of our operations. The only backlog would be the 731 persons given appointments for their physical examination. This was our reserve or buffer to ensure that we had passengers to fill future flights.

The Asians had continued to come to our office in spite of the large sign clearly stating that we were closed for the three-day period. They were not seeking information but came for lack of anything else to do or possibly to be reassured that we were still in business. They disappeared promptly after 4:00 pm, as if there were a curfew in force.

We got word during the weekend that Terry Colfer would be arriving from Rome. He had been expected for some time, to replace Floyd Tufts who had returned to Rome September 13, because of his wife's illness. We were approaching the turning point in our operations and his presence would be welcomed in the VTU.

Tuesday, October 10: A surprisingly large crowd greeted our arrival at the office this morning. They came for a number of reasons which baffled Mo B. on his first day at the counter. I explained the purpose of the "tax clearance" and the lab chits. This helped to sort out Asians reporting for medical examination from others called for interview. Others came with their stool samples while others wanted their visas or to book on a charter. Mo B. caught on quickly and realized it was no sinecure.

On my suggestion, George R. volunteered to assist Mo at the counter. One could learn about the entire operation, responding to and streaming Asians to various sections. He had not quite recovered from the culling exercise, the 31 hours he had spent screening some 6,000 applications.

The "lucky ones" returned from Mombasa to show off their

sunburns. They were rested and keen to resume their duties. I assigned Mrs. Labelle to the Visa Desk. Very enthusiastic about her new function, she began giving her telephone number to Asians going to Ottawa in case she could assist. Larry C. pointed out that we had people in place to assist Asians across Canada.

Miss R. Hughes was another dedicated worker assigned to the booking Desk. Gerry C. relied on her to persuade Asians to fly with the chartered flights. Her outstanding contribution to the success of the operation was immeasurable. She would forego a coffee break to attend to any Asian waiting to speak with her. She spent many an evening, at the hotel, preparing files for the issuance of visas the next day. Gerry Campbell was proud of the achievements of the booking Desk and was also more optimistic than at any previous time.

During the long weekend, Don L. and Jacques D., with the assistance of the CPO typists, had prepared a total of 656 visas. Again, it would be up to Rosanne Hughes to convince those Asians, as they came to claim their visas, to go via charter.

The news that Charter #6, departing October 11 and Charter #7, due out the following day, were fully booked with 152 and 157 passengers had everyone ecstatic. Gerry C. had every reason to be pleased and proud of his staff. I was also sure that Bob Lefebvre, co-ordinator at the DND Reception Centre in Montreal, would also be pleased. The voluntary agencies would be reassured that the "the Asians were coming."

The telex from EXTEROTT announced the return of H. Malone, M&I Information officer, for a period of seven to ten days. I looked forward to his return and his attention to media matters. He would surely note how everyone was more optimistic since we had built up a backlog of Asians for the flights. He joined us as we entered a new phase in "Operation Asian Exodus"--full charters ahead.

I anxiously waited for a call from Ottawa to communicate the good news. None came and I decided to wait another day.

HIATUS IN NAIROBI-THE Ismailis

Tuesday, October 10 (continued): The Canadian High Commissioner, called asking me to come to Nairobi, the following morning to brief him about the operations. He wished to discuss solutions to problems that may arise as we entered Phase 2.

I left the office at 4:30 pm for Entebbe airport where I met Phil B. and Zen Buryanik, also from the CHC Nairobi. They had just returned from a visit to the Kilembe Mines and Zen B. was continuing to Nairobi. We boarded together and I arrived at Nairobi's Embasaki airport at 9:15 pm. I noticed how neat and polite were the Kenya ground stewardess and immigration and customs officers. They all smiled as they welcomed us to Nairobi; a sharp contrast with the personnel at Entebbe. We were met by the driver from the High Commission who left me at the New Stanley Hotel.

It was 10:00 pm when I registered. Once in my room, I felt disoriented. It was due to the utter silence: no one around, no one asking for advise, no crowds, no rush, no pushing or shouting. It was so peaceful compared to the pace of the past several weeks. After I showered, I headed for the place that made the Stanley Hotel unique-- the longest bar in Africa. I could finally unwind with a cool one and a scotch egg.

Wednesday, October 11: At 9:00 am I met with the Mr. V.M. Olivier and briefed him on developments that had occurred since we last met in Kampala. I outlined my plans for winding up the operations as of October 31. We should have a sufficient backlog of Asians for the chartered flights to reach the goal of 6,000 Asians with visas. The members of the team would leave Kampala a few days after the end of October.

I said I would suggest to my Hqs. that one officer remain at Kampala after November 8 to oversee and finalize the packing of all the files and pertinent documentation. John McN was the obvious person to look after the disposal of the furniture and furnishings, the rented typewriters, and to close the account at the Bank. All outstanding legitimate vouchers submitted after the closing of the account could be paid by the Nairobi office and recovered from M&I against the encumbrance of Project 32. The H.C. appeared satisfied with my plans and I promised to send copies of all telexes to IMFOROTT concerning the phasing out of the mission.

He then changed the conversation and spoke about Sir Eboo

Pirbhai, the head of the Ismaili community in East Africa who wished to meet with "us" in the afternoon. I hoped the interview would not be a formal affair since I did not bring suitable attire. I had come for 24 hours on short notice, and a meeting with Sir Eboo had not been mentioned.

I took advantage of a spare hour to read a number of confidential telegrams concerning the exodus. Some were copies of exchanges of telegrams that could not be transmitted to Kampala for lack of deciphering facilities at our end. I suggested that the telegrams could have been sent to the British HC Kampala by the Nairobi British HC. The suggestion was not deemed "receivable". I memorized the contents and wrote down the number and date of the important ones for future reference.

The presence of a Canadian immigration officer at the High Commission can seldom go unnoticed for long. I suspected the locally-hired telephone operator had something to do with the fact that less than one hour after my arrival, several Asians showed up asking for appointments. I agreed to speak with some of them to ease their anxiety about the visit of an immigration officer during the next three weeks. At 12:30, because of a luncheon with the C.H.C. at the residence, I had to excuse myself. On leaving, I noted that their numbers had increased considerably.

At lunch, the meeting with Sir Eboo surfaced several times. I had the distinct impression that my presence in Nairobi had been requested principally to meet him and not to discuss the details of the closing of the mission in Kampala. Mr. Olivier stressed that if I could reassure Sir Eboo concerning the fate of the Ismailis in Kampala, we would have no cause to expect further representations either at this end or informally, through External Affairs. I kept a trump card up my sleeve for the meeting with Sir Eboo.

I had time, before and after lunch, to stroll around the residence and the grounds. Situated a few miles outside of Nairobi, the place was an island of peace and relaxation with beautifully kept grounds, luxuriant flora, tulip trees and creeping bougainvillaea. But Nairobi had more than its share of crime and murders. Many blamed outsiders, probably Ugandan bandits.....

I was in Mr. Olivier's office when the arrival of Sir Eboo was announced by the H.C.'s secretary. He looked as if he had just walked out of one of London's Saville Row haberdasheries for the elite. He was impeccably dressed in contrast to the washed-out safari suit I was wearing. After the introductions Sir Eboo came to the point. He was very concerned about a conversation I had

had with a representative of the Kampala Ismaili community to the effect that I would not be interviewing all the Ismailis residing in Uganda.

I explained to Sir Eboo that I received my guidelines from my Minister concerning the selection of Asians. The criteria for their selection did not favour any group on the basis of religious or ethnic background. Nor, for that matter, the standing of anyone within the community.

As Head of Canada's mission, I had to ensure that we selected Asians based on the criteria. When applicable, the counsellors would also give particular attention to cases based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. I expected we would have a number of cases in this group.

The Ismailis were more fortunate than most Asians because many had already emigrated to Canada as a consequence of our frequent visits to East Africa from the Beirut office. This explains why we had received many telegrams from Canada offering to help to members of his Community. We give the recipients of these offers of assistance priority in the selection process.

For three days over the past week-end, we had completed a second review of all applications that were not initially accepted for interviews. Based on a more relaxed criteria, 2,000 applicants, for a total of nearly 5,000 would be invited for interview during the period October 18 to 31. The largest percentage would be Ismailis.

The list of the file holders would appear in the Argus edition of October 19. I told Sir Eboo this information was so recent that my Minister would likely not be aware of it. This action should dispel apprehensions expressed by his representative in Kampala that we were phasing out our operations. We were not emulating the British Immigration team who had terminated their mission for lack of eligible Asians.

I ended my exposé by saying that the majority of persons who had received visas thus far were Ismailis. I thought this would bring some satisfaction or smile of benevolence -- but nothing of the kind. I repeated that we could not give preference to persons belonging to any one group. As team Leader, I would continue to ensure that this did not take place. The criteria would apply to everyone including stateless persons." Sir Eboo jumped in at that point and said "all Ismailis were stateless". I told him that to my knowledge, it was a tenet of their sect that Ismailis must apply for the nationality of the country of their residence. They possessed or should possess Ugandan passports. I realized there was no point in further discussions.

He had not been reassured by my explanations and said that he would refer our conversation to "higher authority." He departed without a word of appreciation for our efforts to alleviate the plight of members of the Ismaili community, nor for Canada's contribution to this humanitarian movement.

The "higher authority" was obviously Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The latter would contact the "highest" secular authority in Canada etc. After he left, the High Commissioner admitted to being surprised that Sir Eboo had not one good word to say about the dedication of the staff. And, moreover, that Ismailis were the largest group of people who had received visas.

Mr. Olivier was satisfied with my presentation. He added that he was now more concerned with the increasing number of Ugandan Asians who had come to Nairobi to apply for emigration to Canada. It was my intention to send Larry Carroll, however, I wanted to be certain that his absence, even for a few days, would not jeopardize our first priority and responsibility--the processing of Asians in Uganda. I would keep my promise.

A few days earlier, Mr. Jacques Gignac, my Ambassador at Beirut, called Maurice Mitchell at Immigration Foreign Branch, Ottawa saying that Mrs. St. Vincent was without news from her husband since his departure from Lebanon. Maurice M replied that I would call as soon as possible. I had tried to telephone from Kampala, without success. It was easier from Nairobi. I reached her at 02:00 am saying that Mike M. and I would be "home" shortly.

THE EXODUS GATHERS MOMENTUM

Thursday, October 12: I boarded EA Flight 99 at 07:30 am for the return flight to Entebbe airport. The Uganda Immigration officer noted that the "Permit to stay in Uganda" stamp dated August 31 had expired. After explaining who I was and what we were doing, he said "I will give you a few more days to make sure "Canada get all the Asians out on time."

It was nearly 9:00 am by the time I "cleared" the formalities and I thought about the PWA Charter #7 due to arrive at 11:00 am. I went to the temporary building where the buses had already disgorged the 157 Asians for pre-departure Immigration and Customs checks.

I spotted Georges Reynolds, Escort officer on the outgoing flight. He was peeved because a Customs Officer was insisting on checking the contents of his briefcase and the small luggage. It made no difference to the "part time Customs officers" from the downtown office, whether you produced a regular or diplomatic Passport. They had only thing in mind, to confiscate jewellery, money etc. from people trying to smuggle such items out of Uganda.

I took this belated opportunity to thank him for his generous assistance during the culling operation and for helping at the counter during his five days with us. He said that if he did not have to give a situation report to Mr. Clark and Mr. Mitchell, he would have stayed longer. In a way I was pleased to see him leave because I was certain he would give Bud Clark a thorough briefing.

Norm Olson, Hal Malone, Dr. Pèlerin and Peter Griffith were the new arrivals. The latter would assist Dr. Piché with the administrative tasks in the Medical Section. We managed to get into the Minibus and headed for the hotel. The two road blocks were no problems once we identified ourselves. Once at the office, they met the "veteran" staff. Dr. Piché was pleased to see Peter Griffith.

Norm Olson was assigned to the medical clearance desk. He had to insert the medical data from the MN&R to the form 1000s. He also had to sign and issue the visas. He was assisted by Mrs. Di Gregorio.

Mike Molloy mentioned that the absence of the A/C and PWA representatives at Entebbe for the arrival and departure of their

aircraft had been a source of embarrassment. The Captains, in their absence, wanted immigration officers to run errands for them. Liaison was essential with the airport authorities and they were shirking their responsibilities. CP was the only company with agents in situ and they were efficient at dealing with the crew and airport officials.

The additional staff could handle more interviews and medical examinations. The typists were always up-to-date with the typing of the forms 1000s. The staff of the VTU were able to issue visas much sooner and refer clients to the booking Desk at a faster rate. Dr. Piché, the doctors and the medical staff had examined 235 persons that day --a record so far. The backlog of Asians ready for the chartered flights was increasing, to everyone's satisfaction.

At the close of business, that Thursday, October 12, the situation for the next departures was:

CHARTER # 8	DEP. OCT. 16	154
CHARTER # 9	DEP. OCT. 18	37
CHARTER #10	DEP. OCT. 20	93

A total of 2,031 visas were issued so far. Another 750 persons had been accepted after their interviews and were scheduled for medical examinations during the next three days. This represented a three-day backlog and gave us a reserve that we could draw from to fill future flights to capacity. The 3,000 visa mark should be reached in a matter of days. After that, it would be relatively easy to reach 6,000.

I discussed with Mike M. assigning Larry to Nairobi for a week. I was prepared to release him, but I wanted to be sure his absence would not increase the workload of the remaining officers. Mike M. confirmed that he and the other Officers could cope. I then spoke with Larry about my conversation with the H.C. I wanted him to check if the applicants in Nairobi belonged to the "screened out" applicants i.e. those who had been refused at Kampala. They might apply for Canada but not benefit from the "relaxed" selection criteria applicable to those processed in Kampala.

Friday, October 13: Jim Versteegh reported for duty this morning after travelling from Cologne to Beirut for a two-day briefing. I could not understand why he had been sent to Beirut. I did not believe that anyone could be that confused by the exchange of telegrams. He came to Kampala via Nicosia, arriving fortunately as the workload had increased by nearly one third.

For the past two days, Peggy Watson and Jesse Chiha had been frantically typing the long lists of file numbers of those Asians

who had been selected as a result of the three-day "culling exercise." They had also been typing shorter lists of interviews scheduled for October 18 and 19 that were handed in to the Argus for next day's issue. The longer or 'definitive', list, contained the file numbers of persons invited for the 12 working days from October 20 to 31. Copies of these lists were posted on the office windows to let Asians check their day of interview, in anticipation of the press notice. The large list was delivered somewhat later to the Argus for publication on October 19.

A caption on the large list suggested that Asians, whose file numbers did not appear, should make other arrangements. It mentioned that we had Immigration Services at Embassies and High Commissions in the countries of their nationalities. This was meant to convey that persons who had valid passports and were free to travel out of Uganda, should plan accordingly. Most knew that the UN was opening its Centre in a few days.

Representatives of the Ismaili Community asked to see me at the behest of Sir Eboo. They handed me two lists with the names of 133 Ismailis who had not been called for interview. They also presented me with a list concerning stateless Ismailis, who also were not invited for interviews. They had not checked if these file numbers were among those just posted on the office window. I repeated that we would review their request on Sunday.

Today, Friday, October 13, was a red-letter day. A record 202 visas were issued. This was the situation for the next three flights:

CHARTER # 8	DEP. OCT.16	156
CHARTER # 9	DEP. OCT.18	143
CHARTER #10	DEP. OCT.20	140

I thanked the medical technicians once again for the tremendous job they were doing under difficult conditions. There was no more doubt about our ability to fill every charter and to meet our goal.

Saturday October 14: The members of the team who reported to work today had one common topic for a good part of the day--statistics, more statistics and output. They issued 262 visas--another record. Hal Malone volunteered his services and he agreed to sort out several hundred forms which had to be arranged in numerical sequence before they could be sent to Quality Control, Programs and Policy, IMM HQs.

Mo B. was performing like a pro at the counter and was never idle. Asians inquiring for information accepted the fact that we were serious about phasing out our operations with the

publication of the "last and definitive long list." Mo B. made sure that people understood that clearly. He had his hands full keeping an eye for irregularities which occurred now and then with name substitutions. Asians now openly referred to him as "Genghis Khan." I doubted very much that the real GK would have been as polite and considerate as Mo B. He kept his cool at all times and managed to provide answers, to the satisfaction of most clients.

