






The Uganda South Asian Expulsion, 1972- Canada


The Uganda Collection at Carleton University shares the experiences of the Asians who lived through the expulsion in Uganda and the Canadians who worked on resettling them. This timeline focuses on Canada's response to the expulsion and how the country facilitated the immigration of over 7000 Ugandan Asian refugees in under 90 days. It explores how key individuals involved in the effort like Roger St. Vincent and Michael J. Molloy adapted their tactics as they dealt with the changes to and evolution of the expulsion as the deadline approached. As the Ugandan Asian refugees began to settle in Canada, the timeline notes Canadians' reactions to the newcomers and how they were welcomed into a number of Canadian communities.


Date	Title	Event	Media
August 4, 1972	The Expulsion is Announced	The President of Uganda, General Idi Amin, orders the expulsion of Uganda's Asian population who are British citizens, citing "economic sabotage" as the reason. They face a 90-day departure deadline.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOqn3iw5IDU From the Associated Press Asian Ugandans line up to try to leave Uganda just after the expulsion is announced.
August 5, 1972	Canada Responds	The Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, advises cabinet colleagues that he will lead Canada's response. He believes that Canada should assist on humanitarian grounds. He orders External Affairs, Manpower, and	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMDAZzWV12M From the Associated Press Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau discusses his feelings about Uganda's President, Idi Amin, after the expulsion.



		Immigration to coordinate the operational response.	
August 19, 1972	A Request from Britain	While Britain has declared that it will ultimately accept responsibility for the British citizens facing expulsion in Uganda, the British government requests that Canada, Australia and New Zealand take in some of the Ugandan Asians affected by the expulsion.	
August 24, 1972	An Honourable Place	Trudeau announces Canada's decision to "offer an honourable place in Canadian life" for Asians being expelled from Uganda. He authorizes Immigration minister Bryce Mackasey to set up an emergency admission program. Mackasey estimates approximately 5 000 Ugandan Asians will take Canada up on its offer.	 <p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052343 A ceremony takes place at Longue-Pointe.</p>

<p>August 24, 1972</p>	<p>Facilitating Departure</p>	<p>Roger St. Vincent, a Canadian Federal Immigration Officer, is ordered to proceed to Kampala. His mission: "To process without numerical limitation those Asians who meet immigration selection criteria, bearing in mind their particular plight and facilitate their departure for Canada." He designates Michael J. Molloy as his assistant.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. An Overhead shot of Kampala Road, Uganda.</p>
<p>August 30, 1972</p>	<p>Arriving in Kampala</p>	<p>St. Vincent, Molloy and the rest of the Canadian immigration and health team assigned to assist with Canada's humanitarian response arrive in Kampala and establish an office to expedite immigration for Asian Ugandans.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. Gerry Campbell and Laurent Gagnon at a table in</p>

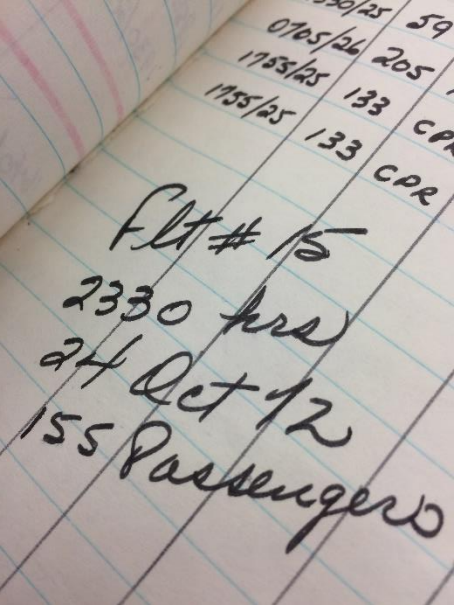
			the Canadian immigration office in Kampala.
September 6, 1972	Opening Day	The special Canadian immigration office opens with long lineups causing shoving matches. They accept 2588 applications for 7764 people on the first day and interviews begin immediately for those with relatives living in Canada.	 <p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052345 A couple speaks with a member of the Armed Forces.</p>
September 7, 1972	Immigration Interviews	Applicants are notified of their immigration interviews through lists in the Uganda Argus newspaper and in the first five days, over 430 interviews are conducted.	

