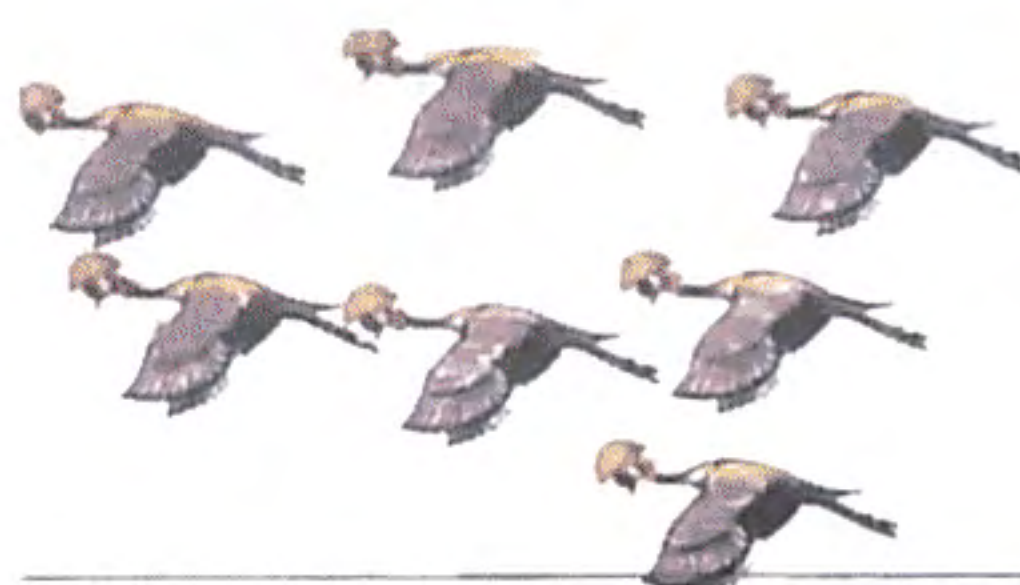


REMEMBERING...A TRAGIC SAGA.... THE EXODUS OF UGANDAN SOUTH ASIANS



August 5th 1972

**The Day President Idi Amin Ordered the Expulsion
of all Asians from Uganda-**

**Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau's Reaction Was
Swift and Generous...**

A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE

"We as a country of Canadians are prepared to offer an honourable place to those Ugandan Asians who come to Canada. For 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 our Canadian society."

Pierre Trudeau, Aug. 1972.

THE ROLE OF CANADA'S MISSION TO KAMPALA, UGANDA

Roger Saint-Vincent Team Leader Kampala, Uganda September 1st to November 8th 1972

EXODUS FROM UGANDA

"The Pearl of Africa" Winston Churchill



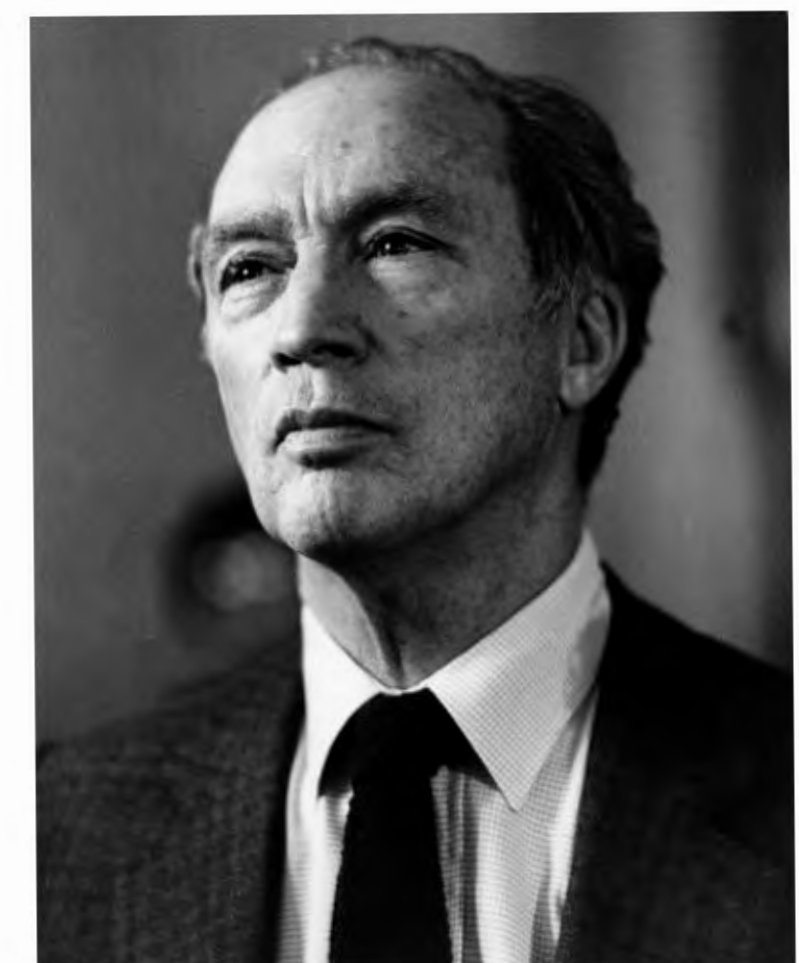
THE PLAYERS



Milton OBOTE



Idi Amin

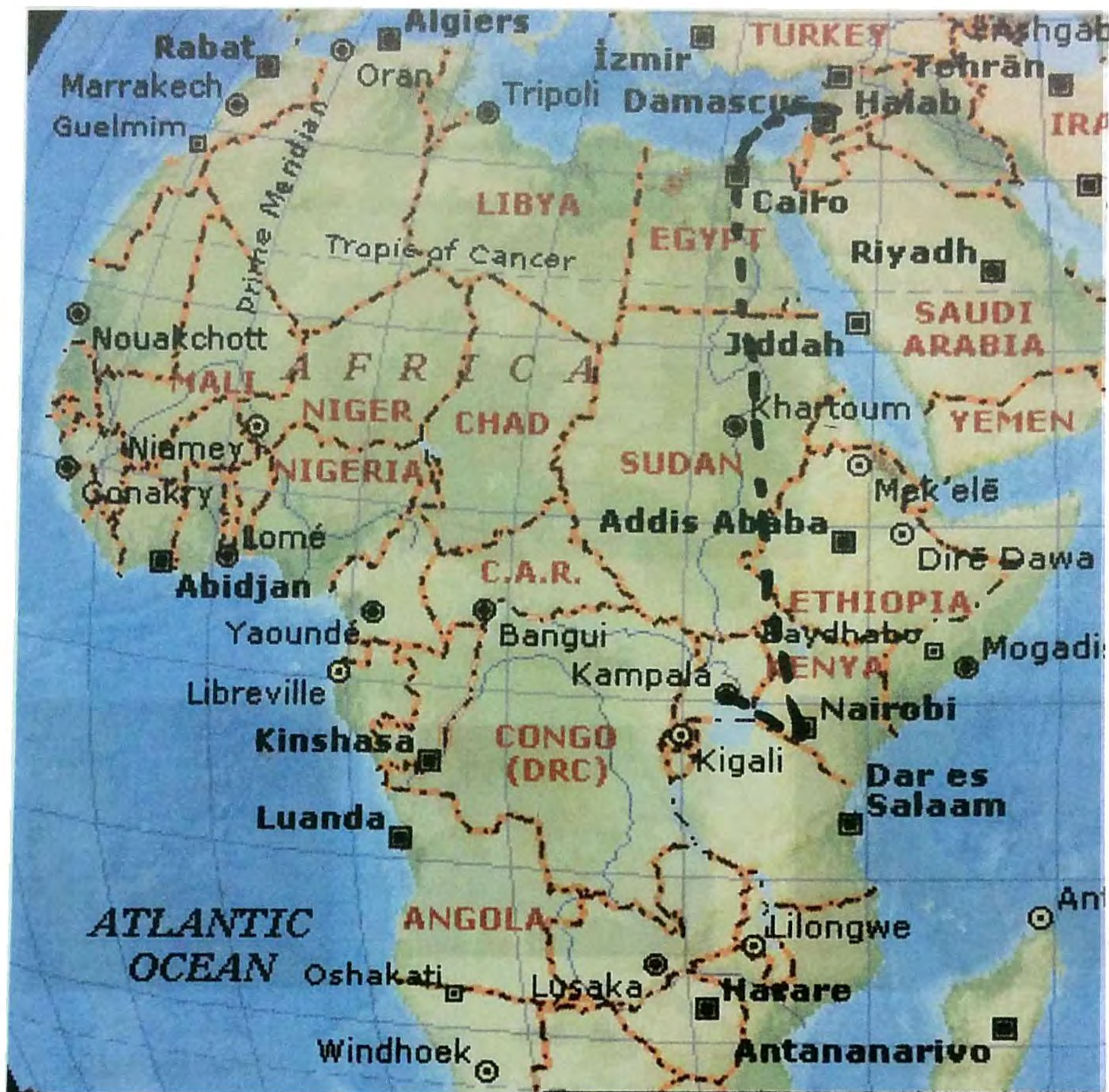


Pierre Elliot Trudeau

In December 1971, during a Commonwealth Conference of Heads of States in Singapore, President Milton Obote of Uganda received news of the coup d'état that brought General Idi Amin to power in Uganda. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau expressed great dismay at the time.

Eight months later, in August 1972, the despotic new ruler, Idi Amin Dada, had a vision in which he said : **"God told him to get rid of all Asians"**-
On August 5th 1972 he ordered their expulsion.