Sunday, October 15: Only part of the team was asked to show up at the office on Sunday to interview applicants and book Asians for the next charters. The Ismaili representatives brought me applications from older Asians with relatives in the UK, Pakistan etc. All of them claimed to be stateless. Even if we issued visas, they would be public charge on arrival. I told them to contact me in one week as I had to raise this matter with my HQs. These fell four square within category C2, Annex "A."

Monday, October 16: Charter #8 was due out this morning. A few technicians joined Gerry C., Norm O. and Don L. checking identities and controlling the baggage weight per person. John McN was busy chasing away the young African Ugandans who posed as porters. Sometimes they were lucky when a departing Asian carrying more than his allowance of 20kg was forced to decide very hastily, which bag he was to leave behind. The porters would fight over the prize.

Norm Olson was leaving us to return aboard Charter # 8 as escort officer. He was with the team for four days and yet, had set a record of visa output during that short period. I was sorry to see him leave.

Norm Olson and Gerry Campbell lead the convoy of buses to Entebbe. For the past week or ten days there had been no need for either of the two Liaison Officers from Nairobi to lead the convoys to Entebbe. Gerry was quite up to the task. In any case, they never helped with the boarding of the Asians.

I took note of the contents of two very important notices published by the British High Commission and promptly sent the following message:-

TO IMMIGOTT ATT IMFOR MITCHELL

FROM DOMCAN KAMPALA JUBILEE 16/10

"BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION ANNOUNCED IN NEWSPAPER THIS AM THAT UGANDANS WHOSE WIVES HOLD BRITISH PASSPORTS WOULD BE PROCESSED FOR UK ENTRY VOUCHERS. ALSO THE BHC WAS REVIEWING APPLICATIONS FOR BRITISH PASSPORT FROM PERSONS WHO WERE LATE IN RENOUNCING OR

DID NOT RENOUNCE BRITISH NATIONALITY AND WERE NOT/NOT CONSIDERED BY UGANDA GOVT TO HAD CLAIM TO UGANDAN NATIONALITY. THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAD THE EFFECT OF PERMITTING UGANDANS MARRIED TO BRITISH PP HOLDERS TO ENTER UK IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS AND ALSO PERMIT ISSUE OR CONSIDERATION TO ISSUE BRITISH PASSPORT TO A LARGE SEGMENT OF PEOPLE WHO HAD CLAIMED QUOTE STATELESS STATUS UNQUOTE. ON BASIS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND OUR ATTITUDE TO PROCEED AS PER AGREED CRITERIA AND MY NOTES DELIVERED TO YOU BY NORMAN OLSON SHOULD NOW CLARIFY FACT THAT MEMBERS OF CERTAIN GROUPS WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR UK ENTRY CERTIFICATES AND JOIN RELATIVES IN THAT COUNTRY."

Later that day I met the Chief British Immigration officer who said that the notice was incorrect. In fact, only those Asians in possession of British vouchers would be accepted for the UK. The Ugandan spouse and children would have to stay behind. Hardly a humanitarian gesture. With a Machiavellian twist, Kevin Croakham thought that if the Ugandan spouse and children were accepted for Canada, they could be joined later by the spouse who had entered the UK with a voucher. I told him that we did not make it a point of separating core members of a family. It had been a smoke screen and I had to get back to Mr. Mitchell for a correction.

At 10:00 pm, in the first clear telephone call from GM Mitchell, Ottawa, I was told to note the new schedule of chartered flights:

OCT	COM	PAS	OCT	COM	PAS	NOV	COM	PAS
16	PWA	153	25	CPA	152	02	A/C	147
18	PWA	153	26	PWA	153	02	CPA	153
19	CPA	152	27	A/C	198	03	A/C	210
20	PWA	153	27	CPA	152	04	CPA	152
21	CPA	152	29	CPA	152	05	PWA	153
22	PWA	153	30	PWA	153	06	CPA	152
23	CPA	152	31	CPA	152	07	PWA	153
24	PWA	152	31	A/C	210	08	A/C	210
25	A/C	147	NOV 01	PWA	152	08	CPA	152

TOTAL CAPACITY 4,323 PASSENGERS

I repeated my objection to two chartered flights in one day. I wished someone at IMM HQs. would listen. I reminded him that he had seen the bedlam at the smaller shed on the occasion of the departure of Asians aboard Charter #1. The Customs and Immigration officers operated at a snail's pace and women Customs Officers took their time stripping Asian women to look for hidden jewellery.

Maurice M. agreed to drop the A/C flight of October 25 and said that I would have to accept this new schedule until further notice. Once again, I had not been consulted. I didn't understand

why I was not consulted when I was responsible for the co-ordination and delivery of the program.

Dan Gruer and Laurent Gagnon from FBHQs. would be arriving October 18 with Major Benson from the Longue Pointe Army Depot & Receiving Centre for Asians (out of uniform, I hope). Four additional technicians would also be on that flight to relieve their overworked colleagues. Larry Gagnon would stay until November 8.

Maurice M brought up the subject of stateless persons and my telegram about the notices by the British HC. Notwithstanding what they were doing, I was told to give stateless applicants priority of processing over Ugandan Asians.....Sir Eboo had reached a higher authority--the highest, I presumed.

As an afterthought, he suggested that I be relieved. He felt I had been working without interruption since I arrived. Roger Martineau from the Rome office would take over. I told him I came here because he had requested me and I would see the job through to the end. I reminded him that there had been no office when I'd arrived. I had set it all up and I had no intention to leave or to be replaced. He accepted my position.

Reading notes, he said the Department of External Affairs would be providing the services of two typists from their Embassies in Africa. He did not know when they would arrive. He then read a note to the effect that the Medical Section had asked for a typist and I should let them have Veronica Clarke. No one asked me for a typist and, as far as I was aware, their section had kept up with the workload. Furthermore, Miss Clarke was not available for the Medical Section. The fastest typist, she could complete the data on the form 1000 faster than anyone else. We needed her more than the Medical Section. I reassured him that I would get in touch with Doctor Piché in the morning. I told him that I'd had my problems with "Marcel." We could use the two typists and Dr. Piché could have one or both. However, I'd decide who went where, as it was agreed from the beginning.

Finally, Maurice Mitchell said he was arriving for a second visit October 20 with Wally Dickman, my nemesis when it came to the schedule of chartered aircraft. We would meet at last.

At the bottom of his list was another complaint to the effect that forms IMM 535 should be sent to Central Records without delay. The form was a declaration which bound persons to submit to period medical checks once in Canada. We had given these forms to escort officers to hand in to IMM HQs.

It was close to 10:45 pm when Mr. Mitchell rang off. It was

another long day, with new arrivals and departures. The call had come when I was in a deep sleep. I was ready to take notes but, I never expected the new schedule to be read over the phone. A telex would have been quite appropriate. In a short time, I was asleep again.

Tuesday, October 17: At 6:00 am the next day I went to the parking area to watch Gerry C. supervise Asians boarding buses for Charter #8.

On arrival at the office that morning I told staff about the conversation with Mr. Mitchell. The decision to give top priority to the selection of stateless persons was the first subject I touched on. As of that moment, we would interview all those cases that came to our attention through paper screening or representations.

The new schedule was tough to implement. On some days, we would have to fill two flights, something I hoped could be avoided. I mentioned that Mr. Mitchell had agreed to the cancellation of the A/C October 25 charter. We were getting additional help, Danny Gruer and Larry Gagnon as well as the four technicians were coming to relieve the hard pressed X-Ray and lab technicians.

Dr. Piché was not in his office so I spoke to his administrative assistant, Peter Griffith. He said one typist would be needed because of the increasing workload but they had managed so far. I told him he could count on receiving a secretary from External Affairs. He said that Dr. Piché had asked Rome to send one of the Italian employees, Mrs. Adriana Tettoni, to assist. That did not explain why he should ask for or want an Italian medical secretary to come to Kampala, when we had staff here to assist him. He had not asked me for help. I objected to the way Dr. Piché took action without consultation.

I would not otherwise object to the presence of Adriana De Angelis was, now Mrs. Tettoni. I could never forget that she was my first secretary-interpreter when I arrived at the Rome Visa Office, in October 1957. With her patience and assistance, I learned Italian in a few months.

Telex 1412 dated 16/10 confirmed that Milton Schellenberger would arrive aboard PWA Charter # 9 tomorrow with, D. Gruer and Larry G. The telegram made no mention of Major Benson or the DND technicians.

I met with Mike M. and Gerry C. to talk about the new schedule. They agreed there was no point to object any further as long as we were able to fill the outgoing charters. If we failed, for lack of Asians, we could always say "we told you so," and that

"twin" flights should have been scrapped, from the beginning.

The number of Asians who failed to appear for interviews was increasing and this was upsetting our targeting output for the chartered flights. This morning, 47 applicants failed to show up out of 156. Although the rate of interview was increased to make up for the number of "no show" cases, I had not anticipated so many. I raised the rate of interviews again.

A total of 3,499 visas had been issued. Of this number, 839 Asians had left with chartered aircraft. We had 638 passengers booked on the next five flights. Everyone was aware that the new schedule placed a heavy burden on us to produce a continued high yield of visas and passengers for the flights. The Medical Section and the mobile unit technicians were able to meet the challenge--we had to prove worthy of that challenge too.

Wednesday, October 18: Gerry C showed up promptly at 6:30 am to supervise the loading of buses for Charter # 9. Jacques D and Mike M were there to assist with John McN. I told Gerry and Phil B. I would see them later at the embarkation shed, to meet the personnel arriving aboard the PWA flight, due at 11:00 am.

It was at this point I was briefed about the problems faced by the MEDHAVJI brothers. They were expected to pick up their visas but had failed to report at the back of the hotel for today's charter, although their dependants were there. They had previously been arrested by the Uganda Security Forces on trumped up charges. Luckily, they were turned over to the Uganda Police. Upon hearing that the brothers had appointments at the Canadian mission to pick up their visas, a police sergeant had come to our office with the two brothers. I confirmed their statements and added that they were booked to depart October 18 at about 11:00 am. The Sergeant agreed to deliver them to the airport.

I witnessed their arrival. Each had a small suitcase and was escorted by two members of the security forces in mufti. I handed them their visas and said their wives and children had already cleared customs and would board the plane shortly. Once all the passengers were on board, the security men brought the brothers to the foot of the ramp, intending to go aboard. I stopped them saying "This is Canada, you may not come aboard." They hesitated, released the brothers and returned to their car. The bus brought the Asians from the temporary shed to the plane and I was aboard the aircraft to witness a very happy family re-unification.

I left the aircraft and headed for the main arrival lounge where I saw Danny Gruer, Larry Gagnon, Milt Schellenberger, Major Benson (in mufti) and the four technicians as they were going through Customs and Immigration. The technicians brought supplies

of plastic cups and bottles for stool and urine tests. The customs officer insisted on an "import franchise" to clear the items. Phil B. flashed his Uganda Accreditation Card saying the items had no value. The Customs Supervisor remained adamant. I then suggested to Phil that he explain their use. When he started to described the purpose they shook their heads in disbelief and allowed the packages to go through...

It took two minibuses to carry the new arrivals and their luggage. I noticed that for the first time, all road blocks and control points manned by the army and police had been removed. It was an indication that tension had subsided for the time being.

Everyone was pleased to welcome the new arrivals, especially the technicians. Danny Gruer and Larry Gagnon were assigned to the Visa and Booking Desks where the workload was heaviest. They required little in the way of a briefing and were on the job in no time.

Milton Schellenberger was keen to see the operations as he was unable to do so on October 2. He gave me the schedule of chartered aircraft which M. Mitchell had read over the phone. I discussed it with Milt and renewed my objections to the twin flights. Since he was leaving the following day as escort officer aboard CPA Charter # 10, I said I would prepare an up-to-date statistical report and forecast for Mr. Mitchell. I would try once more to validate my case against the twin flights.

Major Benson had problems with being addressed as "mister" by the technicians who enjoyed the opportunity to rib him. I was pleased to explain how the immigration component functioned. He was introduced to Dr. Piché who did the same.

Hal Malone was busy speaking with Asians, gathering information on human interest stories. He had already reported, back in Canada, that Asians refer to me as "the man." I appreciated the fact that he volunteered to help. He said he was prepared to be the escort officer and replace Jacques D. who will depart later. He was also impressed with the way the operation ran. He had learned the ropes and I decided he should replace Jacques D. as escort officer aboard Charter #11, October 20. Jacques D. would depart with the following flight.

Hal was leaving Nairobi to meet with the C.H.C. He wished to discuss the articles he was writing on Asians. It was important that none of the articles jeopardize anyone. He would return next evening, Oct. 19, for a briefing about his duties as escort officer.

It was another exhausting day. The Counselling Officers selected

217 Asians who were all referred to the mobile unit. We issued 163 visas bringing the total of visas issued to 3,662. We were over the 50% target. Completing the "affirmation for visa" forms was slowing the process for stateless persons. It also held up the flow to reach the booking Desk but we had no choice as we had to give the Stateless persons priority.

Some people are over-achievers. Jacques Drapeau was such a person. He always arrived at the office promptly at 8:00 am, took a stack of files and interviewed his first client by 8:01. From the very first day of his arrival, he showed a determination to interview more clients than anyone else and developed a line of questioning which left the client little opportunity to waste time on irrelevancies.

Jacques never failed to be objective, weighing all aspects of an applicant's case, including humanitarian and compassionate consideration. His determination soon cost him his voice and he showed the strain of his pace. That evening, Dr. Piché paid him a visit. As expected, Jacques D. was exhausted and needed rest. He was to be sent home to Montreal with Charter # 12.

Thursday, October 19: At 7:30 am I met Milt Schellenberger and gave him the information to pass to Mr. Mitchell. At the top of the list was a reminder that A/C Charter for October 25 had not been cancelled as he had told me on October 16. There were insufficient applicants to fill two flights per day at this time. I thanked him for the assistance of the escort officers but it would be more helpful if they could remain in Kampala three days. I suggested that one or two officers remain until the end of the operations. I also gave Milt applications from the Ismaili representatives, concerning the "hardship cases." It was essential that Mr. Mitchell see these himself. There was sufficient time left to process these cases if he agreed.

I went with Milt to the rear of the hotel where the convoy of three buses with 152 Asians was ready to depart for Entebbe and board the CPA flight, Charter # 10. I saw Jacques D. He looked in pretty bad shape but he insisted on coming to the office. I assigned him to the Visa Desk to complete "affirmation for visas" where he would not have to say much since the data for the form was already on the application for emigration to Canada.

Unexpectedly, Larry C. walked in to the office accompanied by two ladies. I recognized Mrs. Adriana Tettoni, secretary to Dr. D. McRae, Area NH&W Medical Services Director, Rome. The other lady was Mrs. B. Kindrachuck, Secretary to the C.H.C., Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Larry explained that the ladies had arrived at Nairobi and

reported to the Canadian High Commission where he met them. Since he had taken care of all the Asians who had appeared up to yesterday and there were no others waiting, he offered to escort the women to Kampala.

I greeted Mrs. Adriana De Angelis-Tettoni with a warm welcome and told Peter Griffith that Dr. Piché could also have the services of Miss Kindrachuck. She was a mature person, accustomed to the ways of Asians and people from the East African Community. Dr. Piché accepted her services, assuring me that he would now be able to keep current on all aspects of the workload in the Medical Section including the mobile unit. I was pleased to hear that.

Most Asians who had relatives or friends who had already gone to Canada, knew about the arrangements awaiting them in Montreal. They had nothing but praise for the reception arrangements at Longue Pointe, the attention they received from the voluntary agencies and the Canadian armed forces. That knowledge influenced applicants to book and depart via charter flights.

I knew that previous day's low output was due merely to the turnover of staff. The Visa Desk staff issued 234 visas, 71 more than yesterday. Charters #11, 12 and 13 were filled and another 119 were booked on Charter #14. I had yet to receive confirmation that A/C flight of October 25 was cancelled.

The number of persons "failing to appear" was increasing steadily, due in part to the revised criteria by the British High Commission as mentioned to IMFOR in my telegram dated 16/10. It was also possible that many Asians had left for Kenya and Tanzania or the UK, India and Pakistan. Others may have been trying their luck with the USA and Australia. Could it be that some were dragging their feet and waiting for the General to recant!

There was a celebration of sorts that evening. Miss Ginette Leroux, the CPO typist was packing her bags and souvenirs, returning to Ottawa to honour a pledge. When she had left her fiancé on September 3, she had promised to return soon. Her fiancé had now reached the end of his tether and she would be getting married in a matter of days. The best arrangements for her return was a BOAC flight departing at 01:15 am. Jim Versteegh and Larry Carroll escorted her to the airport.