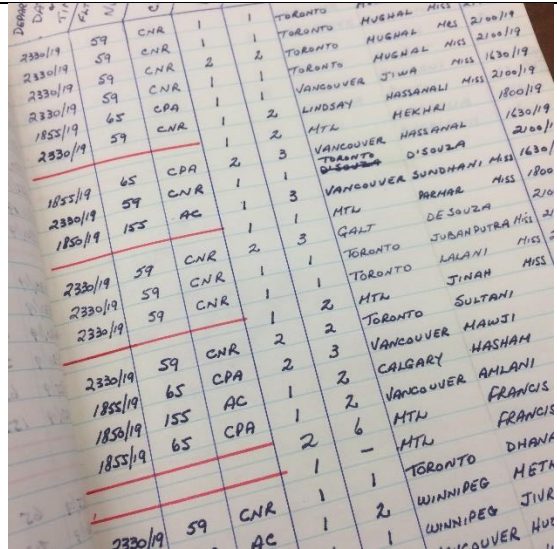

			<p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052355 A young man holds a copy of the Canadian India times.</p>
<p>September 11, 1972</p>	<p>The First Visas are Distributed</p>	<p>The first Canadian immigration visa is issued to Sami Marodali as the total number of immigration applications received rises to 3736 for 11 208 people. It is announced that the first charter flight from Uganda to Canada will depart on September 19 or 20.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. Roger St. Vincent, Jolene Carriere and Michael Molloy present the first Canadian immigration visa to Sami Marodali.</p>



<p>September 16, 1972</p>	<p>The Medical Unit Arrives</p>	<p>The medical unit at the Canadian immigration office becomes operational and 1000 medical examinations and tests are scheduled for September 19-21. The first charter is postponed to September 27 and will carry 140 people.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. The medical technicians in Kampala after arriving in Uganda.</p>
<p>September 16, 1972</p>	<p>CFB Longue-Pointe Prepares</p>	<p>With a week's notice of the arrival of the first plane of Ugandan Asian Refugees, CFB Longue-Pointe in Montreal is converted into a reception centre. The gymnasium is prepared to receive the refugees and barracks are converted into an eighteen-bed hospital, clothing store and press centre. Longue-Pointe could accommodate six to eight hundred people at a time.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W932Wul3_7w From the Associated Press "Canadian Preparations for Ugandan Asians."</p>


<p>September 17, 1972</p>	<p>Heat Relief</p>	<p>The temperature in the medical tent at the Canadian immigration office reaches 100 degrees, making it too hot for blood samples. The Danish clinic volunteers to perform 150 blood tests per day and an air conditioner and film dryer arrive the next day. There is a medical backlog of 1060 people.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. Inside the Canadian immigration office in Kampala.</p>
<p>September 18, 1972</p>	<p>Medicals Only</p>	<p>Only medical exams are performed until September 21. Medical technicians are performing 200 per day while doctors perform 130-150.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. Dr. Piche, the doctor in charge of the medical team at the Canadian immigration office in Kampala, and Roger St. Vincent.</p>



<p>September 25, 1972</p>	<p>The Charters are Coming</p>	<p>Notice of the first charter flight is placed in the <i>Argus</i> and 138 passengers are booked on it so far. 515 visas have been issued to date.</p>	<div data-bbox="1430 190 1713 773" data-label="Image"> <p>CANADA CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IMMIGRATION SERVICE INTERVIEWS I.P.S. BUILDING, KAMPALA</p> <p>Holders of the following reference numbers are invited to appear for Interview Wednesday, Sept. 13, 8:30 to 12:00 and 2:00 to 4:00.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>8.30 to 10.30</th> <th>10.30 to 12.00</th> <th>2.00 to 3.00</th> <th>3.00 to 4.00</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>174</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>248</td><td>398</td><td>530</td><td>622</td></tr> <tr><td>290</td><td>409</td><td>531</td><td>623</td></tr> <tr><td>295</td><td>410</td><td>539</td><td>624</td></tr> <tr><td>304</td><td>411</td><td>544</td><td>625</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>550</td><td>627</td></tr> <tr><td>305</td><td>412</td><td>551</td><td>631</td></tr> <tr><td>306</td><td>413</td><td>567</td><td>635</td></tr> <tr><td>307</td><td>426</td><td>568</td><td>641</td></tr> <tr><td>324</td><td>428</td><td>577</td><td>642</td></tr> <tr><td>329</td><td>430</td><td>579</td><td>646</td></tr> <tr><td>337</td><td>450</td><td>580</td><td>649</td></tr> <tr><td>339</td><td>458</td><td>586</td><td>659</td></tr> <tr><td>341</td><td>462</td><td>587</td><td>670</td></tr> <tr><td>343</td><td>468</td><td>601</td><td>676</td></tr> <tr><td>350</td><td>505</td><td>610</td><td>689</td></tr> <tr><td>364</td><td>506</td><td>615</td><td>693</td></tr> <tr><td>367</td><td>507</td><td></td><td>694</td></tr> <tr><td>368</td><td>510</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>378</td><td>511</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>382</td><td>517</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>397</td><td>523</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Only those heads of family or single persons whose REFERENCE NUMBERS appear above will be interviewed. All other holders of reference numbers will be invited through subsequent newspaper notices or contacted by mail. If you hold a reference number please refrain from contacting this office unless invited to do so.</p> </div> <p>The Longue-Pointe Logbook, Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. One of the notices of interviews in placed in the Uganda Argus newspaper.</p>	8.30 to 10.30	10.30 to 12.00	2.00 to 3.00	3.00 to 4.00	174				248	398	530	622	290	409	531	623	295	410	539	624	304	411	544	625			550	627	305	412	551	631	306	413	567	635	307	426	568	641	324	428	577	642	329	430	579	646	337	450	580	649	339	458	586	659	341	462	587	670	343	468	601	676	350	505	610	689	364	506	615	693	367	507		694	368	510			378	511			382	517			397	523		
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<p>September 27, 1972</p>	<p>The First Charter Arrives</p>	<p>The first DC-8 carrying 148 people from Entebbe arrives in Montreal at Dorval and refugees are taken to Longue-Pointe. Refugees typically remain at Longue-Pointe19 for three to four days as Manpower and Immigration personnel work quickly to locate places for them to stay based on education and</p>	<div data-bbox="1283 922 1864 1307" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052346 A family is greeted by an officer at Longue-Pointe.</p>																																																																																												