For the Asians in Uganda, their worst nightmare had begun....



THE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND SUPPORT STAFF WHO TOOK PART IN THE MISSION CAME FROM: BEIRUT, LEBANON, FOREIGN SERVICE HDQRS AND CPO OTTAWA, LONDON, ENGLAND, ROME, ITALY, ATHENS GREECE. THE LARGEST NUMBERS CAME FROM FOREIGN BRANCH HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, AS PROMISED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OPERATIONS MR. GM MITCHELL. THE INITIAL CONTRIBUTION ONE OFFICER AND A FINANCE CLERK FROM THE NAIROBI HIGH COMMISSION WAS MOST HELPFUL TO GET STARTED. THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE EXERCISE BY THE CANADIAN DOCTORS FROM VARIOUS OFFICES ABROAD AND HEADQUARTERS AS WELL AS THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES TECHNICIANS WAS INVALUABLE. ADDITIONALLY, THE PARTICIPATION BY THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIES FROM POSTS IN AFRICA AND THOSE OF THE WIVES OF MEMBERS OF CUSO AND CIDA IN UGANDA WHO VOLUNTEERED WERE OF IMMENSE ASSISTANCE. I AM NOT FORGETTING THE FEW ASIAN WHO ALSO CAME TO HELP AT A CRITICAL TIME.

SEVEN CRESTED CRANES

REMEMBERING...A TRAGIC SAGA....
THE EXODUS OF SOUTH ASIANS FROM UGANDA



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abilities and industry, make an equally
important contribution to our Canadian
society."**

Pierre Trudeau, Aug. 1972.

My involvement in the "Exodus of Asians" from August 30th until November 8th 1972 was the highlight of my 35-year career with the Federal Immigration Service. I took part in the selection of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Germany and Austria 1948-1952, displaced by the whims of a fanatic dictator. In the cases of the South Asians in Uganda, the edict proffered against them by President Idi Amin on August 8th 1972, gave the South Asians an ultimatum: leave by November 8th 1972. Otherwise, they would be forcibly expelled and be subjected to a worse fate. Apart from admonitions against President Amin from many countries, there was no move on the part of the UN to stop the "ethnic cleansing," even when many of the South Asians were second generation Ugandan Citizens! Canada responded without hesitation to help the South Asians regardless of their status. This abridged version provides details of Canada's Mission to Kampala, Uganda which was a Canadian Operation throughout. *I wish to point out that this Mission was a Canadian Mission throughout-it accounts for its success in record time.*

While back in Beirut, on November 8th 1972, I was asked to report to Ottawa on November 23rd 1972 to meet the Minister of Immigration, the Hon. Bruce Mackasey. After a brief exchange, he gave me a letter from Prime Minister P.E. Trudeau in which he expressed his personal thanks on behalf of the Government and the people of Canada for a successful Mission.

I received further recognition while in Toronto when I reported to Ottawa on 22 October 1973 to meet the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, the Hon. Robert Andras who presented me with a cheque for \$2,500. In April 1974, I was promoted as a result of that successful operation.

In April 1994, I was invited to Ottawa to attend an event marking 22 years since the Exodus of South Asians from Uganda, "Journey into Hope." It was sponsored by the Ugandan Asian Communities in Canada and the CIHS. On Friday, April 29th 1994, at a dinner held at the Museum of Civilization, Hull, P.Q., the President of the CIHS, Joyce Kavanah-Wood, introduced the VIPs, i.e. and our Minister, the Hon. Sergio Marchi, Mr. Aziz Bahloo, President of the Ismaili Community of Canada, and other dignitaries. There were Ugandan Asians and Canadians who were members of the Team in Kampala. The next day, during the seminar held at the University of Ottawa, a number of Ugandan spoke out about those fateful days before leaving for Canada.

Another event took place on October 2, 2002, in the West Wing of Parliament Hill. The Pearson-Shoyama Institute wished to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Uganda South Asian Exodus, a dinner with 250 persons. In attendance were Minister Sheila Copps, Senator Mobina Jaffer, Ambassadors, Members of Parliament, VIPs etc. On this occasion *Senator Jaffer (who was born in Uganda)* announced that *Michael Molloy* and I would receive the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for the successful movement, 30 years ago-we were not forgotten. A ceremony was held at the Canadian Consulate, Ljubljana, Slovenia, on December 5th 2002, in the presence of Ambassador Ronald Halpin, from Budapest. He presented me with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. These honours reflect the high esteem by the Canadian Asian Community for Canada's assistance and the Dept. of Immigration's contribution to alleviate the tragic plight of those affected. At the end of this book the reader will find a DVD disk of these two events.



Canadian Consulate, Ljubljana, Rep. of Slovenia, Dec. 5th 2002. H. E. Ambassador R. Halpin, resident in Budapest came to present the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for my role in the "Exodus of Asians," from Uganda. The Award Certificate, shown below, bears the signature of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.



On the occasion of
the Queen's Golden Jubilee
I am pleased to
present to
Her Majesty The Queen
in the Queen
the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal
in recognition of
your services to
the Commonwealth

Roger St. Vincent



Map of the city of Kampala shows where the Apollo (Intercontinental/Obote) Hotel, Offices and other sites that were familiar to the members of "Team Canada."



The various routes by which the South Asians left Uganda by air and sea from September to November 1972

CHAPTER 10

SEVEN CRESTED CRANES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Uganda-South Asian Exodus-The Players-The Journey and the Members of the Team	p. 195/6
Remembering a Tragic Saga-Exodus of Ugandan Asians-Background, Award, Medal	p. 197/198
"Seven Crested Cranes"-The Role Of Canada's Mission to Kampala-Maps	p. 199/200
Table of Contents	p. 201
John Hunter's Introduction on behalf of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society	p. 202
Retrospective, Preamble and Dedication	p. 203
The Mission and The Challenge	p. 204
Prime Minister PE Trudeau's Statement-Meeting HiCom Staff-Planning Strategy-Selection Hurdles-Target Raised to 6,000- Aug.31-I Arrive at Kampala-Office Space,Furniture/Furnishings-Dr. McRae, Arrives from Rome	p. 205/6
Help from the British Embassy/The British Immigration Team-The Ultimatum-The Reporters and CBC's Nadeau-	p. 207
CBC's P Nadeau-Arrivals, G. Campbell, Ottawa CPO Typists & Minister's Special Asst. Z. Levine; Drs Piche, Duncan- ..	p. 208
A Miracle, Furniture Arrives-In Five Days we're Ready-DAY ONE, Sept 6/1972-Asians Everywhere-	
Dr. Piche Refuses to Examine Asians Without Xrays-Canadian Forces Technicians Arrive-First Flight-F. Tufts Returns p, 209/10	
Director General told Charter #1 will not be full-Mobile Unit(MU) Arrives-	
Road Blocks to Airport-MU Snags/Delays for Medical Examinations-Dr. Abaer Arrives from Athens-L. Carrol, H. Malone .	p. 211
First Visas to Asians for Charter #1-Panic in Kampala-M. Mitchell and Saul Grey Arriving Sep. 26 from Ottawa	p. 212
Announcement Charter #1 Sept.27-Charter Schedule Unrealistic-Arrival S. Grey/GM Mitchell -Discussions re Movement .	p. 213
M. Mitchell Acts as Escort Charter # 1 September 27-Lead Mercedes to Entebbe Airport with HiCom, Mitchell, Grey- ..	p. 214
Set Back for 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Charter-Misunderstanding at Foreign Service HDQRS re Cases Received and Visaed	p. 215
Use of "Affirmation for Visa"-The British Immigration Folds Up-Australia's Chief Migration Officer's -	p. 216
ICEM's Enquiry-"Canada Took the Cream"-Culling Exercise-Hiatus in Nairobi, Sir Ibhoo-	p. 217/18
Jim Versteegh Arrives-"Full Flights Ahead-	
New Charter Schedule-GM Mitchell Suggests I be Replaced-Mo Benoit Takes over at the Counter	p. 219
GMM Mitchell/W. Dickman Arrive-A Culling Exercise-"Twin Flights"-My "Performance" Discussed	p. 220
The One Social Event! Michael Molloy and the Asian Students-Departures- ,	p. 221
Arrival of 2000 th Asian, Longue Pointe-Opening of the UN Centre	p. 222
Phasing Out Examinations/Interviews-GM. Mitchell, Guidance re Hard Core Cases-"Twin Flights-"Asians Must Leave" ..	p. 223
UN Centre Opened to "ALL"-Meeting N. Stachowsky/Staff Disengagement List-Stats Up-date-	p. 224
Stats for DirGen Clark-Last and late Arrival of "Twin Charter Flights"-	p. 225
Canadian Forces Technicians Prepare to Leave -	p. 226
The Last Culling Exercise- To Murchison Falls- -Re-assuring Dir. Gen. MG Clark-	p. 227
Mission Accomplished-Final Statistics- Nov, 8 th -Last Charter # 31-Postscript-1,000,000 £ Cheque-	p.228
Postscript,"Hindsight" Annex "A"	p. 229
Annex "B"-Notice from the UN Centre-Charter Flights-Map of Exodus, Destination	p, 230/1/2
Photo Album, List of Personnel-Map of Slovenia, First Draft of "Exodus of Asians"	p. 233/4/5/6/7/38/39
Sequel "I" Idi Amin-Sequel "II" "Journey into Hope", March 1994; Sequel "III", October 2 nd 2002 at Ottawa-	p. 240to 252

In October 1993, The Canadian Immigration Historical Society (CIHS), published my book "Asian Exodus from Uganda." It was Number 3 in the Series "Perspectives in Canadian Immigration." This abridged version is a comprehensive overview of what took place during the period between September 1st and November 8th, 1972.