Hal Malone returned from Nairobi pleased with his meeting with the High Commissioner. In the presence of "Mr." Benson, Hal M. was briefed about the duties of an escort officer. If I had not promised Hal to depart with tomorrow's Charter # 11, I would have gladly switched him for Jacques D. who looked worse. He would be

on his way to Montreal the day after tomorrow.

Associating with members of the Canadian armed forces, I knew the question of a party would surface. Most of the personnel were agreeable to a subdued celebration.

John Stronach, Head of the M.U. and Peter Griffith approached me and Dr. Piché to obtain our consent for a party. I agreed provided that no one claimed for the cost of the meal which would be covered under hospitality. Dr. Piché and I contributed \$100.00 each.

It might not have been appropriate to organize a "social" before now. However, many members of the team had worked non-stop and, at this point, all Asians knew where they stood with regard to their application to emigrate to Canada. It was time to relax and ease the dreariness of the hotel-office-hotel routine. It would be an occasion to "show the flag"-- there were many Ugandans and Libyan officers in the hotel as well as government officials, diplomats, even an ambassador. Our presence should not go unnoticed.

It was made clear to both Peter G. and Bob S. that all the relevant arrangements should be made during their off-duty hours. There was to be no slackening of the pace of examinations.

Friday, October 20: For the first time, Mo B. asked to familiarize himself with the task of loading the expected 148 passengers to depart aboard Charter #11. Gerry C. and Larry C. became suspicious when they heard that some Asians were unable to report for the flight on the grounds that they had been unable to obtain the appropriate stamp on their "Tax Clearance" document or "Immigration Treatment" i.e., the foreign currency allowance. The excuses were plausible and could not be disproved. The convoy left with only 114 persons for the flight. Hal Malone boarded the aircraft with several taped interviews he had had with the staff and Asians as well. He also carried back many photos.

It was the first time that we had anyone failing to appear at the airport. It was a serious matter. I told Gerry C. we had to get to the bottom of this and, if any of those who failed to depart should show up at the office for a second chance, I wanted to be the first to question them.

SECOND VISIT BY THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS-MR.G.M. MITCHELL

I was unable to get away from the office to meet Mr. Maurice Mitchell, arriving this Friday October 20, accompanied by Wally Dickman, the Programs and Procedures Branch Co-ordinator. Mr.

Mitchell understood when he saw the crowd at the counter and Asians waiting in the Medical Section, as well as, in front of the Visa and Transportation unit. As our operations moved into the final phase, I wanted to make sure that everything was working smoothly.

He had brought mail for some of the staff and as he distributed the letters he set about glad-handing everyone, a task he enjoyed. As he went about the office, he was stunned to see Adriana De Angelis Tettoni. He also knew her during his posting to Rome, as Immigration Attache, from 1961 to 1965.

We went to the seventh floor for some quiet where Maurice told me the A/C flight of October 25 had been cancelled. I had to tell Gerry C. immediately; it was a good start. I explained how we operated and why people who receive visas were free to travel via commercial carriers or with our flights.

I mentioned the airport facilities--one hangar for all departing Asians i.e. ours, the Brits and others. If there was confusion and pandemonium with one flight they could imagine what would happen when two flights departed nearly simultaneously.

We also had a problem with clients booked on our charter who failed to honour that pledge. We had a sample of that earlier -- 34 persons failing to show up. We had had no advance warning of their intention not to depart.

Restricting the validity of the visas, might have avoided the situation, although I couldn't say if these people had valid reasons for failing to show up. I explained that some Asians had excuses to delay their departure e.g. selling something of value such as a car, furniture etc. Others believed rumours that the General might be swayed to change his edict and let the Asians stay.

We may have to overbook each flight in order to make up for a shortfall of passengers. One could imagine the chaos for those returning from the airport. I'd try anything to avoid a recurrence of this morning's fiasco.

I waited for suggestions which never materialized. In my estimation four or five flights would have to be cancelled, since it was unrealistic to maintain the schedule as it was. I had provided statistics and these had to be considered when making up the schedule. We couldn't base the requirements for flights on the number of visas issued.

To support some of the points and arguments advanced, I quoted the most recent statistics:

TOTAL NUMBER VISAS ISSUED:.....3,896

LESS: LEFT ABOARD CHARTER:	1,358	
BOOKED UNTIL OCT.25:	662	
VISAS NOT PICKED UP:	569	
TOTAL-TOTAL-TOTAL-2,589	2,589
LEFT VIA OTHER AIRLINES.....		1,307

Based on this data, I had to foresee the need for spaces on the flights according to the number of persons who were in the "medical stream." I estimated that a maximum of 80% of these persons might choose to travel via chartered aircraft. Another factor over which we had no control, was the number of Asians who "failed to appear." And to a lesser extent, those who would be refused after the interview. Wally D. thought that this was a very complex formula to arrive at the passenger load factor. I said it worked and it was invoked when I asked for no more than three flights per week. I asked Wally D. on what basis he had worked his estimate for the number of flights in the new schedule. They were swayed by the number of visas issued.

I repeated that some flights had to be cancelled and I wanted to go on record to that effect. I was not accepting the blame for someone else's miscalculation. Charters # 2,3 and 4 had been a disaster because no one had listened. Wally D. insisted that it was impossible to cancel the flights at this point but relented later saying that he could possibly cancel flights at the end of the schedule.

I relented too saying that if I requested cancellation of a flight, I would give him at least five days advance notice. I did not line-up this schedule and I should have been consulted the moment it was intended to go beyond three flights a week. I felt that if someone knew better than I what was needed at this end then they should have been here to try and fill those planes when there were no passengers to board them.

Mr. Mitchell was rather subdued during the discussions with Wally D. He changed the subject to stateless applicants. I admitted that I had not invited all those claiming to be stateless and for good reason. At interviews, Ugandan Asians would sometimes claim to be "stateless." When asked to produce a declaration from the Uganda Passport Office stating they had no claim to Ugandan nationality, most were reluctant. This suggested they were less than truthful. It was as if they did not want to be caught for reasons that escaped us.

They were also given the option of seeking a statement from the British High Commission for that same purpose. Some of the Asians to whom we issued "affirmation for visa" forms returned a few

days later with valid British passports. They were quick to note the limited validity of the "affirmation for visa" document. It did not give them the flexibility they had expected. Some were playing games and we were getting wise to it.

Who was a genuine stateless person? We received no co-operation from the British High Commission when we raised the question and, less from the Ugandan authorities. As far as the latter was concerned, a stamp on the person's birth certificate which read "not a Ugandan citizen" should be sufficient for anyone's purpose.

The US Embassy had made headlines by stating that it would accept 1,000 stateless persons. They accepted only young qualified members of the professions and scientists. They excluded aged parents. As of yesterday, they had processed 378 applications and the US Consul admitted that he took the applicant's word at face value on the question of being a stateless person. Even under those conditions, he was certain he would not be able to fill his allotted quota of 1,000 stateless immigrants.

I added that the U.S. Consul had also experienced problems concerning visaed Asians failing to appear at the airport. They had great difficulties securing 50 seats on one aircraft in expectation of filling each one. They were greatly disappointed by the rate of "no show". He was unable to explain why and I told him that the young Asians would not depart without their parents-Asians believe in the family concept.

Nevertheless, such incidents tended to confirm statements made by the Ugandan authorities that Asians often possessed more than one or two passports. I also concluded that some carried more than one visa and bided their time to decide where to go.

This was proven when overseeing the departure of Asians, I met John Paddick, the Australian Migration Chief. He asked if he could observe the boarding procedure for Canada. As the passengers cleared customs and headed for the aircraft, he recognized an Asian to whom he had issued a visa for Australia. John P. shouted "he's one of mine". The Asian saw John P. and waved at him. He had worked hard to get Canberra to accept that Asian and clearly that effort had been wasted.

I was sure Maurice Mitchell and Wally Dickman had heard all they wanted to hear about the flights but this was my only chance for a real discussion. The subject of the applications I had given to Milt Schellenberger on "hard core stateless cases" was next on the agenda. Mr. Mitchell was non-committal. However, we had to exercise some discretion if they were truly stateless. I was back to square one.

When he asked how many stateless persons had not been invited for interview, I was unable to provide the answer. This was one of the rare occasion when I could not provide him with the information. Since it was important, I would arrange for another hasty culling exercise tomorrow morning. Wally Dickman could lend a hand. We decided it was time to return to the main office where Wally could see how we were functioning.

John Stronach and Peter Griffith reported that the hotel management agreed on the cost of catering for the "social event". Mr. Mitchell was very surprised that the event could be held, given the situation in Kampala. I said that with diplomats and high ranking officers at the hotel, any available supplies in Uganda would likely be at the International hotel.

I met with Maurice Mitchell in his room that evening to discuss the evaluation report as to my performance for the past year as Officer-in-Charge, Immigration Operations, Beirut. He mentioned Treasury Board had accepted that rotational Immigration officers changed their classification to Foreign Service officer. In my case, I was converted at the FS 2 level, in a graduated scale that went from 1 to 5. I was closer to the bottom of that scale, after 17 years of service abroad, out of a total of 25 years with the Immigration Division!

Saturday, October 21: I was up early to make certain that Jacques Drapeau left for Canada for a deserved rest, aboard Charter # 12 departing this morning. He was the escort officer but was told not to over exert himself--we wanted him back soon, fully recovered.

Wally D. joined the rest of the staff at the office to participate in the culling exercise to establish an accurate count of stateless Asians not invited for interviews. The exercise, completed in the afternoon, showed that of 4,465 applicants not invited, 314 claimed to be stateless. I told Mr. Mitchell that we had issued 462 "affirmation for visa" forms to people who satisfied the interviewing officer that they were, in fact, stateless. At the beginning of the exercise, I had asked everyone involved to keep the file numbers of the stateless applicants, in the likelihood that we might be requested to invite them for interview.

At 10:30 am, Miss Odette Coté, secretary to the Ambassador of Canada at Yaounde, Cameroon, walked into the office and introduced herself. As for B. Kindrachuk, I had not received the details of her arrival. Fortunately, she had run into Bruce McNally, the Pan Am Agent, who arranged transportation to the office. She refused to go to the hotel for a rest, preferring to meet Canadians and offering to help in any capacity. I told her

she would be assigned to the "Medical" Desk of the Immigration Component, a very important stage of the processing.

She was very congenial, keen to play her part. She added that she met very few Canadians at Yaounde! I said she arrived at a very opportune time. She was invited to join the members of the Mission at a social this evening, and meet the largest number of Canadians in all of East Africa! She agreed to go to the hotel to rest.

We held 569 unclaimed visas, the same number as three days before. We could not coerce anyone who came to claim their visas to travel charter to Canada. It was also true that they could not get reservations with another airline to Canada without the visa. I published a notice in the newspaper asking Asians to claim their visas. Otherwise, the visas would be cancelled.

The Visa and Booking Desks issued 172 visas and had filled all the chartered flights up to and including the one departing October 27. This represented a total of 6 chartered aircraft. An outstanding performance which translated into promising prospects for the success of the Mission. Don L. agreed lock up as I had to proceed to the hotel to meet with GMM.

A time to work and a time to relax! The gathering around the pool of the hotel was impressive. All the volunteer workers, their husbands or escorts appeared. Among those invited, the Pan Am Agent and his assistants, Canadian Lecturers and Professors at the Makerere University, the US and Australian Consuls, members of the Management of the International Hotel (our thanks for the free use of bus parking space), employees of the Danish Clinic. We invited a number of Asians but they all left early. I invited Mr. R. Broadfoot, who had been so helpful when I first arrived but, he had already left.

GMM, Dr. Piché and I mixed with the crowd and met the spouses and other volunteers. Inviting the management had paid off since the buffet layout was a gourmet's surprise. The Chef and management were congratulated. GMM, Dr. Piché and I extended our appreciation to John Stronach and Peter Griffith for organizing this very successful and memorable "social" event.

There was another charter leaving early next morning and the celebrations had to be cut short for some of us. It still surprised me that GMM did not show any signs of jet lag.

Sunday, October 22: I caught sight of GMM in the lobby as I headed for the back of the hotel to see who had turned up to assist Gerry C. with the busing operations and departure of 150 Asians leaving aboard Charter #13. Two Asians did not show up.

When I returned to the lobby, GMM wanted to review yesterday's discussions. He thought that if persons claiming to be "stateless" were proven to be so, special consideration would have to be invoke under the provision of the "Oppressed Minority" Policy. Only Cabinet could approve such a decision and I would have to wait for word from him or Mr. Clark. As an afterthought, as he was about to step into the minibus, he said "it was a very good party last night and I thoroughly enjoyed myself." So did I but a few of us had to go to the office to work. The others could sleep late this morning.

Louis Mach had just arrived from London as Maurice Mitchell was driving away and for a few short moments, exchanged greetings. I was very pleased to see Louis again and I had GMM to thank for his presence here. I worked with him in Paris, Rome and Vienna. He was another dedicated officer and I wanted him on the team until the end of the operations. Mike M. immediately put him to work with Danny Gruer.

Although it was Sunday, it was not a day of rest. Peggy Watson and Veronica Clarke put in a nine-to-six day typing forms IMM 1000s' while Dan G. and Louis M. issued visas. Mike Molloy expected the arrival of some 30 Ugandan Asian students from the Makerere University. When they arrived, he addressed them in groups of 10. He outlined the problems they would be facing initially. He told them not to expects grants-even Canadians had trouble getting grants. The decision to proceed with their applications was strictly up to them. We did not get many takers.

There was something strange about the fact that Arnold Walker had not shown up at the Hotel or office. He was aboard the incoming CPA flight and should have accompanied Mo Benoit when the latter returned from the airport. Mo was also missing. At 16:00, Phil B. walked in with Arnold Walker. I asked Arnold where he had been after getting off the aircraft and he replied he was waiting in the arrival lounge for someone to take him to Kampala. I told him Mo B. was at the airport and he should have brought him back.

One hour later, Mo walked in, a very furious "Genghis Khan"! He was left at the shed, without transportation and no telephones. Phil B. spotted Arnold and after a few questions decided he should commandeer the minibus to drive back to Kampala, leaving Mo stranded at the airport. On two occasions, Phil approached officers about interviewing Asians. I had to tell him not to interfere with our office operation.

Monday, October 23: Mo B., by now familiar with the various aspects of bussing and embarkation process, volunteered to lead the convoy of 152 Asians heading to Entebbe to board Charter #14. The Escort Officer was Wally Dickman. As he left, he was still

adamant-no change to the schedule. I told Mo that the driver would only take instructions from him.

As I was about to leave the hotel, I met our High Commissioner and Walter Licari in the lobby. No one had told me of their arrival or visit. What was the purpose of having two Liaison Officers? Walter Licari said they had come on a liaison visit to the Uganda MFA and that they would come to the office later.

With the arrival of Louis Mach, I had five Officers interviewing Asians i.e. Mike M., Terry Colfer, Jim V. and Don L. The other Officers, Dan G., Larry G., Arnie W. and Larry C., were working in the in the Visa and Booking Desks, ably assisted by Miss R. Hughes and O. Coté. The maximum number of medical examinations per doctor remained unchanged i.e. 40 persons. The Immigration Officers were now interviewing more clients and, to avoid overloading the doctors, the Asians accepted after Immigration interviews, were given medical appointments four days hence instead of three.

The Visa and Booking Desks were geared to book three chartered flights per week and maybe more. Charter #18 had its full complement of 198 passengers and Charter #19 leaving the same day, October 27, had 45 passengers so far. This would be our first experience with two flights leaving the same day.

The Head of the Ismaili Community in Jinja handed me a list of persons claiming to be "stateless" who had not been invited. I told him his list would be considered in due course with the one from his colleague in Kampala. As I spoke with him, there was a commotion at the counter. An African Ugandan, accompanied by an Officer of the Uganda Army, asked to meet one of the volunteer employee. As I got up, the Officer came behind the counter heading for the Medical Section. I stopped him and said "this is part of the Canadian Embassy (I did not say High Commission) and that he had to stay at the counter to state his case.

He said that the Ugandan he accompanied claimed to own the car which previously belonged to an Asian and that the keys were in possession of the Asian's sister who worked for us in the Medical Section. Just then, the volunteer employee from the Medical Section came to the counter. She was Goan and said that the car belonged to her brother who had left Uganda-the car had not been paid for by the person claiming to own it. However, she admitted that she did not legally own the car. The matter was settled when she gave the keys to the Officer rather than the claimant.