		<p>previous employment. Refugees are given federally financed travel warrants to reach their final destinations without charge.</p>	
September 30, 1972	No-Shows and Delays	<p>The second charter leaves for Canada with 73 passengers booked but only 60 having shown up. Similarly small numbers for charter 3 and 4 are due to the late arrival of and delays with the medical team.</p>	 <p>The Longue-Pointe Logbook, Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. An entry from the Longue-Pointe logbook detailing the flight that occurred on October 24.</p>

<p>October 1972</p>	<p>Settling in</p>	<p>Refugees begin to settle in Canadian communities like Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Halifax, and Windsor. Ugandan Asian committees are established to help refugees find employment, housing, create social connections and learn their new ways of life.</p>	 <p>The Longue-Pointe Logbook, Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library. Entries from the Longue-Pointe logbook showing the cities that the Ugandan Asian refugees settled in Canada.</p>
<p>October 6, 1972</p>	<p>Catching up</p>	<p>Charter 5 departs for Montreal with 145 passengers. The ensuing charters maintain their target of about 150 passengers as the medical team catches up on examinations and tests and greater volumes of visa interviews are conducted.</p>	 <p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052360 A group of refugees gets food and drinks at Longue-Pointe upon their arrival.</p>

<p>October 12, 1972</p>	<p>Taking Donations</p>	<p>In city centres where large numbers of Ugandan Asians are settling like Montreal, Toronto and to a smaller degree Halifax, committees seek donations of clothing, food and household goods.</p>	 <p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052361 A picnic on the floor at Longue-Pointe.</p>
<p>October 18, 1972</p>	<p>Double Flight Days</p>	<p>Daily flights begin arriving in Canada from Uganda, with two flights a day in some cases. They are carried out by Air Canada, Pacific Western and CP Air.</p>	 <p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052357 A couple speaks with an officer at Longue-Pointe.</p>
<p>October 27, 1972</p>	<p>Statistics So Far</p>	<p>Of the 20 600 Ugandan Asians who applied for entry to Canada thus far, approximately 13 000 were refused and 1500 failed to come up when</p>	

		called.	
October 30, 1972	Phasing Out	The plan begins to phase out the Canadian immigration team and ensure that no one is left behind. The Canadian team feels comfortable leaving Uganda as the UN Center will remove any Asians wishing to leave, the no-show rate is now 50%, Asians in key positions have permission to stay, and thousands of UK vouchers have not been claimed.	 <p>Department of National Defence. Library and Archives Canada, e011052354 A couple speaks with an officer at the accommodation centre at Longue-Pointe.</p>

<p>November 2, 1972</p>	<p>Overbookings & Cancellations</p>	<p>A charter to Canada is overbooked by 21 people. The overflow passengers either stay with friends or family in the area or are put up at a hotel and all leave on a flight the next day. The Canadian team decides to cancel the charter on November 7 as there is enough room for the expelled Ugandan Asians on other flights.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton University Library.</p> <p>A group of South Asian Ugandans wait to enter the customs hangar in Entebbe after disembarking from busses.</p>
<p>November 8, 1972</p>	<p>The Last Charter</p>	<p>The final charter, #31, departs from Uganda. The final statistics for the Canadian team are as follows-</p> <p>Applications received: 8065, for a total of 32 393 people.</p> <p>Applications refused: 4172, applications for a total of 12 446 people.</p> <p>Number of visas issued: 2115, for a total of 6 292 people.</p>	 <p>Roger St. Vincent, "Seven Crested Cranes." Archives and Special Collections, Carleton</p>

		<p>Visas unclaimed: 39, for a total of 117 people. Net effective total: 2116, for a total of 6 175 people. Total number traveling to Canada on 31 charters: 4 420 Total expected via commercial flight 1,725 Note: approximately 2,000 more were admitted to Canada from camps in Europe in 1973/74</p>	<p>University Library. Ugandan South Asian refugees board the final charter from Entebbe to Montreal.</p>
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