INTRODUCTION BY JOHN HUNTER, CIHS

"The CHIS is pleased to publish Roger's 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 Crossman 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 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. It 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 from the stench as technicians analysed stool specimens. Later, we're on the runway at Kampala's airport watching as Roger decides what to do with a cheque for 1 million Ugandan pounds that a grateful Asian group wants to give the Canadian Government.

With facts and details, the memoir captures the emotions of working in a pressure cooker milieu. There are the odd bursts of anger and frustration at Hdqrs officials and of other Departments. There are feelings of affection and respect for the members of the team and the volunteers. There is satisfaction to have accomplished what seemed at times a 'mission impossible.' Above all, there is deep joy at having rescued frightened human beings from a 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. There was a growing fear that something much worse could happen in the volatile atmosphere being fuelled by a demagogue's ranting. The Asians feared that a new holocaust was in the making. These fears 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 they could do more. They resented what they interpreted as requests to ignore the criteria set by the Canada's Government 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 seems to be a sensible set of rules and a group of equally motivated Community leaders trying to ensure that as many of their members escaped to Canada.

In his memoir, Roger could have deleted reference to occasional tensions between the team and the Asian Communities. In almost all refugee movement, dedicated Community leaders and officials can, and do, have honest differences of perspective and opinion. By not glossing over these differences, Roger helped the reader understand an

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 the movement was a most successful operation. 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 CHIS is delighted to be able to offer this unique and valuable document to its members."

RETROSPECTIVE

In early Autumn of 1972, three events retained the attention of Canadians—a Federal election, the victory of Canada's Hockey Team over the Soviet's and the Vietnamese Peace Treaty ending the state of war as of October 31, 1972. They overshadowed the tragedy taking place in Uganda, where General Idi Amin decreed on August 5, 1972 the expulsion of 80,000 Asians. Few Canadians recalled Prime Minister PE Trudeau's statement admonishing President Amin, for his base and racist action. Canada's response to alleviate their plight 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

Notwithstanding the exacting pace of events that took place during the "Uganda Operations," I kept daily notes, as developments unfolded. The notes constitute the basis for the report. My Mission over, I left Kampala on November 8, 1972 for Nairobi and next day I flew to Beirut. Arriving November 10. A few weeks later I was asked to come to Ottawa with my wife to meet with our Minister. I went alone to meet Mr. Bryce Mackasey and, during the meeting, he handed me a letter from Prime Minister PE. Trudeau in which the latter expressed the gratitude of the Government for the success of the mission. I thanked Minister Mackasey for the backing I received from the Foreign Branch, i.e., the secondment of officers and support staff. I told him that the personnel from the NH&W, the DND Mobile Unit, External Affairs and some of the Nairobi Canadian High Commission personnel played their supportive part. Teamwork, strong motivation and a free hand at managing the operations assured its success

On my return to Beirut, I flew to Slovenia for Xmas 1972, bringing my notes, "en clair" telegrams, newspaper clippings etc. I wrote the first draft of the "Exodus" in longhand. Upon my return to Beirut, Foreign Branch Hdqrs requested I report to Toronto as acting Administrator until In October 1973 when I was named Immigration Co-ordinator, 1976 Olympics and moved to Montreal. I left a copy of the typed draft with Dawn Munroe, the Departmental Librarian.

I dedicate this report to my wife Marija, from whom I was separated for months on this occasion and in other similar humanitarian trips during my service—her support and understanding made it all worthwhile. 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 Manpower & Immigration, Beirut, Lebanon,.....

To: Attaché, Manpower and
 Immigration Beirut, Lebanon
 24 August, 1972.
 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 by whatever means under-
 take to process without numerical
 limitations 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.**

I always enjoyed the TV series "Mission Impossible." The tone of the above telegram conveyed a challenge that reminded me of those words '**..should you decide to accept to accept the Mission....**' After receiving the message, M. Mitchell, Director of Operations, Foreign Branch asked me to leave immediately for Kampala to set up the Mission with the help of support personnel to be assigned as required. I am to liaise with the High Commission, Nairobi.

I hesitated to accept because we were very busy at the Beirut Visa office, an "Area Office" looking after immigration applications from over 30 countries, including Uganda. I asked Mr. Mitchell if he had someone else in mind. His unequivocal answer was "you, Roger!" He said "it is within your area of operational responsibility." He also intimated that if I refused, I could be recalled to Canada sooner than expected. Unlike the tape that self-destructs in "Mission Impossible," I intended to pursue my career in the Foreign Service. Mr. Mitchell relied on me to carry out this assignment and the re-assuring part of our conversation came as he ended his call with the words "you can count on the full support of the Foreign Branch." I told him I will be on the first available flight to Nairobi.

It was an assignment without precedent. I had no idea how many persons I would be expected to process nor the staff required or how long it would take. I knew from previous visits to Kampala that Canada had no representation in that city. At priori I knew from previous visits that the processing of South Asians in Uganda was more or less routine. Since Canada had no representation or office in Kampala we examined the applicants in a Hotel. However, I was unprepared for many unexpected developments such as the target intake of South Asians raised from 3000 to 6,000. The lack of office space and the unusual medical requirements for each Asian and, the Assisted Passage formalities, the lack of cooperation from the Chief Medical Officer at Kampala and, last but not least, misunderstandings and misinterpretation by Immigration Headquarters senior staff of the statistical data I provided daily concerning the Charter Flights.

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 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/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/NO REAL ASSURANCE THAT THEIR EFFECT MAY NOT/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/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/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 AMIN'S 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".

MANDI=Manpower and Immigration//IMFB HQ=Immigration Foreign Branch Headquarters, Ottawa

DND/CAF-Dept of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces-DirGen=Director General, Foreign Branch,

B. Clark-DirOps=Director of Operations, Foreign Branch, Mr. GM Mitchell--EXTEROTT-External Affairs, Ottawa//

CIDA=Canadian International Development Agency--SSEA-Secretary of State for External Affairs//

HIICOM=High Commissioner, Commonwealth Countries, Ambassador-ICEM_Intern'l Committee European Migration

PLANNING THE STRATEGY IN NAIROBI, KENYA-After the six-hour overnight flight from Beirut to Nairobi via Nicosia, I went through the Immigration and Customs controls very quickly after arriving at the Nairobi Embakasi Airport. A half-hour taxi ride brought me to the New Stanley hotel where I registered at 10.30 am, August 28, 1972. Once refreshed, I walked to the nearby Canadian High Commission. The Canadian secretary led me into Mr. Olivier's office. He welcomed me and immediately said that he had been unable to go to Kampala as he had yet to present his letters of accreditation to the Uganda Government, having arrived only recently. He suggested that I meet with him and his staff at 11.30 in order to identify urgent priorities.

The following were present, Reginald Smith, First Secretary, Philip Boyes, Second Secretary (CIDA), Stan Buryanyk, Admin Officer, his Asst. John McNeish. Mr. Olivier suggested a Liaison officer be present at all times at Kampala, either Reg Smith or Phil Boyes in order to report to him and assist with protocol matters with the Uganda MFA. We discussed logistics and agreed that John McNeish will assist me with financial matters.

After the meeting, I spoke with Reg Smith and Phil Boyes about office space in Kampala. They said space was available but made no firm commitments as they did not know what I required. Phil Boyes was flying to Kampala next day and would enquire about other important items such as typewriters, desks, chairs etc.

I prepared two forms-one concerning the selection criterion, see (Annex "A"). The other was a breakdown of the passengers on each flight to Canada, i.e., family composition, age, destination preference, diet etc. to be telexed before the arrival of the plane in Canada. My experience with the Czech/Slovaks refugees in Vienna in '68 dictated the need for such data. Mr. Mitchell called that evening giving me the passport details of four support staff from Central Processing Office, ImmHdqs due to arrive in a week. He also approved the suggested selection criterion breakdown that I sent him. I asked for the services of Mike Molloy from Beirut to assist me as a very competent officer and he agreed. I told Mr. Mitchell that Phil Boyes from the HiCom Nairobi was in Kampala seeking to obtain my "clearance"(permission from the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enter Uganda under temporary Diplomatic accreditation. At 09:15 August 30, I called Boyes to give him the passport particulars of the four members due to arrive. He said that my "clearance" should come by 17:00, adding that typewriters could be rented.

Dr. D. McRae, the Rome Regional Director for National Health and Welfare called to tell me that Drs. M. Piché and R. Duncan are due to arrive at Kampala. I told him I needed their passport data to obtain "clearance" from the Uganda MFA. He agreed to call back adding that Dr. M. Piché will be in charge of the Medical Unit. I knew him from my days at Karlsruhe and we teamed up to examine refugees between 1948-52 as well as Paris in 1964. Doctor McRae from Rome also confirmed the arrival of the Canadian Army Medical Mobile Unit(MU) and Army Medical Technicians to carry blood, urine, parasitic tests and X-rays. The Beirut Visa Office was never consulted nor informed in this regard. Otherwise, I would have insisted that the tests other than X-rays were not needed!