For the past few days, Dr. Piché and I had informally discussed when the last medical examinations should take place. This was essential in order to plan the dismantling of the MU and the

return to Canada of the technicians. We had agreed, in principle, to set a cut-off date for clients referred to the MU near the end of the month. Once we agreed on the date, it could not be changed.

Mo B. was most vigilant at the counter. He saw one of our Doctors speaking with some Asians outside the office. The Doctor returned to the office with an Asian whom he introduced to the most recently arrived Immigration Officer and asked him to interview the Asian. When Mo told me this, I escorted the Asian out of the office and told the Doctor he should attend to his own duties. That particular applicant was not selected because he had a British passport and a voucher for the UK. Our priorities concerned persons who were less fortunate. I raised the incident with Dr. Piché and reminded him that his staff should not interfere with the selection process.

I met the High Commissioner in the evening and he excused himself for not coming at the office as promised. We met later in Dr. Piché's room in the presence of John Paddick, Australian Migration Officer and Dr. Gregg, an Australian Doctor working at the Mulago Hospital. Several topics were discussed. Mr. Olivier said he was pleased with the Mission's work. W. Licari and Phil B. joined the forum and said they had visited the British and India High Commissions. They learned that 3,700 nationals out of 4,400 had returned to India and the remainder were leaving shortly. They travelled by train to Mombasa and from there by ship to Bombay. The Indians were harassed on the way to the border.

Phil went on to say the British High Commission had issued 25,000 "Entry Vouchers" and that they expected to issue another 2,000 prior to November 8. These figures were not very different from the ones I had quoted to FBHQs., after the British Counsellor and Kevin Croakham had come to see me. It would have been more interesting to know how many Asians actually entered the United Kingdom on the basis of the "vouchers." I dare say some thousands went elsewhere.

Mr. Olivier expressed some concern about the Asians who may not be able to leave by November 8. I told him that some were "exempted" from the decree. There were indications that we might be asked to accept more "Stateless" persons. The decision was up to Cabinet and Mr. Mitchell said he would call me as soon as he had word. Many of these cases would fall four square within the "humanitarian" category. Last but not least, the United Nations had announced that it was setting up a Centre for "Stateless" Asians. With pressure from the UN, the deadline of November 8 might be stretched for a few days if the UN was unable to arrange transport for the Asians they wished to accept. Their destination

will be the holding camp at Traiskirchen, Vienna.

Tuesday, October 24: Charter # 15 departed with 155 passengers. The two passengers over and above its capacity were children. I thanked Arnold Walker for his assistance. We said good-bye to one of the Mission's most dedicated person, Rosanne Hughes. She was returning to Lagos, Nigeria.

When Dr. Piché and I arrived at the office, Mr. Michael Knipe of the London Times wished to ask questions about our operations and statistics. I gave him some information but urged him to return after lunch because I was too busy at that moment. In the absence of both Reg S. and Phil B., I had to send a telex to the HC Nairobi asking them to inform the Uganda MFA, concerning the departure of Miss R. Hughes, Don Lygo, Dan Gruer and Mrs. M.E. Hempel.

Allan Prien and Paul Gray arrived aboard the incoming PWA charter # 15 and reported to the office at 12:30. Mike M. did the honours and assigned Paul G. to the Visa Desk and Allan P. to interview Asians, replacing Don Lygo.

We had an unusually slow start because fewer clients reported for interview. I had based my projections of visa output on a "no show" rate of 20%. and to-day it climbed to 40%. I had no idea what caused the increase. I was still confident we would reach our goal of 6,000 visas by November 8. At 18:00, we were all pleased that we had 745 Asians booked on the next five scheduled flights. I had to swallow a bitter pill and admit that I was wrong about our ability to book enough passengers for the "twin" flights since both were now booked to near capacity. Nevertheless, I stood by my objections to the "twin" flights for the other reasons mentioned.

Wednesday, October 25: Terry Colfer was the Escort Officer aboard CPA Charter # 16. Paul Gray was asked to assist with the loading of the buses. I needed a break and decided to get into the lead car to Entebbe and possibly watch the Asians go through the controls before boarding Charter #16.

Lacking an Airport Pass, the Uganda Army Guards objected to letting us enter the "Restricted Area" although they had allowed us through on previous occasions. I had asked R. Smith and Phil B. time and again to obtain passes for myself, Mike M. and Mo B. but the passes never materialized. A while later, a Ugandan Immigration Officer came along and allowed me to proceed to the temporary departure shed.

THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE

When Paul Gray and I returned to the office, Mr. H. Christiansen, representative from the Inter-Governmental Committee on European Migration (ICEM), based in Geneva, was waiting to see me. He looked as if he was very anxious to deliver a message. He was fretting about the arrival of the United Nations Special Envoy from New York, Mr. B. Gardiner, and he wanted me to see him at 14:00.

I mentioned to him that I had dealings with ICEM and the International Refugee Organization between 1948 and 1952. He knew the reasons why Canada preferred to make its own arrangements to move the Asians. Changing the topic, he said they will be looking for suitable premises, equipment, furniture and furnishings, staff etc. I wished him good luck-I had been through all that.

Before noon Phil B. asked me to meet with Warren Prattley, the Director of the United Nations Development Program. When he mentioned the address, it turned out to be the same place where Dr. Gardiner and I were to meet later on. Mr. Prattley came out of his office, shook my hand saying he would be with me in a moment, adding that Dr. Gardiner was in his office. His first words were, "how much help could he receive from the Canadians?" He said he heard how we set up shop in record time. I said I would do all I could to co-operate since we are all here for the same purpose. Dr. Gardiner suggested that we proceed to the temporary offices recently opened by the UN in the East Africa Development Bldg. and meet Dr. Christiansen.

As I entered the temporary UN offices, a few Asians looked at me and did not quite know how to react. It was likely that we had turned down their application because they were holders of Pakistani or Indian passports. They would now claim to be "stateless!" I met the International Red Cross Representative, Mr. Schmidt. He showed me a copy of the IRC document. It was a mimeographed form with few details and a "two line" declaration which the applicant will sign stating that he is "Stateless". No photos were needed and he said this form was all that was needed. His employees had orders not to prod persons about their claim to "stateless" status. This was a completely different approach to the very crux of the problem of who is "stateless." It did not matter to the UN-they were here to move any Asian out of Uganda.

I felt this belated "magnanimous" gesture was a show of last resort on the part of the UN. It would attract all those Asians who did not meet our criteria and who did not wish to return to their country to face the very same dire economic straits which

promoted them to leave in the first place.

We met in Mr. Christiansen's air-conditioned office. In addition to Mr. Gardiner, there was an ICEM official responsible for arranging transportation and Mr. Schmidt from the International Red Cross. Mr. Christiansen spoke first saying that larger premises had been located across from the Canadian Mission's office and that furniture would be available shortly. The location was most convenient since refused Asians would not have far to go to apply to the UN.

When Mr. Gardiner spoke, he was impatient to know when the offices would open-he wanted a date. Mr. Christiansen replied that there were numerous items lacking such as typewriters, desks, screens, partitions, tables. I told Mr. Christiansen that we had reached a stage in our operations where we could spare some of these items and move them to their new premises in a matter of hours. This offer overjoyed Mr. Gardiner who came to shake my hand. I added that more furniture would be available shortly after that. I said that he could count on the co-operation of the Canadian Mission.

I invited him to visit our office. Once on the steps of the IPS Bldg., he looked to the right at the empty space which was to be the future site of the UN Centre. I introduced him to heads of Sections and to Dr. Piché. He was particularly impressed by the Mobile Unit and the technicians' skills with blood and stool samples and X-Rays. He ask if some of their "Stateless" clients could be referred to our M.U. and the answer was a polite "no". We were extremely busy and in approximately 8 days, the M.U. would be shipped back to Canada. I told him that the Danish Clinic could possibly accept requests for X-Rays. Dr. Gardiner was grateful for all the assistance Canada was ready to extend to Mr. Christiansen.

At 17:00 the Ismaili Community representative came again to press for special consideration for the Community's members, claiming that they were genuinely "stateless." He was bluffing and I gave him the name of Mr. Christiansen. They will be well treated by the UN and moved to Vienna. They could keep their passports hidden for future use.

Another very productive day since the next four flights were now fully booked, including the "twin" flights on October 27. Moreover, 107 Asians were booked for the October 30 charter. We were all pleased with that feat. I was confident that we would attain our objective of 6,000 visas. Eligible Asians were reporting and showing a keener interest in departing for Canada.

WINDING DOWN: PHASE 1-INTERVIEWS & MEDICALS

Thursday, October 26: GMM recruited more Officers to come to Kampala for short periods. Jacques Drapeau had recovered and arrived aboard Charter # 17 with Norm Derrick, Al Lukie and Jim Mitchell. Mike M. used their services to relieve interviewing officers or assist at the Visa or Booking Desks. Gerry Campbell was very happy at the thought of spending a few days rest at Las Palmas, aboard Charter # 17, with Al Prien as the Escort Officer.

I asked Jim McM to cull all "visaed" applications, a most exacting assignment. This was essential as the processing operations neared the final stage. I wanted to be absolutely sure that the statistics we had provided FBHQs. were exact. He completed the task by 15:00.

Larry Gagnon gave me the result of an assignment I gave him. He had gathered a list of the 250 visas which had not been claimed by Asians. The list was typed and delivered to the Argus and was to appear in the edition of October 27. The holders had 3 days to claim their visas or forfeit them.

There was some apprehension about to-morrow's first experience at handling the 353 Asians who were to board the buses and leave with the two charter flights. I spoke to the latest arrivals, Norm Derrick, Jim Mitchell and Al Lukie asking them to assist under the supervision of Gerry and Larry.

Al Lukie was well suited to work at the Visa Desk. He was a Visa Officer at the High Commission at Rawalpindi, Pakistan. He was hoping to be posted to Nairobi because the Foreign Branch had received representations to extend Immigration facilities at the HC, Nairobi to service requests from several nearby countries.

Jacques Drapeau still looked pale but he insisted on interviewing Asians. I told him he could relax since the next four flights were filled to capacity.

Later that afternoon, Jim McMaster said Gerry Campbell was back at the Hotel! I said it can't be since he left aboard Charter #17. Jim said he sounded very angry. Something went wrong and I thought it might have to do with the Spanish Immigration authorities at Las Palmas. This had happened before, although Frank Sharp stayed twice without incident. If he was back, I expected to see him shortly.

The Chief of the British Immigration Team came to seek statistics

about Asians accepted by Canada. He was very surprised that I was able to provide him with a breakdown immediately. As it happened, Jim McM gave me the results of his survey a few minutes before Kevin came to my office. He mentioned that there was a possibility that the Passport Section of the British High Commission would review claims from persons who had lost their "British status" by late renunciation. A small number of persons might receive a passport as a result of this change and they could also apply for and obtain Entry Vouchers for the UK. I knew about it from the notice they had published to that effect in the Argus on October 16. However, he had no idea how many may have applied and were successful. This may explain why some of the Asians had failed to show up either for interviews or at the back of the hotel to board the buses. If they thought they had a chance to obtain a British Passport and voucher, they preferred to take that chance.

The representative of the Ismaili Community made it a habit of appearing at the office near closing time. This time, he tried a new approach. He had received news that their spiritual leader, the Aga Khan, had deposited \$1,000,000 with the Head of the Toronto Ismaili Community. He wanted me to accept the people whose names appeared on the list he gave me, adding that they would be cared for by the Toronto Community and not the Canadian Government.

I said we would continue to enforce the selection criteria which applied equally to all Asians, notwithstanding the financial assistance made available by their spiritual leader. I told him that I expected to receive information from Canada at any time concerning the "special" cases he spoke about, and that I would get in touch with him as soon as I had that information. There was still ample time to process any urgent requests. He said he had met with Mr. Christiansen as I had suggested regarding "Stateless" Asians, including the Ismailis. He had personally told his followers to apply and register at the UN Centre as of Saturday, October 28. In a helpful gesture, he added that he also provided Mr. Christiansen with carpenters and furniture.

At the last moment before closing, the Uganda Police came in with 7 Ismailis who had been detained for no particular reason. They wanted confirmation that the 7 were booked to depart to-morrow which I did by producing their boarding cards which I handed to them. We requested the Police Sergeant and his Corporal to be at the airport no later than 10:00. They agreed and before leaving, I asked the Asians how they were being treated, they said "very well by the Police." This may have been an exception -- as mentioned before, the treatment by the Internal Security Police forces was usually brutal.

I saw Gerry C. as I arrived at the hotel. He was still very bitter. He said that, once aboard the flight to Las Palmas, he had met his nemesis, Captain Bell of PWA. The latter refused to sign Gerry on as a member of the crew because of an earlier incident at the airport with Charter #9, October 18. On that occasion, Captain Bell asked Gerry to take six Asians off the flight so that he and five other crew members could travel to Accra, a PWA refuelling point in the earlier flights. Gerry refused and, by doing so, had slighted the pride of a senior commercial pilot-the latter never forgot. Gerry never had much love for the PWA crews. If he had had his way, all PWA flights would have been cancelled!

There was one consolation in all this--he could share with the others a real treat this evening. Jim Mitchell had brought a 5 pound round of Black Diamond cheese, compliments of G.M. Mitchell. A few days previously, the Dept. of NH&W had sent two boxes of apples. One box was distributed to the volunteer staff. Some Canadian wives had not seen apples for years and some of their children had forgotten what they tasted like.

The call from GMM, Ottawa came at 11.30 pm asking that I take notes:

- a) Accept cases on humanitarian grounds in cases where the persons can establish themselves! I could accept up to 300 hard core cases as a last resort.
- b) Use the procedure outlined in OM23M where this was more expedient if deemed necessary.
- c) Phasing-out operations:-
 - i) Interview all "bona fide stateless" persons;
 - ii) No medical examinations after November 3;
 - iii) Back-up team: Molloy, Benoit, Carroll and volunteers;
 - iv) Two secretaries in Nairobi for back-up operations;
 - v) Molloy and Benoit to leave a few days after November 8 with documents, files and visa stamps for Nairobi;
 - vi) There would be a charter for November 6, 7 and 8;
 - vii) FBHQs had grave reservations about cancelling flights;
 - viii) Even if flights three-quarters full, accept schedule as is;
 - ix) Since 2,000 Asians with visas had not yet arrived in Canada, there was no limitation anymore to the number we were to accept if they met the relaxed criteria.

Notwithstanding c) vii) and ix) I said I could not fill the twin flights on November 5, 7 and 8. I had exhausted every possibility

to find Asians eligible under the relaxed criteria. This was agreed with Wally D. GMM relented saying he would think it over. I agreed to no medical examinations after November 3. Immigration interviews would end October 31.

He confirmed that 6,000 visas remained the ultimate aim. However, the Government wanted to avoid criticism about any "stateless" or other "humanitarian" cases left behind. I told him the UN Centre would open in two days and would accept Asians regardless of status.

I provided him with the latest statistical data. We had issued 5,076 visas and 523 persons had been accepted by Immigration and were waiting for medical examination. We had invited for interview, over the next 4 working days, some 500 applicants for a total of 1,722 persons. The "no show" rate had jumped to 70% and I expected that only 657 persons out of 1,722 might be visaed for a total of 6,256 visas. We held 256 unclaimed visas and if no one came to claim them, we would end up with 6,000 visas, the target set by Cabinet.

I reassured GMM we were concerned about "humanitarian" and "stateless" cases and that we would be reviewing all such cases very carefully starting the following morning. I ended by saying that both flights for to-morrow were full. This might overjoy Wally Dickman who would no doubt say to him "see Maurice, I told you I was right!" With a second flight on the same day, we have eliminated the reserve of visaed Asians that was so important to tide us over for the next flights.

Earlier that same evening, John Stronach asked if I would object to inviting the Hotel Security Officer to room 393. I had no objection as he had been most co-operative from the start. We needed him more than ever as we needed twice as much parking space for the buses to-morrow morning. No one was to discuss politics or talk about the General.

Tom Mdume was a very pleasant person. He refused a drink because he was "on duty." He said the Canadians were always kind, polite and that he felt at ease with us. He offered to help if he could be of further service and I took him up on his offer. Gerry explained that we would need much more parking space for the seven buses at 6.30 am. He was unflustered and said he would look after it. Everyone else would be asked to park elsewhere! He refused to be compensated. Like other hotel employees, they had grown fond of Canadians. To him and the staff, we were not just hotel guests-we were friends.