Obviously, if we are faced with an abnormal demand for such tests, the technicians may be unable to respond with alacrity. Again, from previous experience, Asians were free from parasitic infections. The three tests were more hurdles bound to slow the entire process which was contrary to the intent expressed by the P.M.'s Statement "we will assist in every way possible, even invoking Special Ministerial authority **to accept people who do not meet the selection criteria.**" The right decision was made insofar as X-Rays were concerned but I believe that a Senior Immigration Official hoodwinked members of other Departments on the question of blood, urine and parasitic or stool tests.

Telegram IMMFOR 2602 AUG 29-This message stressed that selected Asians be granted **ASSISTED PASSAGE** for their transportation to Canada (to be repaid.) This was **another hurdle** since officers had to explain the re-payment conditions before getting the applicant to sign giving his consent. I was to leave for Kampala next morning and I made 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" of 3,000 Asians could easily be processed and documented for departure by the third week of September-

However, two unexpected developments precluded the realization of these hasty objectives:

- a) the delayed arrival of the Army medical technicians and their Mobile Unit and,
- b) the Cabinet decision to double the intake from 3,000 to 6,000 Asians-

Thursday, August 31: During the East African Airline Flight EAA 911 to Kampala, I recalled that on previous trips to Kampala, it took 45 minutes to clear Immigration and Customs controls. The ground hostess held all the passengers near the bottom of the ramp until the last passenger had disembarked. While waiting, I spotted seven graceful crested or crowned cranes flying in a perfect "V" formation and I thought "this is a lucky omen." The crested crane is the national bird of Uganda.

Neither Boyes nor Smith met me on arrival. I took a battered Peugeot taxi to the Apollo (International) Hotel. The ride took one hour. I paid a lot of attention along the road that I would be travelling back and forth. When I checked in at 10:30 at the Apollo Hotel, both R Smith and P. Boyes greeted me. Their excuse not to meet me was "you knew your way around." The suite they reserved will be suitable for meetings with the staff.

I met Peter Dow, of Martin Hayman Enterprises and accompanied him to his seventh floor of the IPS Bldg. The space he offered to rent was totally inadequate but I kept an option on it. I asked about the empty space on the first floor. He said it is 2700 square feet and he wanted \$6,500. for a minimum of four months. I visualized the use of that space by the Medical Section, i.e., three to four doctors, office space, partitions for Asians to undress, space for Immigration Officers, support staff, the registry, file cabinets and the counter. It was what I needed and I rented it.

I asked Peter Dow to prepare the lease in the name of the High Commissioner for Canada, Nairobi, by early afternoon. Reg Smith was leaving for Nairobi and would take the lease with him to be signed in the name of the Crown by the High Commissioner for Canada, Mr. MG Olivier.

Peter Dowd suggested I meet with Charles Broadfoot at the British High Commission, regarding office furniture and char people, adding "he knows helpful people." When I met him he agreed to look after a P.O. Box, telegraphic address and two telephones! He was pleased to accommodate our needs and to co-operate with us and it was obvious why. The sooner we're operational, the sooner we could whisk Asians to Canada instead of the UK. As for office furniture, he said that I should meet with Mr. I. Roche, a British expatriate carpenter, at 10:30 next morning, September 1, at the leased premises. On the way out we met Mr. T. Emson, Liaison Officer and Mr. D. Adams, advisor from the British Foreign Office. They said the British Team, as of August 30, processed 1,700 Asians from a backlog of 3,000 applications held prior to Amin's August 5th Decree.

My next visit was to Mr. A. Mevdghi, Mgr. Jubilee Insurance Co., IPS Bldg. He offered the "loan" of two typist desks, chairs as well as his secretary for purchases of soap, towels etc. His telex facilities were also available to us.

I then went to meet the British Immigration Team Leader, Chief Immigration Officer Kevin Croakham, from Heathrow Airport. I explained that we will set up shop above him, in the IPS Bldg. **he has 14 officers under him**, recruited from the London and Dover Immigration offices. They worked in a low ceiling and crowded office without air conditioning. It was a "paper" operation requiring no skill. They verified the identity of the applicant from the data in his passport and their records. If these checks were satisfactory, they issued an "Entry Voucher" (the equivalent of an immigrant or resident visa) in the passport. They used a hand-operated press to place a dry seal over the photo on the "Entry Voucher" and each Immigration Officer kept statistics on a separate register. The passport was returned to its holder and it was over within 15 minutes! **There was no selection criteria, no counselling, no medical examination, no X-Ray, blood, urine or "stool" tests, no Assisted Passage Warrants agreement to repay the cost of the air fare, no charter aircraft** and no arrangements to help them on arrival! What a breeze! That is what I call "facilitating" in the true sense of the word, something luminaries at Immigration Foreign Branch Headquarters could never agree to. If only Prime Minister Trudeau had knowledge of such a simplified procedure by the "Brits" he would surely have insisted that we do likewise as was intimated in the Telex of August 24th. The Asians selected for the UK did not present any fear of contaminating anyone-not so for "Canada!"

The Apollo Hotel French-speaking Mauritius-born telephone operator connected me with Mr. Mitchell (IMFOR) at 20:20. He agreed with all my decisions to rent the space including the option for the seventh floor office space. He mentioned that Assisted Passage **should be granted only to those who meet our selection criteria and are unable to pay!** He **will be on leave from September 4 and Georges Reynolds will replace him.** I accomplished more in one day than I ever expected. We could have moved into our offices the next day had we had a few typist desks, chairs, etc. to "show the flag." However, I had no staff and no application form.

Mr. I. Roche, the Channel Islands expatriate carpenter arrived at 10:30. I explained our needs in details, first for flexible and semi-permanent partitions for the Medical Unit and tables and chairs. I indicated where I wanted the counter. I wanted the partitions and the counter by Monday morning! He agreed, adding "if you're not fussy about quality." He said he would call an Asian, named "Chader," owner a furniture making shop in Jinja, 50 miles to the east, about chairs and tables. The two desks promised by Mr. Mevdghi were brought down from the 7th floor and he took me to a store selling second-hand furniture. When I asked about renting he said he only sells but, he would buy it back at 80% of the sale price, if he was still around. The furniture looked rather dilapidated.

THE ULTIMATUM! Mr. S. Chader and assistant owned a furniture shop training Ugandan Africans in furniture making. I told him that I urgently need 30 plain chairs, 15 chairs with cushions and 10 plain tables in two days' time, because I am committed to open Wednesday September 6 at 07:30 to see Asians who wish to leave for Canada. He said it couldn't be done and I said that unless the items were delivered, we would remain closed and he left. When I mentioned the conversation to Mr. Broadfoot, he said Chader would do his best (with their urgent plea!)

On that first Sunday, a reporter from the CBC, Pierre Nadeau and his crew came to Kampala from Burundi where news reached them to proceed to Kampala and interview the Head of Canada's Team. We met outside the Hotel, in the area near the swimming pool. Pierre Nadeau saw that I smoked a pipe and insisted that I pump my stoker while being interviewed. I explained how I planned to proceed. His team was present on the opening day but I never saw them as we were so busy. They left a few days later after interviewing Asians in and around the office.

ARRIVAL OF THE MEMBERS OF CANADA'S MISSION: Monday, September 4th - "Labour Day" was a working day as I went with Officer Gerry Campbell, the first arrival, to the IPS building to look at the office. The carpenters were assembling the long counter. At 10:00 I received word from Boyes that the Ottawa based staff had arrived at the hotel. I went there to welcome Mr. Zavier Levine, Special Asst. to our Minister, Jim McMaster from P&P and the Ottawa-based CPO typists, Mrs. Mary-Helen Hempel, Miss Jolène Carrière and Miss Ginette Leroux. They managed very well on their own, going through Immigration and Customs checks without a hitch. They shared two taxis to the Apollo hotel. It was a long and tiring flight and were told to rest. Dr. M. Piché and Dr. R. Duncan also showed up, travelling on the same flight but, unaware of each other's destination. They brought medical supplies, X-Ray viewers and Medical forms. They said that they sent a telex to Nairobi about their ETA-it was not relayed to me.

Mr. Zavier Levine and both doctors wanted to see the office. We went to the IPS Bldg. at 10:30 and I explained how I envisaged the allocation of space and the lay-out of the furniture expected to-morrow. Dr. Piché was shown his area with partitions already in place. I introduced him to the Asian electrician who will wire the X-Ray viewers. The only comment he made about what was done for his section was "on verra plus tard!" From past experience in 1948-52 and Paris 1963/4, I knew he could be difficult to deal with.

Floyd Tufts arrived from the Rome Visa Office. I knew that Floyd worked well under pressure from previous experience. After lunch, Zavier Levine, Reg. Smith, Phil Boyes and I discussed the press release for Tuesday's edition of the Argus newspaper, about the opening of the office on Wednesday. The text reflected the gist of the PM's statement. We expected it would bring a flood of South Asians. Z. Levine and P. Boyes delivered the press release to the Argus editor. I returned to the IPS at 16:30 and saw that the counter was in place as well as all partitions for the medical Section.

When I arrived at the hotel, John McNeish, seconded from the HighCom Nairobi, had just arrived. He would keep track of disbursements, advances to the team members for meals, laundry and air travel. He was told to pay the hotel invoices for the staff on a weekly basis, drawing funds against the \$25,000 Letter of Credit. The reporters from the Toronto and Montreal Star and some UK newspapers wanted more information about the start of the Mission.. I told them that "our office will open at 07:00 Wednesday September 6."

A few days later, bad press from reporters about President Amin Dada and his treatment of the South Asians, resulted in a number of reporters being asked to leave Uganda, post-haste. That evening, I got news that Mike Molloy was in Nairobi. I asked him to bring two large Canadian flags.

Tuesday, September 5: THE MIRACLE-At exactly 12:00, two trucks pulled up in front of the office and Chader's men unloaded 45 chairs and 10 tables. They were made of "ordinary" mahogany! I told Mike how to distribute the furniture between the Medical Section and ourselves. Mr. Chader kept his promise and I pointed to the Canadian staff and our readiness, thanks to him, to process applications from Asians as of to-morrow morning. I thanked him and said he should contact me if he wanted to go to Canada. He declined, being the holder of an exemption permit to stay in Uganda. The two telephones worked and the Canada-based staff were asked to memorized the numbers:-30334 and 30339. The first call was made to the HighCom, Nairobi who were asked to telex the numbers to: IMMFOROTT, EXTEROTT S. GREY, NH&WOTT att Dr. Wood, Athens, Beirut, London and Rome. I called a meeting at 16:30 to review plans for D-Day, next morning. There remained the problem of index cards.

After 5 days in Kampala, we had a fully furnished office. We had telephones lines, a teletype, typewriters and a supply of forms-interviews could start Wednesday September 6th. The staff morale was high and members of the Immigration Team were enthusiastic and highly motivated to play their part in this humanitarian Mission.

Wednesday, September 6: As our rented minibus drew alongside IPS Bldg, we were incredulous to see about 2,000 people waiting in lines, stretching around the block. The first Asians said they had waited since 04:00! Mike Molloy briefed Tufts and Campbell about the selection criteria approved by IMFOR. On that first day, we handed out 2,588 applications (when they were returned they covered 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 had relatives in Canada. That evening, in my suite, Zavier Levine and others heard over my transistor radio about the assassination of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics Games by PLO terrorists. After everyone left except for Mike and Zavier, the latter was nervous, confiding that the Ugandan Internal Security people might deduce from his name that he was Jewish. He wanted to leave earlier than planned. He called Minister Mackasey about his early return.

Thursday, September 7: Jim McMaster came to our rescue to solve the major problem of indexing the names of the South Asians when he suggested we use the hand-operated numbering machine he brought from Ottawa. We could use it by stamping each application returned starting with number 00001 and filed in numerical order. I then thought of the "Tax Clearance Forms" that the British Immigration Team had printed by the thousands and I went to obtain a few thousands from them. The South Asians will be given a "Tax Clearance form" stamped with the same number as the one appearing on their completed application form. All that was required from Jim had was to adjust the numbering machine in the "repeat twice" position. The number became the "file control number." The Asians were told that in a few days the Argus newspaper will publish a list of file numbers of Asians to be interviewed. The Tax Clearance Form or "receipt" became a valuable document. At 10:00 am Jacques Drapeau arrived from Athens..

Friday, September 8: In the afternoon, officers alternated between interviewing Asians and sorting the application forms IMMOS8 returned at the counter. By 17:00 I had the result of the survey requested from the staff:

BRIT.PASSP. HOLDER	585
UGANDA ASIANS	293
STATELESS	208
INDIANS	199
KENYA ASIANS	10
TANZANIAN ASIANS	8
PAKISTANI	2

The findings were surprising concerning the ratio of applications from "stateless" Asians. Without an interview, it was impossible to confirm if the claims for "stateless" were founded. Nevertheless, the exercise showed that we had to be prepared for a larger influx of applications from "stateless" Asians.

Saturday, September 9: Dr. Piché refused to do medical examinations until the Mobile Unit was operational! He seemed to enjoying the frustrations I felt. There was little I could do but continue to have the Officers interview those who met the selection criteria.(I worked with Dr. Piche between 1948/1952 in Germany and Austria as well as Paris 1964-he was not much different then.

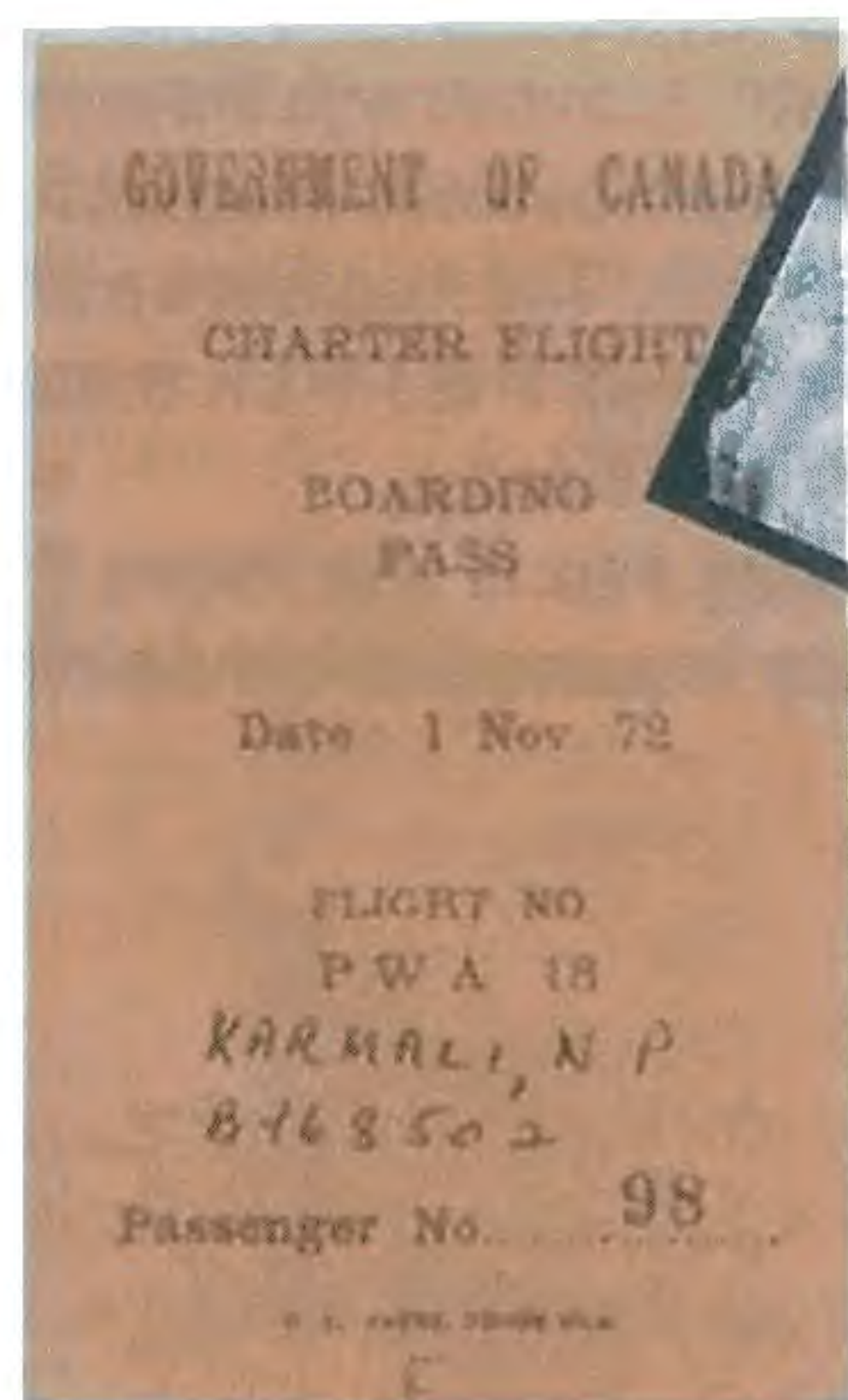
Sunday, September 10: I went to the Argus newspaper to deliver the lists of Asians to be interviewed for Wednesday, Sept. 13. At midnight Mr. M. G. Clark, DirGen of the Foreign Service asked for the latest update as he was meeting the Minister the following morning. I told him and mentioned that Dr. Piché refuses to examine any Asians until they undergo the X-Ray, blood, urine and stool tests. Furthermore, the Mobile Unit has yet to arrive. I asked for an Information Officer to take care of the members of the Media and he agreed.

Monday, September 11: "It's in the mail!" but there was no sign of the application forms(IMMOS8) shipped from Canada and London. With only 50 forms left, I told the counter staff to delay handing out forms until I receive the 2000 photocopies ordered from a local printer. The seven CAF technicians were due at Entebbe at 21:45, September 12, to-morrow! The Mobile X-Ray and Laboratory equipment left Canada and will be flown to Entebbe by BOAC Cargo from London to Kampala. I provided these details to Dr. Piche, Smith and Boyes. The information was also sent to Nairobi for the need clearance for the Military Medical Technicians. R. Smith confirmed that he was submitting the techs' passport details to the Uganda MFA. He would not say when he received the details!

Tuesday, September 12-At 00:25- It was unusual for Mr. Bud Clark to phone me to obtain the latest statistics. He agreed that the question of medical examinations was crucial. He said discussions are taking place about using charters. The flights would depart Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or possibly only Mondays and Thursdays. The first flight would arrive at Entebbe September 19 or 20. Specific information would follow asap. I had difficulties falling asleep after receiving that information. I repeated to Mr. Clark what I had told Mr. Morrison that the Mobile Unit has not yet arrived and that Dr. Piché refuses to pre-examine Asians accepted after Immigration interviews. It is possible that the first charter could be leaving September 19 or 20 without anyone on board as not a single visa has been issued to Asians! I was not all certain if what I said had registered.