Friday, October 27: Nearly every member of the Mission turned up to watch our first experience at loading seven buses. However,

only six buses turned up at 06:30 to transport the 353 Asians to Entebbe, to board Charters # 18 and 19. Gerry C. failed to appear due to some malaise. I appointed Mo B. to replace him and he was assisted by several Officers and technicians. The latter stopped cars from entering the parking lot and directed Asians to their buses according to the colour of their boarding passes-blue for CPA and red for A/C. John McN. got the missing bus to report later.

The three buses for the CPA flight headed the convoy to Entebbe airport. Dr. Stubbings was a passenger returning to Canada. Paul Gray and Jim Versteegh were the Escort Officers and Jim was scheduled to return to Kampala.

The convoy did not encounter problems along the road. On arrival at the special hangar, we had to keep the buses of CPA passengers separate from the ones flying with A/C. The Uganda Customs did not unduly delay anyone. There was no need for me to remain as there were enough officers to attend to the boarding controls. John McN. was most helpful. He had a lot of experience with the procedure. We were fortunate that there were no other charter aircraft, apart from our own, scheduled to transport Asians that day.

Don Lygo was returning to Birmingham by way of Nairobi. He had carried his full share of the workload and done an excellent job. He was returning for his son's anniversary.

When I arrived at the office, Jim McM. handed me the Uganda Argus. The front page caption read "11 DAYS TO GO--ASIANS MUST LEAVE." The applicants with visas who had procrastinated would now realise that General Idi Amin Dada was serious about the November 8 deadline. The Asians who had not claimed their visas had four days to do so.

Mr. Christiansen came to ask for the "loan" of the furnishings I had promised. He got some moveable partitions, leased furniture, desks and typewriters. He did not require anything else. He said his staff would be ready to receive the Asians as of to-morrow. John McN. looked after the moving and kept track of it in his inventory.

I introduced another change in our procedure as a result of the ever increasing percentage of "no shows." From the start of the operations, I asked the Officers to complete the form IMM 1067 for each applicant selected for interview. At first, when over 90 % of the clients showed up for the interview, this practice saved time. However, with the high rate of Asians failing to show up, there was a waste of time and of the numbered printed forms. A change was necessary.

Before doing so, I consulted with Mrs. Peggy Watson, the most knowledgeable and competent person in completing the form IMM 1067. She agreed to test the suggested change, to complete the IMM 1067 when the client appeared at the counter. When she tried it, she completed the IMM 1067 in a few minutes. She then directed the applicant to an Immigration Officer with the file. The change was implemented because it did not slow the process.

Mo B. reported that an Asian came to the counter with an incomplete "Affirmation for Visa" seeking a visa for Canada. When he checked the file, he saw that he had been refused. The Asian explained that after he was refused, he stopped at the next desk where his friend was waiting for his "Affirmation for Visa." When his friend was through, the Immigration Officer said "next". He sat down and the officer partially completed the form without his file. He then told him to get his file from the person at the counter!

I went over to the UN Centre to see if Mr. Christiansen lacked anything for the next day's opening. He was satisfied that everyone had a desk or a table. Nothing further was needed at the moment. I asked if they would register all persons claiming to be "stateless" and his reply was "the more the better." And he added "it will not matter if they are "stateless" or not!"

As I had promised GMM, I invited all the "stateless" persons for whom we held application forms. We had kept a list of those files during the second culling exercise and delivered a copy to the Argus editor at 18:30. We stressed in the notice that only those persons able to prove they were "stateless" should apply.

The Visa and Booking Desks logged a record 200 persons for the October 31 flight and beyond. There were no charters for tomorrow so the "bus loading crew" could sleep late, reporting at 8:00.

Saturday, October 28: Opening of the UN Centre-

The opening attracted as many African Ugandan as Asians. The long queues interfered with clients invited to our Mission. Only 89 showed up out of the 145 heads of family and/or single persons we had called up. The notice about unclaimed visas was more successful as 193 Asians came to collect their visas out of 256. None of the excuses given for their late appearance could be substantiated. I told the staff to limit the validity of the visas so that we could find out if the holders were serious about leaving with the chartered aircraft. This move caused an increase of work in the Visa & Booking Units but the results were positive and worthwhile.

Several Asians who had been accepted and received visas for

Canada found themselves in a Catch 22 situation. The Bank of Uganda had issued a memorandum to Travel and Booking Agents not to sell tickets to them since they could fly free aboard the Canadian chartered aircraft! This also applied to Asians who had a visa for Canada and wished to travel indirectly to Canada. They were refused airlines tickets and told to go to Canada directly--it was free.

The ruling of the Bank of Uganda may partly explain why we were experiencing a high rate of "no show." If an Asian thought that he could be accepted by another country, he could buy a ticket and travel as he wished. Time was running out as our last interviews were scheduled for October 30 and 31.

There had been rumours in the past few days that the Bank of Uganda had ordered the printing of new Ugandan paper currency. The Asians faced difficulties withdrawing large amounts of currency. The rumour later proved to be true. The new Ugandan Shilling paper currency had already been printed in the German Democratic Republic.

Everyone was feeling that we were approaching the home stretch. Flights were booked until November 2, including the twin flights of October 31. However, we had not booked any Asians on the second flight for November 2, A/C charter # 25, since we needed the space for the mobile unit and the two generators that were never used. The technicians would also board that flight. The number of Asians it would carry had yet to be determined.

As part of our ongoing daily discussions with Dr. Piché and John Stronach and, in line with the need to phase out the processing of Asians, we arrived at a consensus concerning the last day for medical examination. We would stand firm on the agreed date of October 31 for immigration interviews and referral to the mobile unit. As well, Dr. Piché's section would examine only those persons who had undergone X-Ray, stool and blood tests, up to and including on November 3. In effect, the mobile unit could be removed by the evening of November 1 to the airport, ready for loading the next morning. At this point, Charter # 25 had been selected for the return journey of the unit and the technicians. This conformed with C) ii) of Mr. Mitchell's directive--"no medicals" after Nov. 3.

Gerry C. was missing at work for the second day because of illness and Mo B. had failed to return to the office in the afternoon. When I met him in his room later that evening, he explained that he was on his way to the office after lunch when, all of a sudden, his insides seem to turn into water. He made it back to the hotel just in time. "Genghis Khan" had met his match--the African trots. He assured me he would be on hand at 6:00 am

to supervise the loading of the buses for Charter # 20. Somehow, looking at him, pale and drained, I felt I had better arrange for a substitute, to be on the safe side.

Sunday, October 29: I was at the back of the hotel earlier than most of the others when I spotted Mo B. He looked fine. With him was Dan Gruer who was the escort officer for this flight, Charter # 20.

Gerry C. had recovered as well and he decided to join me and Louis Mach to the office. We noted that few Asians were queuing at the UN Centre. We had invited 140 applicants but only 59 appeared.

Mr. P. Komorsky, the representative in Kampala for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees called in the morning asking if I could come to an informal buffet lunch together with other officers.

In addition to Mr. K. and his wife, who greeted us, we also met people from the ICEM and IRC. Some were from UNESCO. Two doctors from Geneva on loan to the UNHCR for the Kampala UN Centre medical examinations were there. I suggested they meet Dr. Piché. I mentioned that we were winding down, having started in early September. I had the impression that no one was greatly concerned about the Asians nor the events which were taking place in Uganda. Some had served in the Sudan and it was a *déjà vu* attitude.

When I returned to the office, there were three new arrivals and a returning escort officer, Terry Colfer. The others were Nadia Stachowski, Warren Major and Wilf Greaves who had come off the CPA flight. I escorted them around the office and explained the various phases Asians had to go through. The Medical Section, including the mobile unit technicians were not working on Sundays.

I explained that we were entering the last phase of the operations and gradually phasing out the various stages of the process. In a few days, we would cease to interview applicants. I suggested that they enjoy the rest of the day at the hotel or take a walk around the city.

At 5:00 pm there was no one at the UN Centre. They had registered anyone who had wished to apply. They were geared to accept many more people and must have been disappointed at the low turn out given the minimum conditions to register as stateless.

Mo B. had completely recovered and was entertaining the new arrivals who had joined everyone else in room 393. His stories

about the "mythical flea" kept us laughing for hours.

WINDING DOWN: PHASE 2--STAFF AND OPERATIONS

Monday, October 30: Norm Derrick was leaving aboard Charter # 21. I had known Norm from my early days at Lacolle in 1947. I thanked him for his support during his short stay and Mo B ran the show at the back of the hotel and to Entebbe.

Last evening, Nadia Stachowski told me that she had been sent to Kampala by Mr. M.G. Clark, Director General of the Foreign Branch and Mr. G.M. Mitchell, Director of Operations, Foreign Branch with specific instructions to get full details concerning the phasing out of "operation exodus". Mr.W. Licari from the Canadian High Commission, Nairobi, happened to be in Kampala and I wanted him to attend so he could report the decisions to Mr. G.M. Olivier, the H.C. I decided that the meeting should take place Monday morning, at 10:00 am.

The meeting took place as agreed on the seventh floor, attended by:-

- Mr. W. Licari, Nairobi HC, representing the H.C.-
- Mr. P. Boyes, Liaison officer from the Nairobi HC-
- Dr. M. Piché, Head of the Medical Section, team Kampala-
- Sgt.J. Stronach, Chief Technician, DND, mobile unit-
- Miss Nadia Stachowski, Special Representative Foreign Branch-
- A. Lukie, because of his imminent posting to Nairobi.

Nadia S. raised the questions which Messrs. Clark and Mitchell had asked her to broach: could some Asians be left behind after November 8, who might have been accepted by Canada. This question continued to preoccupy the Minister and the Government. If such a situation occurred, it would be embarrassing to both.

I said the best assurances I could give were the following:

- The United Nations Centre would register and take under its protection all Asians who wished to leave Uganda, whatever their nationality or lack of same.
- In the past 10 days, the "no shows" had gradually climbed to 50 percent. This was an obvious indication that the "no shows" had left Uganda. Otherwise they would have come to us for a second appointment.
- It must be remembered that many Asians in "key" positions had been specifically exempted by the Uganda Government--I couldn't guess the number, and if released, might prove embarrassing to the Government of Uganda.

-Thousands of vouchers for the UK had not been claimed and the British HC could not explain the reason. I mentioned that some 4,000 Asians from India had returned home while others had gone to Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Australian High Commission had taken a token number and the United States had been unable to get more than a few hundred Asians. The Brits who expected 80,000 Asians gave out vouchers for just over 25,000. The Asians who were still here and were not exempted were "shopping for deals"--they had passports, could go "home" but might opt for the UN Centre and go to Scandinavian countries, Germany etc....

There was no reason to be apprehensive. I believed we had accomplished our mandate to the fullest. There would be no Asians at our doors on November 8 seeking entry to Canada.

The list of staff disengagement I had drawn up was subject to review if Mr. Clark or Mr. Mitchell differed with my decision:

OCTOBER 31-N. Stachowski, escort officer, Charter # 22
J. Mitchell, escort officer, Charter # 23
NOVEMBER 1-W. Major, escort officer, Charter # 24
NOVEMBER 2-L. Gagnon, escort officer, Charter # 25
A. Lukie, escort officer, Charter # 26
Miss O. Cote to Yaounde
NOVEMBER 3- W. Greaves, escort officer, Charter # 27
Miss J. Carrière and Mrs. V. Clarke to CPO
All technicians from DND, to Montreal
Miss B. Kindrachuck to Dares Salaam
NOVEMBER 5- T. Colfer to Rome via Nairobi
J. Drapeau to Athens via Nairobi
Mrs. Labelle and Mrs. Watson to Ottawa
Mrs. A. De Angelis-Tettoni to Rome
Gerry Campbell to London
J. Versteegh to Cologne
L.D. Carroll to Ottawa via Nairobi

The services of the last three officers might be required to interview the remnants of Ugandan Asians in Kenya and Tanzania.

NOVEMBER 8- J. McMaster to Ottawa
L. Mach to London
R. St. Vincent to Beirut
NOVEMBER 10- M. Molloy to Beirut
M.G. Benoit to Ottawa

There were no objections to these arrangements. There remained the matter of the disposal of the inventory of furniture, furnishing, rental, lease etc. John McNeish could be entrusted

with this responsibility, subject to Mr. Olivier's concurrence. There would be a need to submit all post operational expenses to M&I for scrutiny and payment against the appropriation code, Project 32.

Dr. Piché had very little to add to what had been said. He was satisfied that they would not be examining applicants after November 3, since the mobile unit would be dismantled for shipment to Canada the next day. The volunteer staff were making other preparations and would gradually return to their activities. The doctors would arrange to return to their respective posts after November 3. Peter Griffith would collect and consolidate all the medical files and take it all back to Ottawa.

Having no other questions, Nadia S. said she would report to Mr. Clark and Mitchell in detail. I expected to hear from them in a few days.

Only twelve "Stateless" Asians showed up for interview in answer to our notice in the Argus. I was pleased that Nadia S. witnessed this low turn-out. Six of them said they were expecting to receive a British Passport as a result of the recent announcement by the British High Commission. The other six were uncooperative when asked to prove their claim to be "Stateless" persons. All twelve said they had registered at the UN Centre and were accepted for relocation.

At the close of our operations, 208 persons had been booked on future flights. We had issued 5,572 visas to date. There remained 113 cases to be interviewed for 282 persons and the Medical Section had a backlog of 463 persons to examine.

Tuesday, October 31: The morning's activity at the rear of the hotel was a repeat of four days ago. There were 290 persons scheduled to depart aboard Charters # 22 and 23. I watched the loading of the buses as officers checked the weight of the luggage. At one point, Larry Carroll got annoyed at the number of people who had brought more than the one suitcase allowed. I could hear him ask "How many suitcases do you have, sir? Sorry sir but you can only take one suitcase, which one do you wish to leave behind? Make up your mind Sir. Alright then this one is staying behind."

This routine had been going on for weeks but there was no other option. The extra luggage would end up with Ugandan servants or houseboys who came to see their employers off.

The officers, like Larry C. had been very vigilant. They had discovered that a baggage handler, an employee of the East

African Airlines had taken bribes from Asians to take extra luggage aboard our charters. They were completely oblivious to the dangers of overloading the aircraft.

One Asian had tried to smuggle 20 pounds of wood--he had been told how cold it was. Mo B. attended to him and the laughter as a result of Mo's remonstrance could be heard on the tenth floor of the hotel where some of the staff were watching the incident.

As the staff arrived at the office at 8:00 am, there were very few applicants indeed. We counted 59 cases for 132 persons. All the interviews were over by 11:30. With a few additional persons who turned up to go with charter flights, 158 persons were booked.

At 10:45 am, the East African Airlines landing agent, acting on behalf of Air Canada, called to say that the Ugandan army officer on duty at the Entebbe airport had not allowed the A/C Charter # 22 to land since the Ministry of Transport had not received the co-ordinates to allow the landing. Once again, the liaison officers, W. Licari and P. Boyes were not to be found. This was a crisis and I called the High Commissioner who telephoned Mr. Oseku. Mr. Oseku gave the clearance to the Airport Army Commandant.

Both Air Canada and PWA had been extremely lax about abiding by international practice and providing co-ordinates for the arrival of their flights. Only CPA had a perfect record.

We had reached a crucial point in our operation. It was imperative to know exactly how many persons had yet to be examined and to be booked so we could confirm the statistical data given to Nadia Stachowski for the Director General and GMM. The tally at 5:00 pm stood as follows:-

VISA ISSUED TO-DATE.....	5,712
LESS VISAS NOT CLAIMED.....	<u>45</u>
EFFECTIVE VISA OUTPUT.....	5,667
PENDING MEDICAL EXAMINATION.....	<u>377</u>
MAXIMUM VISA OUTPUT.....	6,034
EXPECTED "NO SHOW" FOR MEDICAL....	<u>34</u>
FINAL EFFECTIVE VISA OUTPUT.....	6,000

Based on the above, I stood by my request to cancel the flights for November 5, 7 and one flight on November 8. Bookings were otherwise progressing well but we had reached the end of the applicants. There were no more clients who could be considered within the given generous parameters of the selection criteria. When people failed to appear for interviews, there was little we could do. It had to be remembered that the definitive long list

had been published in the Argus on October 19. People who wanted to go to Canada had the opportunity to go by waiting their turn.