I was still awake 01:25 when Roger Martineau called from Rome to ask that Immigration Officer Floyd Tufts return to Rome because his wife was admitted in an emergency at the Salvator Mundi Hospital. I ask John McNeish to get Floyd back to Rome by whatever means available. I reviewed the staffing requirements in view of the increasing workload and sent a telegram to Mr. Mitchell giving my assessment of future needs. The telex was sent from the Grand Hotel as ours lacked a priority key.

Gerry Campbell suggested printing embarkation cards for Asians travelling via charter. We agreed on colour, size and had them printed. The printer filled the order but warned us that he was leaving so we ordered what we thought was an accurate estimate. To-day we took in 1,068 applications for a total of 3,736 for 11,208 persons. It was now seven days since the Immigration component became operational.



Wednesday, September 13: Dr. Piché confirmed the arrival of the DND Lab Technicians. Boyes met them at Entebbe airport. One wore his uniform! On this day, General Amin ordered the seven-man team of the British Army Special Training Unit to leave within 48 hours just as we were welcoming seven Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, for a very different reason. They were medical technicians: J Stronach, Ben Moser, Bob McPhee, Bill Maloney, John Martimbault, John Deschamps, R. Daigneault.

Dr. R Leclerc arrived from Rome as well as Miss Rosanne Hughes from Canada's High Commission, Lagos, Nigeria. She was put to work immediately. It was our second day interviewing Asians who responded to the newspaper notices. I was able to monitor with accuracy, every aspect of the operations. The interview rate was geared to the number of medical examiners and the rate at which the technicians could process Asians for X-Rays, blood, urine and stool tests.

Thursday, September 14: As of September 6th, we handed out 7,900 application forms (IMMOS8) and 4,503 were turned in for paper screening. The technicians surveyed the space next to our office for the layout of the **Mobile Unit**. In view of the increasing backlog of Asians pending interviews, I discussed with the officers the question of increasing the daily call-up rate from 60 to 70 cases as Mr. Mitchell promised additional Officer. They agreed to the increase. Three more lists of interviews were compiled and taken to the newspaper. Copies were immediately posted on the office windows, as usual, for Asians to consult. The Mission now comprised 22 Canada-based staff and another Volkswagen Minibus with driver was leased to cope with transportation demands between the hotel, office and Entebbe airport.

I reminded Sgt. Stronach and Dr. Piché that we needed 150 or 192 passengers aboard charter # 1, due in eight days. We had a backlog of 931 Asians (345 cases) waiting for medical examination and tests. I was tempted, against Dr. Piché's wish, to place a notice in the Argus "that would read: Asians accepted for Canada after interviews are asked to come with their dependants for medical examinations." Dr. Piché told his doctors to ignore such tactics.

Friday, September 15: When DirGen M.G. Clark called at 00:30, I told him that it was unrealistic to expect the first charter for September 19/20 to be full of Asian passengers. I repeated that of the 1,100 Asians accepted by Immigration Officers, **not one has a visa because Dr. Piché refuses to let his doctors examine anyone** unless they have gone through the medical tests. He had to concede to the delay the first charter to September 27. That gave me some respite to accumulate a backlog of visaed Asians if the Mobile Unit become operational. I can then guarantee 140 passengers for the first charter. In a separate telex, FBHdqs confirmed that a "separation statement" is acceptable where dependants of Asians are outside Uganda. Dr. Piché and his colleagues have now been in Kampala 11 days with little to show so far. Incredible!

This afternoon, Dr. Piché and Sgt. Stronach said the **Mobile Unit will be operational Monday, September 18**. I sent a notice to the newspaper about the 1,100 Asians accepted by Immigration Officer, inviting them to appear on Sept. 19,20,21. We had to maximize the rate of interviews and medical examinations, keeping in close touch with the technicians of the Mobile Unit. In a few days, more pressure would be felt as we gear up for the real challenge, i.e., expecting that all the 1,100 Asians will appear for X-Rays, Lab. tests and medical examinations for the 19, 20 and 21, I did not invite new applicants for interviews during those three days to avoid confusion. The Officers will be busy screening applications for those Asians to be invited after September 21. The Immigration Officers will now start issuing visas to the Asians accepted. Today's survey showed that 70% of those interviewed prefer to pay for their fares to Canada. **Between 18:00 and 18:30 the technicians watched the unloading of two diesel generators from a rented truck. It took several Ugandan strongmen to unload the generators weighing 800 lbs each! They were placed near the tents of the Mobile Unit, with reserved fuel containers.** They were never used throughout the entire operation as no power outages ever occurred.

Saturday, September 16- The Argus headlines must have caused Asians to reflect more seriously about their precarious condition. It reported military activities south of Masaka, near the border with Tanzania. The guerillas, in the pay of the former President Milton Obote were reported to have entered Uganda to launch an uprising against General Amin. More road blocks were erected leading to and from the airport and Kampala. Most were guarded by soldiers of Amin's Nilotic tribe, illiterate and oftentimes speaking only their tribal language. Primitive, shabbily dressed and always short of money, they took advantage of this opportunity to "shake down" Asians at road blocks. My advice to the staff was unequivocal-you are restricted to the hotel and office, by minibus.

After the technicians set up the MU, I discussed with them the question of monitoring Asians referred for X-Rays and Lab Tests. We needed to design a form with the Asian's name, age, file number, and lines with the words "X-Ray, Urine Blood Test, Stool Tests." The last line was for the appointment date with a doctor. The slip will be given to each Asian sent to the MU. The technicians will place their initials and date after each of the four requirements have been complied with. The Medical examination will take place three days' hence. The Immigration Section will provide the Medical Section with a copy of the appointment list for the day of the person's physical examination as well as the application forms matching the MU results with the file. **At 15:00 the Mobile Unit became operational.**

Sunday, September 17: I went to the airport to meet Dr. L. Abear arriving from Athens. On the way back to Kampala, a blue Peugeot with four male occupants waived us to stop. Dressed in dark suits, they spoke to Dennis in the Buganda dialect. Dennis told them who we were and one asked for passports. He returned them saying "you may go." Dennis said they were Security Forces-they never showed their identity papers. A short distance away, we were again stopped at another road block manned by soldiers. Dennis spoke to them and the soldiers did not know what to do and waived us on. Once more, we came upon a third road block this time manned by British trained Uganda Police. They politely waived us on. Dr. Abear asked what was going on and I told him. He muttered something about returning to Athens soon. When we arrived at the hotel, someone said there were rumours the guerillas infiltrated the country and 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.

Monday, September 18:- John Stronach and R. McPhee assured me that the MU was operational. **It was twelve days** since Immigration Officers started interviewing Asians. The backlog of accepted Asians stood at 1,160 persons! It was imperative that Asians go through the full medical process in order to issue visas and fill the charter. Out of 70 applicants invited, 63 showed up by 09:00. Those who failed to appear may have had problems at road blocks. The Asians accepted after an interview were sent to the MU with their "control chit." None had stool samples and returned later that day, if possible. My hopes were dashed after a visit to the MU before noon. Sgt. Stronach had many complaints:

- :the temperature in the X-Ray tent reached 100°F-they could work only 10 minutes at a time-
- :they required another film dryer to cope with the larger number of persons needing X-Rays-
- :the blood tests could not be analysed because of the excessive heat in the tent-

It never occurred to Canadian Armed Forces luminaries that Kampala was at the equator and that the tents were unsuitable for the tropics. The problem with the blood tests was resolved when the Danish clinic agreed to handle 150 blood tests daily, without compensation. Two other problems were resolved by renting a portable air-conditioning units and a dryer from the Kodak Agent. Dr. Piché said he would report the problems as if that would help. He maintained his refusal to examine Asians without X-Rays and tests. The MU processed only 39 clients that day. Some Asians returned to the MU with their stool samples in the afternoon. The Lab technicians reported delays with blood tests from the Danish Clinic-they exaggerated their ability to cope with 150 blood tests daily. It was another black day. I reported by telex to IMFOR the causes of further delays and prepared the DirGen for a possible lack of passengers for the September 27 charter flight # 1. That evening, I spoke with the technicians about our predicament. They assured me that with the dryer, they would double shifts to make up the delays.

Tuesday, September 19: At 05:55 I welcomed the arrival of Larry Carrol and Hal Malone. Larry C. came from my Beirut office and I knew his talents. Hal M. came in answer to my request for someone to attend to the media and, hopefully, keep them out of my hair and answer most of their questions, eventually. I 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. They responded in such numbers that I had to increase the number of people at the counter to cope with the flood of requests for application forms.

The Ugandan Asians ready to depart with the September 27 Charter # 1 were given X-Ray and Lab slips and referred to the Mobile Unit-The interviewing Officers inserted the information about the date of their appointment with the doctor on their Medical slip. Where applicable, they brought their dependants along. Those Asians interviewed for the first time by Immigration Officers were given MU control slips but had to return in three days time for tests and medical examinations. The outlook was good to excellent for the first charter. L. Carrol joined Mike Molloy and Jacques Drapeau sorting and selecting Asians for interview from the total of 5,5136 applications received as of yesterday. J. McMaster sorted incoming telegrams from Canadians offering assistance to "named" Asians.

I put G.Campbell in charge of the Visa/Transportation Unit(VTU), booking Asians on charter. His staff handed out colour-coded boarding passes for A/C, PWA, CP. He rented buses from the Uganda Bus Company and arranged for police escorts to lead the buses to Entebbe airport. He liaised with the Pan Am and Canadian Airline agents and prepared telegrams for Bob Lefebvre at the CAF Longue Pointe, Montreal, providing a breakdown of the passengers, i.e., marital status, ages of the children, diet requirements etc. Gerry carried a heavy workload and was the right man for this challenge. He was assisted by Miss Rosanne Hughes from the HighCom Lagos, Nigeria and Mrs. M.E. Hempel, CPO Ottawa. I moved them to the 7th floor where, undisturbed, their output increased remarkably.

Wednesday, September 20:- To-day's telex, IMMFOROTT 1646, said "continue issuing AP forms," inferring that future flights may be free. It also said that GM. Mitchell, DirOps will come to Kampala and escort Asians on the first charter to Montreal-**one week from to-day!** We delivered three lists of names of Asians to the Argus to be interviewed September 27, 28 and 29. I called D. Lygo in Nairobi and told him to report to Kampala Saturday. With the MU problems solved, **the Mission was fully operational as of to-day.**

Thursday, September 21: A large crowd was already waiting as we arrived at 08:00. The counter staff referred Asians to the Mobile Unit while others were referred to Immigration Officers for interviews. The Lab technicians told me that they could cope with 200 new persons daily. Notwithstanding the techs statement, Dr. Piche would not allow the doctors to examine more than 40 persons daily, i.e., 160 persons for 4 doctors. I set a goal of 150 visas daily to fill three charters weekly assuming 30% of visaed Asians would make their own arrangements to travel non-charter. A backlog of visaed Asians was vital in order to fill future charters. **So far, we failed to do so and** I had but one consolation-this mess was not of my creation.

At 16:00 there was panic in the centre of the city. Armoured track vehicles with heavy machine guns rolled back and forth below our offices and all the Asians left including the Uganda Security guards. R. Smith called from the hotel saying we should stay put until further contact. I did not need his heeding to ensure the staff's safety. I called the HighCom and got through to the High Commissioner, Mr. Olivier, and reported what I saw-I placed the phone near the glass window so that he could hear the roar of the armoured half-tracks. I told him we were in no apparent danger. As I replaced the phone, Dr. Piché said a senior police officer came in and told him about a rumour of guerillas having reached Kampala. Hence, the Security Forces and the Army were placed on high alert. However, the rumour turned out to be unfounded. I arranged for the personnel to be shuttled between the office and the hotel and I was the last to leave after locking up the office.

Dr. Piché told me that one additional doctor arrived and as a result I increased the interview rate to 80 cases per day. The rate of "no show" was also increasing. From September 25 to October 3, 1,400 Asians were invited for interviews. The CAF technicians reported the results 205 tests that included stool samples this day. Over 300 visas were issued since the MU came into operation, five days ago, but only 83 Asians agreed to depart with the first charter. We were hard pressed to fill it unless we resort to more drastic measures. The Visa Desk issued 67 visas this day for a total of 370 to-date and the Booking Desk had 101 persons booked for Charter # 1. We were short of the 140 passengers required to fill this flight.

Saturday, September 23: FBHdqr called after midnight to tell me that Mr. Saul Grey, External Affairs and Mr. GM Mitchell, DirOps will arrive at Nairobi, September 25 and to Kampala next day-they will be returning to Canada aboard Charter # 1, September 27. Mr. Mitchell will be escort officer, counselling the Asians on the way to Montreal. We had 800 Asians who had X-rays and the tests done ready to be seen examined by doctors. The "paper-screening review" of applications received for the past 3 days enabled us **to invite, as of Monday, Sept. 25 and the next 12 working days, 940 cases for a total of 2,500 persons.** Copies of the lists were posted on the inside office windows for the Asians to consult before delivering the lists to the Argus newspaper.

In 13 days, i.e., starting September 6, we received 5,779 applications for a total of 17,000 persons.

Sunday, September 24: I decided again relocate the Visa Transportation Unit on the main floor for a more efficient workflow. The CPO typists, who complained about noise were relocated to the quiet of the 7th floor.

Monday, September 25: After the personnel reported this morning, they were told that once the Asians are medically examined, the doctor's secretary will escort the Asians to the Visa Desk waiting area and hand the file to the Visa Officer together with the results of the medical examination. If there are no serious medical problems, the Visa Officers will insert the serial number/s of the MN&R (medical form) on the Canadian Immigration Document (IMM 1000.) Once signed by the Visa Officer it was given to the Asians who will be asked to travel "charter." If he accepts, he and the file will be passed to the Booking Desk. Campbell and McNeish sought the hotel Management's permission to use the parking space at the back of the hotel for the rented buses arriving early next morning to transport the Asians to Entebbe Airport. This was to be our first experience, requiring controls to ensure that departing Ugandan Asian complied with the weight allowance-one suitcase. Larry Carroll used a scale to ensure compliance.

CHARTER # 1-Monday, September 25 (continued): The Argus published the following:

"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-THE BUS FARE IS 15 SHILLINGS PER PERSON AND THE ADDITIONAL AIRPORT TAX OF 15 SHILLINGS WILL 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 VTU booked 135 persons on Charter #1. With only one day to go I doubted that we could get more Asians to depart on such short notice as they needed to get their "Tax Clearance" from the Minister of Finance-an impossibility.

Tuesday, September 26: When I arrived at the office, Mrs. Nancy Di Gregorio, wife of a Canadian CUSO teacher, offered to assist. I thanked her and I sent her to assist Gerry's Booking Unit to help relieve the pressure on his VTU.

ARRIVAL OF G.M. MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, FOREIGN BRANCH AND MR. SAUL GREY, CO-ORDINATOR, DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS-Tuesday, September 26:

As I couldn't leave the counter, I ask Mike Molloy to go to Entebbe airport to meet Messrs. GM Mitchell and Mr. Saul Grey. He briefed them all the way to Kampala. Mr. Mitchell wanted to come directly to the office to greet the staff. He was surprised when he asked the CPO typists if they wished to return to Canada that did not wish so, yet! They knew the routine, like the camaraderie and did not feel in any personal danger. However, one CPO typist, Ginette Leroux, said that her fiancé was getting impatient at her prolonged absence as they were to get married. Mr. Mitchell told her and the other typists that they could return whenever they wished.

We met on the 7th floor to discuss several crucial matters:- I told Mr. Mitchell:

- a) I need additional officers. I am limited to 80 interviews per day for three officers. I need four Immigration Officers on interviews to build a backlog of Asians for future flights,.
- b) I require an Officer to assist G. Campbell in the Visa & Transportation Unit.
- c) Some 60 Asians students need help-many, in their third year of University would accept to work though unskilled-they would prefer to resume studies in Canada-
- d) Some doctors passed the ECFMG exam- They would like to be accepted as "resident interns."
- e) Humanitarian Cases, 12 cases; as an expedient, if they have children of working age, the parents could be accepted as persons with funds to sustain themselves. There were hardship cases, crippled persons etc. Special authority is required.

He agreed to discuss points c), d) and e) with the DirGen Bud Clark. The best news of his visit came when he said **"The Govt. of Canada will pay for the charter aircraft-we can stop issuing AP warrants."** I stressed my concern about a **backlog of visaed Asians for the charters**. I repeated that Asians can pay their fare and some will visit relatives outside Uganda before going to Canada. Others will leave and plan to arrive in Spring. I mentioned that each Asian need a "Tax Clearance" to leave the country-however, the Tax Office is slow coping with the flood of requests to process their request. The departing Asians are entitled to "Immigrant Treatment" provision, i.e., they can take 50 Ugandan pounds in Foreign currency. Once in possession of both the "Tax Clearance and the "Immigrant Treatment", **they were expected to depart**. Some delayed their departure to sell assets while others hoped the UN would pressure President Amin to rescind the August 5th Decree.

Mr. Mitchell said he understood these problems. It would be difficult to assign more officers to Kampala as many were on training courses. He agreed to one more officer to build up the backlog. I mentioned Don Lygo was delayed in Nairobi because the HighCom wanted him to interview Asians seeking information. I also needed to be relieved at the counter where decisions had to be 100% accurate "streaming" Asians to so many Sections and Units. Mr. Mitchell kept taking notes, admitting that it was more complex than first assumed. He saw 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**, short of the 150 "target." **We issued 515 visas to-date and not one Asian was booked for Charter # 2**. Mr. Mitchell noted that we had interviewed 631 cases for 2,000 persons. Of these, 524 applications were accepted for 1,300 persons.

I sensed that when Mr. Mitchell returned to work from his leave, his "boss" Mr. Bud Clark, did not brief him fully on the data sent daily to keep him abreast of the situation. I repeated the cause of my predicament, the late arrival of the DND Mobile Unit. Whoever insisted on the MU for the urine, blood and stool test for Asians **must bear the blame for the delays as well as the poor briefing** the technicians received.(it so happened that "he" was the one who insisted on the MU-see p.77 of "A Man of a Big Heart," Memoirs of Maurice Mitchell, published by the CIHS, Ottawa, 1988.) I stressed that the Immigration Section was operational as of Sept. 6, whereas the MU became operational 12 days later. Moreover, Dr. Piché refused to examine Asians unless they had X-Rays and the results of the three lab tests. He seemed to grasp the problems with reticence-I hoped he would discuss these with the DirGen M.G. Clark. Reg Smith came to tell me that the HighCom will lead the convoy to Entebbe Airport accompanied by S. Grey and G.M. Mitchell. **I was not asked to join the "show."** **It was too important to invite the "peon" who made it all possible.**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27-CHARTER # 1-The three buses arrived at the back of the Hotel parking area at 06:15 am. Most of the Immigration staff were present to see the operation. The volunteers from Gerry Campbell's Visa Transportation Unit were present, at his request, to lend a hand. J. McNeish's knowledge of Swahili helped keep check on the bus drivers to chase away curious people trying to get too close. The Asians were orderly-everyone booked for the flight showed up. After checking the name off the flight list, each received a boarding card.