At closing time, everyone was quite elated. Everything possible had been done to be fair, considerate including stretching the criteria in cases deserving humanitarian consideration. It was a wrap-up with a smell of success. I was unsuccessful in my attempt to speak with GMM to describe the day's work and to provide him with the usual statistical breakdown. I had prepared a note for Phil Boyes which I asked him to deliver to the Uganda MFA about the departing Canadian personnel.

Wednesday, November 1: Gerry Campbell and Mo. Benoit teamed up to supervise the loading of the three buses. Larry C., Al Lukie and Warren Major assisted. Warren was leaving aboard PWA Charter # 24, leaving at 1:00 pm, escorting 148 departing Asians.

There was some good news that morning when the call from W. Licari, Canadian High Commission Nairobi, read the telegram he had just received from FBHQs. "PWA flight of November 7 and CPA flight of November 8 cancelled". I was partly vindicated since I was still concerned about the November 5 flight which had not been cancelled. I immediately informed the booking Unit of these developments and told them to block space on the A/C flight of November 8 for four persons expected from Ottawa aboard Charter # 30, due November 6.

The Kampala Ismaili representative submitted a "final" list and I said that if anyone on the list had been turned down at the UN Centre, I would arrange for an immediate interview. If there were stateless persons on the list, why had they not answered our notice in the Argus of October 26, requesting "bona fide stateless" persons to appear for interview? On the other hand, if they were not stateless and held a British passport, they were entitled to an "entry voucher" for the UK. He was speechless. I gathered that most, if not all the persons on the list had a valid passport and would leave for the UK. He never returned after that.

The Argus newspaper had served our purposes very well since the beginning of our operations. As mentioned previously, October 27, only 63 visas had not been claimed. Subsequently, more visas were added to the pile and we had again 145 visas unclaimed. I thought that a radio announcement might be more effective. The cost was 80 Ugandan shillings, \$11:50 to read the announcement three times. I listened to the announcement and, as I had expected, the announcer added his own comments "Asians have six days left".

Activity centred on booking Asians who had been medically examined. At the end of the day, the number of visas issued had

reached 5,864. We still had 180 persons pending medical examination in the next two days.

That evening I pressed Mr. Mitchell for the cancellation of the November 5 flight. After assuring him that no Asians selected would be left stranded for lack of space. He gave me authority to proceed as I saw fit.

I told him the UN Centre had registered anyone and everyone, regardless of nationality. These people would be flown mainly to Traiskirchen, Vienna. He gave me the results of the Federal elections: PC-109; LIB-108; NDP-35; SC-15. I had yet to vote in a federal election.

Thursday, November 2: The six Uganda transport buses were lined up at 6:15 am. Asians had already arrived and were familiar with our procedure. The veterans of the busing operations, Gerry C., Mo B. and Larry C. were directing the flow of the 302 Asians leaving aboard Charters #25 and 26. As usual, John McN would control the crowd of African Ugandans speaking Swahili. Even Mrs. Watson decided to join Jacques D. and John McM weighing baggage.

This was to be a day for minor incidents. Two Asians appeared at the counter asking to see me. Their applications as stateless had been refused. Their applications showed they had been unable to satisfy the interviewing officer that they were unable to obtain proper documents. I went to the counter and asked if they had been able to obtain some proof that they had been refused a passport by the British HC or the Passport Officer of the Uganda Ministry of the Interior. They said they had not been able to do so and gave no further explanations. I told them we had no further business with them unless they produced the proof. They said "All right, we'll go to England". They both had British passports and entry vouchers to the UK.

Other Asians turned up after hearing the radio announcement. They offered lame excuses for not claiming their visas. They too, were "shopping" for the best country to go to, as if there were a choice.

The last incident occurred when Gerry C. called from the airport because the A/C had been overbooked by as many as 21 persons. Nine would have to be accommodated at the hotel while the other 12 would stay with friends. This happens all the time with scheduled airline and was excusable.

The extra passengers were all booked for next day's charter. As GC said, we could be thankful that the Uganda Immigration and Customs officers had been very co-operative in allowing these people to leave the airport. They could have insisted they spend

the night at the airport.

Al Findlay and Jim Versteegh arrived on the incoming CPA flight and were assigned to the only task left, completing the "affirmation for visa" forms. I reminded Gerry C. to send Mr. Reynolds two copies of all forms we had printed in Kampala. We reminded FBHQs. to inform the Canada Immigration Centres to communicate with Nairobi after November 6. I completed Jacques Drapeau's personal assessment on "knowledge". The sealed envelope was given to W. Greaves to hand to Personnel, FBHQs.

I had been in my room only a few minutes when the call came from Ottawa. It was from Mr. Clark who said that Nadia Stachowski was on an extension telephone and would take notes of our conversation. He planned to arrive at Nairobi, November 5 and meet with Mr. V.M. Olivier. He would come to Kampala the next day....then we were cut off. Someone else had a higher priority for long distance calls.

Five hours later, at 10:30 to be exact, the call came through clearly. Mr. Clark questioned the need to cancel the flights for November 4 and 6. I told him he was mistaken. These flights were in the process of being filled. The schedule should remain as is i.e., two flights on November 2 and 3, and one each on November 4, 6 and 8.

It would be unwise to cancel the flights of November 4 and 6 and to have two flights on November 8. We should have only one flight on November 8 because of the confusion likely to occur on the last day of the expulsion edict. BOAC, Caledonian, East African Airlines, A/C and the UN would also have flights. It would be pandemonium. He wanted my assurance once more that we would have sufficient seats for the accepted Asians. I gave him that assurance.

Some of the staff had asked if they could stop over on their way to Canada. The airline tickets, full economy, allowed for stopping over. I had no objections and, based on their requests, sent a telegram to Cairo, copy to Athens, Rome and Paris to extend the usual courtesies to members of the Kampala team.

Miss Odette Coté was leaving to return to Yaounde, Cameroon. Like Miss Kindrachuk, she was returning to Dares Salaam early the next day. They had worked most diligently, and were an inspiration to the other members of the staff.

A record 214 visas were readied that day. The total to date had reached 6,078, however, the number of unclaimed visas had now increased to 196. Many Asians should be returning to claim their visas once in possession of the "tax clearance". This would apply

to those who were medically examined in the past two days. They had very little time to return to confirm their willingness to depart for Canada aboard a charter.

"Sergeant" John Stronach and the technicians had started dismantling the mobile unit and packing the unused supplies. The two 800-pound diesel generators would mean fewer Asian passengers on the plane. The technicians had done an incredible job, as I have often stated in this report. They were under constant pressure and the conditions under which they performed were unbearable. The heat and smell in the tent would have caused others to quit.

Friday, November 3: We were all anxious to see the last of the "twin" charter flights. The stretch A/C would take only 159 Asians because of the generators and the technicians. Both flights, Charters # 27 and # 28 were due to leave at 1:00 pm with 287 Asians. Gerry Campbell and Larry Carroll were entrusted with the responsibility of supervising the loading of the buses and escorting the convoy to Entebbe.

Sergeant Stronach liked to confide in me, perhaps because I had been a "Captain" in the RCAF. He told me that his men were unhappy having to return via charter since they could not stop over in Europe as others could. I knew the answer to that one because Dr. Piché had told me. The Surgeon General had made a decision which a "civilian" could not countermand. They had agreed to work Saturdays and Sundays when they saw Immigration officers at the office and they had volunteered to help with the loading and movement of buses. Dr. Piché refused to call the Surgeon General even after I said Project 32 would absorb the cost. I told John I was sorry and could not interfere. Once again, I told him how thankful I was for the work he had done in organizing the social event--that was a feather in his cap.

This was effectively our last day of processing. Some stragglers came in to claim their visas offering vague excuses which I did not believe and I had little sympathy for them. We had placed two notices in newspapers and a radio announcement repeated three times. Some of the visas had been issued a month ago. They were intending to depart on the very last flight. The visa was amended and made valid for one more day to leave tomorrow. The alternative: the UN Centre.

Drs. Pellerin, Thibaudeau and Pouliot left this morning to return to their previous posts. Bob McPhee was the only technician returning to his unit in Germany. Bob was the stool test specialist. Anyone who chose such a vocation and dedicated himself with such intensity as Bob did, deserved our lasting gratitude.

Gerry C. and Larry C. returned from Entebbe with the news that both planes had been late and they had had to buy lunch for 287 persons.

Mrs. Heather Leighton, wife of a Canadian under contract to the Government of Uganda was leaving us. She had volunteered her services and had given an outstanding performance. Blessed with a pleasant disposition, she had more drive, energy and determination than anyone else in the Medical Section. She hustled clients to doctors who dragged their feet--she would go out of her way to call clients and bring them to the doctors. I thanked her for her contribution to the Mission.

At closing time, the tally reflected a total visa output to date of 5,978 visas. The November 4 and 6 chartered aircraft were fully booked. The Charter for November 8 had 118 passengers already booked against a total capacity of 210 persons. Word was out that we were winding up at a fast pace. Asians who came to the office could see that the mobile unit had left.

The Immigration staff reported to room 393 for a short discussion about the deployment of personnel. Larry Carroll would undertake an area trip to Nairobi, Kenya, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Lusaka Zambia and Mauritius. I had requested Ron Button, the assistant officer-in-charge, Beirut, to airmail to the Nairobi High Commission, all the applications held on behalf of persons from these countries. There may be a need for an additional officer at Dar es Salaam to assist Larry C. as Asians there had submitted more than a hundred applications so far.

A visit to the "Leopard's Lair", the roof-top bar of the hotel, confirmed that "Ugandization" was spreading. The place was rowdy and one could no longer enjoy some relaxation. Even the "Libyans" were staying away although they were non-paying guests of the General, in the hotel.

Saturday, November 4: There were too many volunteer officers this morning offering their services for the departure of 151 Asians. This proved a disadvantage for the Asians since there were stricter checks on baggage weights for everyone. Charter # 29, a CPA aircraft, was due to arrive at Entebbe at 11:00

Since there was little else for the officers to do, I wanted a final review of all the applications received since day one. I explained what I wanted and split the task among everyone. No one was rushed or given a deadline. Louis Mach would attend to the few Asians who showed up at the counter.

Roy McGrath, Chief, Financial and Administration section, FBHQs. and Dr. R. Wood, Director of Immigration Medical Services, NH&W

came off this morning's CPA flight. Roy McG. was interested in all phases of disbursements charged against Project 32. I could fill him in on the larger financial components. John McNeish would be providing finer details. Dr. Wood said he wished to speak with me after he had a chance to discuss medical questions with Dr. Piché. When we got together, he wanted to know about the degree of cooperation received. I told him it no longer mattered, the Mission was over.

Sunday, November 5: There was no rest this Sunday although no one had to get up early. The culling of the applications would go on until Monday. Larry C. did not leave with the 7:15 EAA flight as it was cancelled. He was booked for 8:15 pm. He had been most anxious to leave for Nairobi. CPA Charter # 30 was landing at Nairobi today and would continue on to Kampala tomorrow. A complement of air hostesses would be staying overnight at Nairobi.

Roy McG. was busy with John McN. and R. Graham, Fin. & Adm., Dept. of External Affairs who had come from Ottawa via Nairobi, for the same purpose--to audit expenses of the Liaison Officers and others from the Canadian High Commission. After lunch, Roy helped with the culling exercise.

A few Canadian members of the support staff and technicians had taken the one day outing to Murchison Falls, Lake Albert, and the source of the White Nile. It had been a favourite destination for African safaris and "great white hunters". Wild elephants, monstrous crocodiles and all forms of wild beasts. I told Mo B. that Louis Mach and I would like to go, as well as Roy McG. and Drs. Wood and McQuade. He said he'd look after it. One Air Safari Company folded up when they were told to leave Uganda. Mo B. got in touch with Bruce McNally of Pan Am who said only Caspair was in business. Mo phoned Caspair and they confirmed the trip for the next morning. The plane would accommodate six persons.

I was apprehensive about leaving for the day because the Director General was due to arrive. However, Roy McGrath confirmed that Mr. Clark and Mr. Malone were actually arriving at Kampala tomorrow evening. The trip was on. The mission was in good hands with Mike who would ensure that Charter # 30 took off with its full load of Asians without a hitch.

Monday, November 6: It was still dark as the minibus carried the six of us to Entebbe airport where we reported to the desk of "Caspair Safari". The pilot was the only one present and he introduced himself. Surprised, he asked if all six of us intended to go to Murchison Falls. When we said "yes", he asked who then would fly the plane? It could accommodate six persons including the pilot.

We looked at Mo and we had to decide now who was not going- obviously, no one wish to volunteer to opt out, so we had to flip a coin, using Ugandan shillings. I handed a coin each to Drs. Wood and McQuade as they had none. I said those whose coin showed the crested crane after the flip would board the plane. They all agreed. We flipped our coins and dropped them on the Caspair counter. Only the coins of the two doctors came up with the coat-of-arms. They had to flip their coins once more and Dr. McQuade came out the loser. The good omen of the seven crested cranes on that August 31 arrival at Entebbe was holding true---picking "heads" or the crested crane proved it beyond any doubt.....

It was an unforgettable outing that surpassed our expectations. On the return trip, the pilot said it was his last trip. Without the Asians, he could not stay in business. When we arrived at the hotel, Messrs. Clark and Malone had checked in. The DG on being told of our trip said he wished he could do the same. Because of the late hour, he suggested we meet early. Mike M. confirmed that all went well with Charter # 30 and the results of the culling exercise were ready.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Tuesday, November 7: When Mr. Clark, Director General FB, arrived at the office, I handed him a copy of the last and final culling exercise. I told him these statistics were accurate and reflected three days of intensive review of all applications by the officers. This was the final result:

	CASES	PERSONS
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.....	8,065.....	23,392
APPLICATIONS REFUSED.....	<u>4,172</u>	<u>12,446</u>
APPLICANTS CALLED TO INTERVIEW.....	3,893.....	10,942
	CASES	PERSONS
LESS: REFUSED, WITHDRAWN...	911	2,125
"NO SHOW" INTERVIEW.	767	2,347
"NO SHOW" MEDICAL...	29	89
TRANSFERRED.....	<u>31</u>	<u>89</u>
TOTAL CASES AND PERSONS	1,738	4,650
	<u>1,738</u>	<u>4,650</u>
TOTAL CASES AND PERSONS VISAED.....	2,115.....	6,292
LESS: VISAS NOT CLAIMED.....	<u>39</u>	<u>117</u>
NET EFFECTIVE TOTAL.....	2,116.....	6,175
DEPARTED VIA CHARTERED AIRCRAFT-AS OF NOV. 6.....	4,228	
BOOKED FOR NOVEMBER 8 "LAST CHARTER".....	192	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TO CANADA VIA CHARTERS.	<u>4,420</u>	
ASIANS EXPECTED TO ENTER CANADA VIA "COMMERCIAL"...	1,725	

I reassured the DG that we had done everything possible to ensure no Asian would be left behind. The notices in the newspapers and the radio announcements were proof that we sought to be just and fair. The information I had given to Nadia Stachowski, for his information, showed there could not have been 80,000 Asians to expel as the General had said. Britain ended up with a quarter of what they had expected and we took a quarter of Britain's intake. No other country had done anywhere near what we had done. As he glanced at the counter and outside our office, he realised there was no one pleading to be accepted for Canada.

I told Mr. Clark that we had used the ⁷OM23M (1A4) procedure in a few cases because it was warranted. Very few genuine stateless persons had appeared lately because they knew we asked for explanations of their claims. Some even showed their passports and "entry vouchers" to the United Kingdom when prodded for proof.

⁷medical and other formalities take place in Canada

I accompanied Mr. Clark to the UN Centre to observe their operations from a distance. I pointed to African Ugandans who were queuing up to register. The UN Centre staff had accepted some of them if they presented a statement to the effect that their mother was Asian. A simple declaration was credible evidence. (Annex E) I mentioned that there should be no fear for the Asians who would remain behind. Either they were "exempted" persons and carried a permit to that effect from the Uganda Ministry of the Interior, or, they were under the aegis of the UN and would be moved out as soon as possible to Traiskirchen, near Vienna.

The Director General listened carefully as I outlined the options. As we walked back to the office, I added there was a third possibility open to the Asians if they wished to stay. This last option had been a pet project of General Amin. Asians who wanted to stay in Uganda had to leave the cities and live in villages where they must be prepared to mix and marry. He added, "some might even become village chiefs". So far as I know, no Asians opted for the last offer.

We went to the UN Centre later on and I introduced him to Mr. Christiansen who showed him around. The DG was not impressed. We went for a short drive up a hill overlooking Kampala. Nearby was a small, exquisite and deserted Bahai Temple. A beautiful sight, a magnificent country, "The Pearl of Africa". Unfortunately, a despot was at the helm.

The officers were packing the files as Mr. Warren Prattley, UNDP came to ask if he could purchase some of our "mahogany" furniture. I discussed the offer with John McN and said we should not attempt to recover all the cost. He should check with the H.C. before we sold any of the furniture in case it could be used in Nairobi.

After dinner, it was appropriate to show Dr. Wood and Mr. Clark where some of the staff had spent part of their evening solitude, especially, during the few days when tension was high in Kampala: the "Leopard's Lair". It was a place where one could have refreshments, observe but not mingle.

Few of the original staff were left when I returned to room 393 for the last time. We would have to be up early, as usual, for the busing and departure of the last charter. I was very pleased that Mr. Clark had come to see for himself, since he was the one answerable to the Minister. Tomorrow, he would have his final answer to the apprehensions of the Minister and the Cabinet concerning Asians that might be left behind and thus "embarrass the Government of Canada".

Wednesday, November 8: Mo B. was in charge of the arrangements for the last charter. Apart from a few minor incidents, everything had gone well. It had to be so: the Director General of the Foreign Branch was to be aboard.

Mo Benoit was assisted by Mike Molloy, Louis Mach and Jim McMaster for the final boarding of buses with 209 Asians leaving on Charter # 31. Mo B. telephoned the office from Entebbe airport to confirm that all had gone well at the terminal.

Louis Mach and I had gone to the office as soon as the convoy had left in order to arrange transportation for Mr. M.G. Clark, Dr. R. Wood, R. McGrath and H. Malone. They were waiting for us as we arrived. The place was now desolate. I asked the Director General to take one last look since he had to be satisfied that there were no Asians left behind....He agreed that there were none seeking assistance from us. Mission accomplished.

We headed for the airport in two cars. There was no need to rush and as we drove along I pointed some of the interesting sights and even stopped at a particular tree where weaver birds were building their upside down nests-nearby. Ugandans sold tropical fruits at nearby stands; my favourite fruit were the small sweet bananas.

Mo B. had everything under control at the "clearance" shed and it was time to say farewell to the Ottawa visitors. I told them I wished to take photographs of them on the boarding ramp as well as take shots of the departing Asians. They would be crowded on board--every seat was occupied--I had kept my promise to Mr. Clark.

The loading of baggage was slow due to the breakdown of some of the equipment. Minibuses were used to shuttle the luggage from the shed to the aircraft. Many of the repairmen had been Asians.....

I recognized two of the Ismaili leaders as they disembarked from the bus and one came to me with an envelope. He said it contained a cheque to repay Canada for its generous treatment of his people. I opened the envelope and realized it was a cheque for 1,000,000 Ugandan pounds. I gave it back to him and said that the Government of Canada was covering all the expenses. As he insisted, I told him that we had no option but to tear up the cheque. Mo Benoit was a witness to this unusual offer.

The Ismailis hoped we would be allowed to cash the cheque and deposit the money in our account. I believe the decision not to accept the cheque was the proper and only one to take.

Entebbe International Airport had never seen so much activity. There were close to 1,000 Asians waiting to depart with charter aircraft from Sabena, BOAC, Alitalia, British Caledonia, Air India. Bar none, the most impressive sight on the tarmac was the Air Canada stretch DC 8 with its maple leaf logo.

Louis Mach and I waited to see the aircraft taxi slowly along the tarmac. It started to roll down the runway and accelerate. I watched with some apprehension as I saw that it had nearly reached the end of the runway and was not airborne. The aircraft became airborne at the very end of the runway and, even then, hardly gained altitude for some minutes. It was overloaded and it had been a close call. When I met Mr. Clark later on, he confirmed that it had been too close for comfort.

One last notice had to be delivered to the Argus for the benefit of Asians who had been refused "Operation Exodus". It gave them the address and the option to write to the High Commission, Nairobi, if they were still interested in emigrating to Canada. This notice said that Ugandans could apply as well.

It was now time for me to depart and to thank Mike Molloy who had been my faithful and reliable "Number One", proving he had been the right choice for the assignment. I thanked Mo B. for his unfailing support and outstanding ability in supervising the departure of the Asians.

John McNeish deserved a lot more than a hand shake. He had been with me from the beginning and performed incredibly well under difficult conditions. Some had made impossible demands regarding flights, bookings etc. and he had managed to come through each time, at any hour of the day. He knew how I truly felt about him.

I said farewell to the hotel personnel and the Seychelles telephone operator to whom I always spoke in French. They were sad to see us leave--there were tougher times ahead. That evening, Louis Mach and I headed for the airport one last time. My mission accomplished, I was returning to Beirut via Nairobi."

All members of the team, including the volunteers, had been extremely conscious of their role in this humanitarian undertaking by the Government of Canada. Everyone had contributed in his own way to alleviate the hardships that many Asians would have faced had Canada not come forward with its generous offer of help. They could take pride in that accomplishment and say "I participated in Canada's humanitarian mission to Kampala, Uganda during the expulsion of Asians in autumn 1972".

As I thought about the mission, I remembered the bracelets many members of our staff had bought. Some Africans and Asians in

Uganda believed that wrist bracelets made from the few coarse hairs of an elephant's tail would bring luck to the wearer. I sincerely hoped that the bracelets would bring our staff members a lifetime of good fortune. For my part, I had my good omen, the seven crested cranes.....



FIRST IMMIGRANT VISA
MISS SEMIN MURODALI KASSAM

R ST-VINCENT JOLENE CARRIERE
MIKE MOLLOY



ASIAN ISHMAELI LEADERS DEPARTING
ABOARD CHARTER NUMBER 31



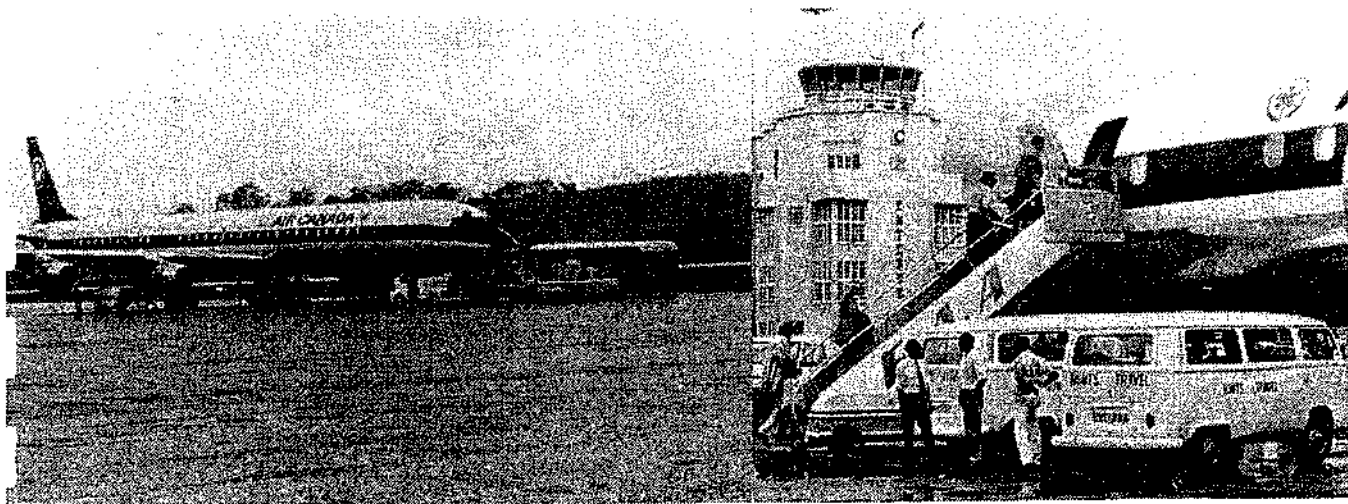
VIEW OF KAMPALA - DENNIS-,ST-V-,H, MALONE



ST VINCENT REG SMITH
42



DEPARTURE SHED ENTEBBE - CONFUSION



"STRETCH" DC 8

BOARDING: DR. WOOD, BUD CLARK
WAIVING - MO B. CARRYING FILES
AND HAL MALONE



ASIANS BOARDING - ORDERLY, RESIGNED AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR
FUTURE IN CANADA



AMONG THE
CRESTED CRANES



ROY MCGRATH - ROGER ST. VINCENT



ROY, MO BENOIT & LOUIS MACH



TO THE FALLS - ROGER, DR. WOOD, ROY, MO



MURCHISON FALLS - SOURCE OF THE WHITE NILE



25 FOOT CROC - WHITH THESE ABUNDING
NO NEED TO BURY YUR ENEMIES - AMIN



THERE IS A REASON TO SMILE - WE ARE
SAFE ON THE SLOW RIVER CRUISER

POSTSCRIPT

The words 'improvise', 'extemporize' and 'ad lib' can best describe what took place on this Mission. I received no guidance on how I should proceed in setting up the physical requirements for the operation. However, I had many people who were keen to lend their assistance -- from those at Immigration Hqs to the ones in Kampala.

We could not have achieved success without one marvellous item, Jim McMaster's numbering machine. It would have been a nightmare to have tried to type index cards for 8,000 applicants. The system proved its effectiveness throughout the operations, especially when notices were sent to the newspaper, with only the file number identifying applicants. It was like a tattoo and could not be duplicated. Any other system would have resulted in pandemonium in the Registry section.

The refusal of Dr. Piché to allow the medical examination of persons without X-Rays or tests, who had been accepted by Immigration officers as of September 6 was a regrettable decision. I believe he should have been overruled and told to examine the Asians until the mobile unit became operational. By September 15, nine days after the immigration component began examining Asians, we had a backlog of over 1,000 persons "pending medical".

Had they co-operated at the very beginning, we would have been able to fill Charter #2, #3 and #4 to near capacity. The mobile unit was supposed to be operational Monday, September 18. The doctors started the medical examinations on Wednesday September 20. The charter flight for September 20 had to be cancelled. We had to take a lot of heat for this initial setback over which the Immigration Component had no control.

The question of terminating Assisted Passage was not well handled. We were told to stop issuing A.P. Warrants when Mr. Mitchell came to Kampala, although the decision was known before his arrival.

I objected strongly about the four "twin" flights and gave my reasons. No one ever explained to me what the "technical" problems were regarding maintaining three or even four flights a week, rather than "twinning" flights. There were weeks when we even had six flights on consecutive days. I was vindicated in a small way when five flights were cancelled, three during the week of November 5.

The failure of the Air Canada and PWA airlines to maintain an Agent full-time in Kampala was a cause for complaint by the crews of these airlines. They believed, quite erroneously, that Gerry Campbell was the liaison officer for these two airlines.

The Canadian High Commission liaison officers, at the start, were, I felt, a little condescending towards the team members. They held diplomatic accreditation to Uganda and expected us to consult with them at all stages of our operations. They soon discovered I would have none of it.

I appreciated the help of Phil B. who cherished the opportunity to sit in the lead car and escort the convoys. He was proud to display his Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs accreditation card, something none of us could do. The assistance he provided was helpful and appreciated at most times.

There was criticism by a few Sikhs that we were more receptive to Ismailis. This was unfair. For years, Immigration Officers had come to East Africa and granted visas to Ismailis who met our requirements. They had become established in Canada and could sponsor other Ismailis. This was the 'advantage' the Ismailis enjoyed.

The guidelines provided by FBHQs. gave us all the needed flexibility to achieve the purpose of the mission i.e. assist Asians, give priority to those who were stateless and exercise discretionary authority when required, in the selection of other applicants including those who came under the humanitarian and compassionate consideration assessment.

The UN had come somewhat late to Kampala. The stateless persons who accepted had to pay their own fare to be transported to the Traiskirchen Refugee Camp, south of Vienna. Those who had no money could get a loan from an Asian whose address the UN provided.

The staff at the Centre had taken applications from anyone, including Africans. (see Annex E).

I did not appreciate being asked to be relieved at a time when the mission was fully operational and the staff well trained to perform the various tasks with proficiency. I had received an ultimatum to proceed to Kampala and I was not giving up all that I had done from scratch to make the Mission operational. I turned down the offer -- I am not a quitter.

The visits by the senior Foreign Service Branch officers were truly appreciated since they helped to clarify many facets of the operations which were not clearly understood by officers at

Headquarters. The generous arrangements to provide adequate personnel, clerical staff and officers made it possible to achieve, at a much earlier date, the goal which would have otherwise eluded the mission.

The permission to allow some of the staff a long week-end at Mombasa made a great deal of difference to their morale. I appreciated the assistance provided by External Affairs in making available Canadian secretaries from Yaounde, Accra, Dar-es-Salaam each of whom gave more than anyone could have expected. I could never leave out John McNeish--steadfast from beginning to end. And so many more, the volunteers, the Chiha sisters, Miss Mecklin, the technicians.....the doctors....the Manager of the Jubilee Insurance Company....Mr. Roche.... Chader.....

ASIAN EXODUS FROM UGANDA

SELECTION CRITERIA BY CATEGORY

A:-THOSE WHO MEET THE SELECTION CRITERIA

A1:-Entrepreneurs-no assistance required

A2:-Applicants with relatives NOT requiring assistance

A3:- "" "" "" requiring job assistance

A4:- "" "" friends NOT requiring assistance

A5:- "" "" "" requiring job assistance

A6:-Applicants requiring no assistance except job

A7:- "" "" full assistance and job

A8:- "" who would need to be trained

B:-THOSE WHO DO NOT MEET THE SELECTION CRITERIA

B1:-Applicants with friends or distant relatives able to become established with minimum assistance

B2:-Applicants without friends or relatives able to become established with minimum assistance

B3:-Applicants who would require assistance beyond one month and need retraining

B4:-Applicants seeking first employment i.e. without experience and requiring assistance

C:- HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATION CASES

C1:-Applicants with some prospects of employment

C2:-Applicants without prospects of employment

MEMBERS OF CANADA'S MISSION
DAY ONE, AT KAMPALA, UGANDA
SEPTEMBER 6, 1972

MANPOWER & IMMIGRATION

TEAM LEADER	ROGER ST. VINCENT	M&I BEIRUT
ASSISTANT	MIKE MOLLOY	M&I BEIRUT
IMMIG. OFFICER	GERRY CAMPBELL	M&I LONDON
IMMIG. OFFICER	FLOYD TUFTS	M&I ROME
SUPPORT, TYPIST	M. E. HEMPEL	CPO OTTAWA
*****	G. LEROUX	*****
*****	J. CARRIERE	*****
*****	CLERK J. MCMASTER	P&P IMMOTT

NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICAL O.I.C.	DR. M. PICHE	IMS OTTAWA
MEDIC OFFICER	DR. R. DUNCAN	IMS ROME

CANADA'S HIGH COMMISSION, NAIROBI, KENYA

LIAISON AGENT	REGINALD SMITH	FIRST SEC.
LIAISON AGENT	PHILIP BOYES	SECOND SEC.
ACCTS. CLERK	JOHN MCNEISH	ADM. SVCS.

MINISTER'S OFFICE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT-MR. ZAVIE LEVINE, LEFT SEPT. 7

VOLUNTARY ASSISTANT

MISS MICHELE MACKLIN, FROM EDMONTON-LEFT SEPT. 13

NOTE: OFFICER JACQUES DRAPEAU ARRIVED FROM ATHENS SEPT. 7

C A N A D A

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION

IMMIGRATION SERVICE INTERVIEWS

I. P. S. BUILDING, KAMPALA

Persons whose reference numbers appear below will be invited for interview on the dates shown. Please take careful note of the following:

(a) Those persons whose numbers are not shown will not be invited as they were not deemed to meet the applicable selection criteria. In some cases one member of a family will be interviewed in the hope that, if accepted for Canada, that person could then nominate or sponsor close relatives who could be processed expeditiously.

(b) Persons invited to appear for interview may not necessarily be accepted for emigration. Persons not accepted are informed.

(c) Facilities for processing applicants for Canada are available in most parts of the world. Some applicants may be interested to know that Immigration Services are available at the Canadian High Commissions in London, New Delhi, Islamabad, Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam. Nationals or residents of those countries are requested to apply at the appropriate office.

Those accepted after interview will have to undergo laboratory tests such as urine, stool, blood and X-ray the same day; married persons with dependants (wife, children) must bring their dependants with them if they reside in Uganda.

FRIDAY, 30 OCT. 1972.

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WEDNESDAY, 25 OCT. 1972.

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THURSDAY, 26 OCT. 1972.

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WEDNESDAY, 25 OCT. 1972.

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THURSDAY, 26 OCT. 1972.

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ANNEX "D"

SCHEDULE OF CHARTERED AIRCRAFT

DAY/MON	#	COMP	PASS	TO-DATE	ESCORT
TUE SEPT 19		A/C CANCELLED-NO ASIANS READY TO DEPART			
WED SEPT 27	1	A/C	138	138	G.M. MITCHELL
SAT SEPT 30	2	PWA	60	198	FRANK SHARP
MON OCTO 2	3	PWA	48	246	M. SCHELLENBERGER
WED OCTO 4	4	PWA	83	329	H&W URSE
FRI OCTO 6	5	PWA	145	474	FRANK SHARP
WED OCTO 11	6	A/C	152	626	H&W NURSE
THU OCTO 12	7	PWA	157	783	G. REYNOLDS
MON OCTO 16	8	PWA	156	839	NORM OLSON
WED OCTO 18	9	PWA	153	992	H&W URSE
THU OCTO 19	10	CPA	152	1144	M. SCHELLENBERGER
FRI OCTO 20	11	PWA	114	1258	H. MALONE
SAT OCTO 21	12	CPA	148	1406	J. DRAPEAU
SUN OCTO 22	13	PWA	150	1556	G.M. MITCHELL
MON OCTO 23	14	CPA	152	1708	W. DICKMAN
TUE OCTO 24	15	PWA	155	1863	ARNIE WALKER
WED OCTO 25	A/C FLIGHT CANCELLED AT REQUEST OF TEAM LEADER				
WED OCTO 25	16	CPA	148	2011	TERRY COLFER
THU OCTO 26	17	PWA	150	2161	ALLAN PRIEN
FRI OCTO 27	18	A/C	198	2359	PAUL GRAY
FRI OCTO 27	19	CPA	148	2507	JIM VERSTEEGH
SU OCTO 29	20	CPA	148	2655	DAY GRUER
MO OCTO 30	21	PWA	152	2807	NORM DERRICK
TUE OCTO 31	22	A/C	142	2949	NADIA STACHOWSKI
TUE OCTO 31	23	CPA	148	3097	JIM MITCHELL
WED NOVE 1	24	PWA	150	3247	WARREN MAJOR
THU NOVE 2	25	A/C	150	3397	LAURENT GAGNON
THU NOVE 2	26	CPA	152	3549	AL LUKIE
FRI NOVE 3	27	* A/C	159	3708	WILF GREAVES
FRI NOVE 3	28	PWA	128	3836	AL FINDLAY
SAT NOVE 4	29	CPA	151	3987	H&W NURSE
SUN NOVE 5	PWA FLIGHT CANCELLED AT REQUEST OF TEAM LEADER				
MO NOVE 6	30	CPA	155	4142	H&W NURSE
TUE NOVE 7	PWA FLIGHT CANCELLED AT REQUEST OF TEAM LEADER				
WED NOVE 8	CPA FLIGHT CANCELLED AT REQUEST OF TEAM LEADER				
WED NOVE 8	31	A/C	209	**4351	HAL MALONE

*THE A/C FLIGHT OF NOVEMBER 3 HAD A CAPACITY OF 198-IT CARRIED THE TWO DIESEL GENERATORS AND COULD NOT TAKE MORE PASSENGERS.

**SOME 69 CHILDREN WHO DID NOT OCCUPY SEATS SHOULD BE ADDED.

ANNEX "E"

TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CENTRE

The good record of the week-end was well maintained on Monday as you will observe from the following summary:

	SAT.28	SUN.29	MON.30	TOTAL
REGISTRATIONS	673	757	608	2038
MEDICALS	422	380	629	1431
NO.PREPARED	335	566	489	1361
TRAVEL DOCS NO.PERSONS	466	84	682	1972
NO.ISSUED	--	--	435	435
TRAVEL MOVEMENTS	8	53	20	160

The streamlined procedure has resulted in a greatly increased output from that section.

Travel documents covering 453 people were issued on Monday thus enabling the recipients to finalize their travel arrangements to the first destination which is Traitskirch(sic) Austria. This movement will continue at the rate of approximately 300 persons per day from Thursday to November 8.

For destitute people without funds for the air travel cost we are referring them to a Special Co-ordinating Committee for the Welfare of Asians leaving Uganda at the following address:

PATIDAR SAMAJ
Buganda Road,
Kampala
from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Together with this Committee we will ensure that no person is left behind on financial grounds.

If you receive any queries please make it clear that all recipients of the Travel Document are required to travel on the first available flight to the Transit Centre. If they do not accept this opportunity the United Nations cannot be responsible for their subsequent travel after the deadline.

IMPORTANT NOTICE We have a number of cases of people who have been documented by our Centre without presenting any form of identification or proof of origin. There is a risk that we may unwittingly provide documents for Ugandan African citizens and for doubt or, if the documentation is inadequate, please call for one of the coordinators Mr. Lapidoth or Mr. Tonkes.

If you have any friends who can volunteer as full-time typists or helpers please contact Mr. Lapidoth or Mr. Tonkes on telephone number: 32452. We need their services in the Travel Section where the work is rapidly building up.

We have a problem in getting the morning activities....

I sincerely hope that you are no longer wet under foot and thank you again for your sterling efforts under such extremely adverse conditions.

31 October 1972

W.R. Prattley
Resident Representative

Addendum to the 40th Anniversary Edition of Roger Saint- Vincent's "Seven Crested Cranes"

While "Seven Crested Cranes" tells the story of how the Asians departed Uganda for Canada, little has been written about what happened to them on arrival. Thanks to a superb collection of media reports assembled by Mr. Paul Hempel, while his wife Mary-Ellen was serving with the Kampala Team, and the recent discovery of a number of photos at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) a picture emerges.

"Curry, Cots and Counselling" is how the September 28, 1972 *Globe and Mail* described the reception arrangements the Canadian Military prepared at CFB Longue Pointe outside of Montreal for the 31 charter flights that carried over 4,400 of the refugees to Canada. The facility had a hospital and nursery and the capacity to accommodate up to one thousand newcomers at a time. Immigration formalities, orientation and decisions about final destinations were attended to by counsellors from the Department of Manpower and Immigration and a range of voluntary agencies. The new arrivals were issued warm clothing and the children, on the first flight at least, were given plastic Mountie dolls and Oopkijs. The reception team was particularly proud of the fact that the army cooks had been given a crash course in Indian cuisine by the Maharajah Restaurant in Montreal. Roger Saint-Vincent records how quickly word of the warm reception filtered back to Kampala.

The following photos taken by Cpl. Chagnon and Mr. Johnson were selected from the LAC collection and are presented here for the first time.

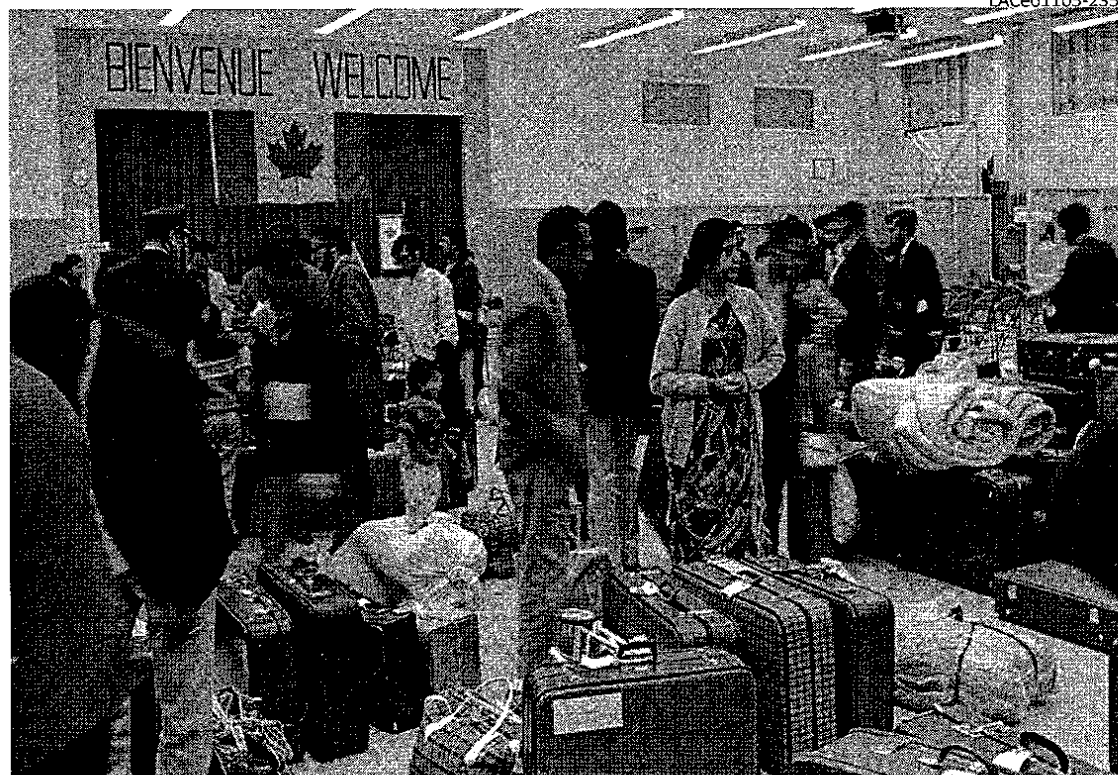


A member of the CAF, working at Longue Pointe on Operation UGX, helps a young arrival off the bus at the reception centre.

LAC e01105-2356

Bienvenue – Welcome and a large Canadian flag greet the Ugandan Asians upon their arrival at the reception centre in Longue Pointe.

LACe01105-2358



Members of the CAF UGX team assist a Ugandan polio victim from the bus to the reception centre at Longue Pointe.

LAC e01105-2363

Major D.O. Tinklin Commanding Officer, CFB Montreal Longue Pointe talks to a Ugandan couple upon their arrival at the reception centre in Longue Pointe.

LAC e01105-2357



Mr. and Mrs. Anil Lalani receive accommodation instructions from Sgt. Bill Somers while Cpl. Robert Boudreau makes arrangements on the phone.

LAC e01105-2354



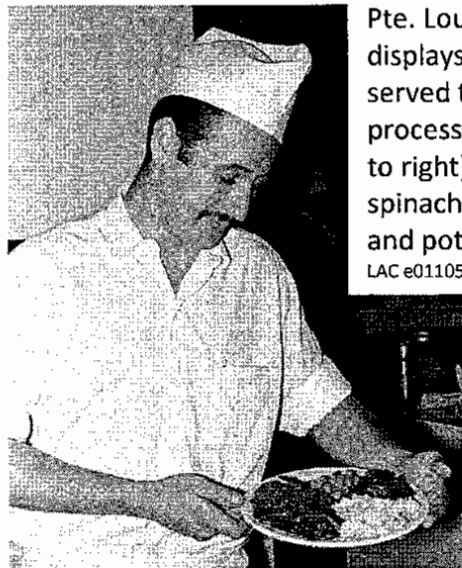
Refreshments of many sorts were served on an around the clock basis to the many Ugandan Asians that were processed at CFB Montreal Longue Pointe upon their arrival in Canada.

LAC e01105-2360

A Ugandan couple receives refreshments at the reception centre in Longue Pointe after a long and tiring flight to Canada from their small African country.

LAC e01105-2353





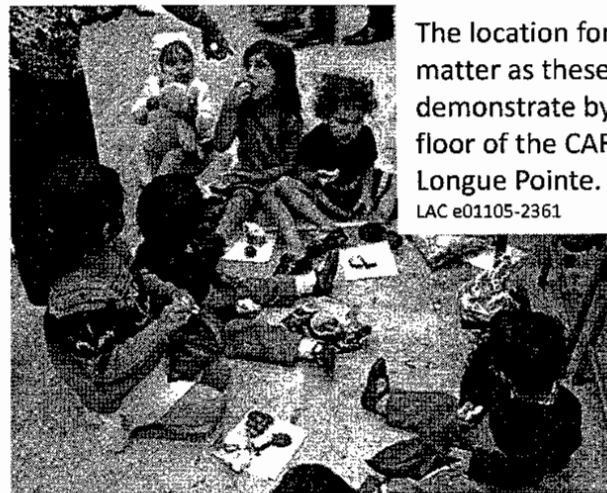
Pte. Louis Thibeault of CFB Valcartier displays food typical of what was served to the Ugandan Asians at CFB processing centre, Longue Pointe. (left to right) steamed rice, Indian spiced spinach, curried lamb, curried peas and potatoes, and curried lamb chops.

LAC e01105-2350



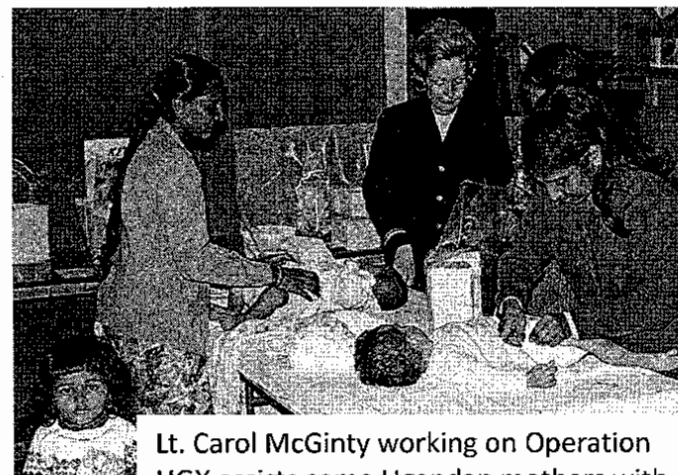
Ugandan Asians arriving at CFB Longue Pointe receive specially prepared Indian cuisine. The CAF cooks received professional instruction on the correct way to prepare different types of curried dishes.

LAC e01105-2347



The location for a picnic doesn't matter as these youngsters demonstrate by having theirs on the floor of the CAF reception centre at Longue Pointe.

LAC e01105-2361

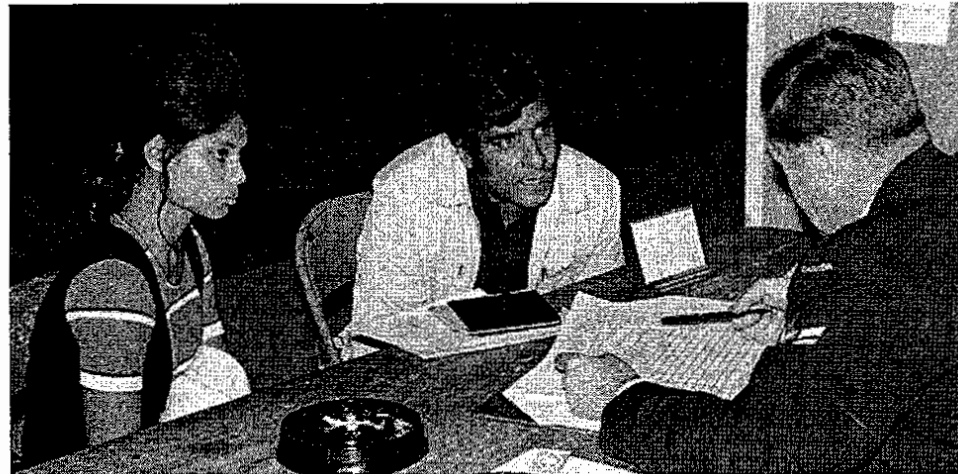


Lt. Carol McGinty working on Operation UGX assists some Ugandan mothers with their children in the nursery at the reception centre in Longue Pointe.

LAC e01105-2359

A Ugandan couple is processed through the transportation section in Longue
Pointe upon their arrival in Canada.

LAC e01105-2345



The Canadian India Times made
interesting reading for the Ugandan
Asians upon their arrival at CFB
Longue Pointe processing centre.

LAC e01105-2355



A Sikh man receiving citation as 2000th
refugee, Longue Pointe 27 Oct 1972.

LAC e01105-2344