I had a last chat with Mr. Mitchell in the hotel lobby. It was an exhausting two days for him and it was not over yet. As Escort Officer, he will have to provide answers about the reception facilities on arrival at Montreal. Both Mr. Mitchell and S. Grey joined the High Commissioner in his Mercedes. They waved at me as they lead the convoy of three Uganda Public Transport buses. The first bus had a large Canadian flag draped over its hood. The High Commissioner rated a Police escort to ensure the convoy would pass unhindered through road blocks. On his return from Entebbe, Gerry Campbell briefed me about the sight of the "stretch" Air Canada DC8 with the maple leaf logo-it brought a great sense of pride. He gave me the flag from the bus as a souvenir.

When the staff reported at work at 08:00, I reminded them that we lacked Asians for Charter # 2 and I increased the rate of interviews to 100 cases per day. A telex from Hdqrs said that the next charter was in 3 days followed by **two flights each day on October 4 and 6! At that moment we had 30 Asians booked for the next charter!** People at Hdqrs were not on the same wavelength. It was a dialogue of the deaf! I was sure that Mr. Mitchell would straighten this out when he walks into his office. Since September 15, I repeatedly stated why we could not fill the charters, eq., **the late arrival of the MU, lack of a backlog of "visaed" Asians willing to fly charter, the DirGen or DirOps refusal to let me use Minister's Permit to bypass a stubborn Dr. Piche, etc.** **Wasn't there someone who understood what I was saying?** Or, was someone intent on making me the scapegoat for this mess? The new schedule was a complete about-face from what was said in telegram 895 of September 12 "two or three flights per week." I suspected that statistics on the Asians **"applying"** was misleading everyone that "all Asians were accepted!"

That same evening, I discussed the new flight schedule with Dr. Piché, Chief J. Stronach, M. Molloy and G. Campbell. Short of a miracle, the next flight would be almost empty and others after that. There was one way out and that is, starting tomorrow, the Medical Section will examine all Asians accepted after an Immigration interview, if they are willing to fly charter. They could undergo the lab tests after the medical examinations. The other Asians would be given deferred appointments. Dr. Piché refused one again to go along. I **overruled him and I said this was an emergency**. I will call Mr. Mitchell to demand the cancellation of two flights on Oct. 4 and Oct. 6. I was unable to get through by phone and I sent an urgent telex to cancel the flights.

SETBACK FOR CHARTERED FLIGHTS #2, #3 AND #4-Thursday, September 28:

Dr. Pouliot replaced Dr. R. Duncan who left with Charter #1. By mid-afternoon I told Immigration Officers to stop referring applicants to the Medical Section after interview. The Medical Section was unable to cope with the changes in procedure, mislaid or lost files. A few doctors told me confidentially that they were willing to go along with the change but were overruled. With only 82 Asians booked for the September 30 flight, our failure was bound to frustrate our political masters and the brass at FBHdqs. The success of Charter #1 would soon fade. The latest breakdown of statistics was prepared for FBHQs.:

Applications received	6,355
Interviewed to-date.....	785 cases
Visas issued.....	663
Pending Medical.....	927 persons;
Awaiting interviews.	2,500 persons in the next 11 days.

Friday, September 29: There was no reply from FBHQs. Ottawa reference to my request to cancel the flights I requested. To add to our worst fears, some Asians booked on next day's flight told us they could not get their "Tax Clearance" till Monday. It was mortifying and terribly disappointing. Because of this development, we had only 73 persons booked for the next charter, instead of 82. I called Don Lygo still in Nairobi and told him to get on the next flight to Kampala! While on the phone, the High Commissioner asked that Lygo stays longer because of spontaneous Asians seeking information. I told him without hesitation that the emergency was in Kampala and some of our staff were showing signs of stress. The Asians in Nairobi were in no immediate danger nor facing a deadline.

Saturday, September 30: Gerry Campbell, assisted by John McNeish and volunteers supervised the loading of two buses transporting Asians for Charter # 2, a PWA aircraft. We expected 73 Asians but only 60 showed up. The convoy reached Entebbe Airport without problems and the boarding operation went smoothly. Dr. B. Collins arrived aboard that PWA charter flight and remained for a week. The escort officer, Frank Sharp had disembarked at Las Palmas from the PWA Charter #2 flight for personal reason. He rejoined the flight on its stopover in Las Palmas to counsel the Asians to Montreal.

Sunday, October 1: Don Lygo arrived at 15:00 from Nairobi and tacitly watched how busy we were. At 19:00, I asked Dr. Piché, Stronach, Molloy and Campbell to join me in my room. I had not heard from FBHdqs, Ottawa and, as a temporary solution, I suggest that we allow Asians to proceed to Canada without a medical examination for the next two flights. From Piche's reaction, it was as if I dropped a bomb! I told him that it was quite evident from the more than 600 persons examined so far that the Ugandan Asians are a healthy people. Their medical examinations could take place in Montreal as was done in 1956 with the Hungarian Refugees. Dr. Piché refused to comment on the health of the Asians. I told him that I would ask Mitchell to discuss it with Dr. Wood, the Head of NH&W, Ottawa.

At 22:00, Mr. M.G. Clark called and wanted to know why there were only 60 Asians aboard Charter # 2!!!! I couldn't believe what I was hearing! I asked if Mr. Mitchell briefed him on his return to Ottawa and he said that he was not! I told him there would be fewer Asians aboard Charter #3, leaving next day and he sounded surprised. I had the impression that my previous explanations did not register. Someone was in a corner and, in seeking to extricate himself from a "sticky wicket" situation, that someone was prepared to blame the Team Leader at Kampala for this failure, the obvious "sacrificial lamb!" "They" refused to listen to all the facts provided and, instead, they kept going off on a different track. I was positive that more than one senior officer misinterpreted the true meaning of the statistical data I provided, looking only at the number of "Asians applying." However, I was relieved to hear him confirm there would be no "twin" flights October 4 and 6. I told him that in 5 working days from today we would have a backlog of Asians to fill future charter flights. He agreed to discuss with Dr. Wood the question of Asians going forward without a medical examination. He ended by saying that he may come to Kampala. As far as I was concerned, the sooner the better.

Monday, October 2: Milton Schellenberger, escort officer on Charter # 3, stayed at the Airport. He confirmed that charter flights will be scheduled for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. This was exactly the proposal in telex 895 of September 12. Sanity had returned. By 18:00 the Visa Unit issued a record 174 visas and 68 Asians were booked on Charter #4 and over 90 on Charter #5. Full credit went to Gerry Campbell's staff at the Booking Desk.

Mr. Mitchell's call came at 21:15. He said that I was to accept all Asians, whatever their nationality, including those who had NOWHERE to go as would be the case for most Asians with Uganda passports. In theory, they should not have been affected by the August 5th Decree but, that would not be the case. Maurice (Mo) Benoit was arriving with Charter # 5 on October 6, along with 3 relief typists. Georges Reynolds, Mr. Mitchell's assistant was also coming to get a hands-on look at the operations. Mr. Mitchell recalled that on September 26, I spoke about a paid weekend to Mombasa for some of the staff and said to go ahead. The Uganda National Day was Monday October 9. Some staff members will take three days off.

Tuesday, October 3: Some stateless Asians asked me about a document to enable them to travel to Canada because the Uganda Passport Office refused to issue them with a Travel Document. I was prepared for this eventuality and showed Phil Boyes, an "Affirmation Document." I explained its purpose and he went to the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs seeking their approval to use it as a Travel Document. The Uganda MFA agreed to let stateless Asians use the "Affirmation" form as a Travel Document to leave Uganda provided the Passport Office did not have to issue re-entry permits. It was an acceptable condition since stateless Asians would not likely attempt to return to Uganda at any time in the immediate future.

It was a frantic day for the MU technicians who carried out 260 lab tests and X-Rays of 144 Asians. It was a record in 110 °F in a chemically saturated tent environment. The VTU issued 108 visas-not a record but they pressed on for a full flight for Charter #5. The call from DG Bud Clark came unusually early, 19:00. He suggested that officers needing a rest could travel with the outgoing charter to Las Palmas and return to Kampala with the next incoming charter stopping at Las Palmas. I gave him the latest stats confirming that Charter #4 will carry only 83 Asians. However, as promised, the next flights would be filled to capacity with Asians willing to depart via charter.

Wednesday, October 4: The convoy of two buses with Asians left for Entebbe for Charter #4, a PWA Charter departing at 13:00. Kevin Croakham, Head of the British Immigration Team and the British High Commission Counsellor came to see me. They spoke about the thousands of Asians failing to claim their entry vouchers to the UK. The Counsellor said they issued 40,000 passports to British Asians since 1962, after Uganda's independence. Yet, only 24,000 vouchers were issued to-date. I dispelled the notion that Asian British Passport Holders(BPH) went only to the UK. I said that for years, we came to East Africa to interview and accept Asians as immigrants. It would not be unreasonable to expect fewer Asians for the UK. We are committed to accept 6000 and this would reduced their totals to 22,000-a more acceptable figure for the English public. He would inform the Foreign Office.

I greeted Dr. F. Stubbing who replaced Dr. Leclerc who was leaving aboard Charter # 4. I gave him a sealed envelope containing the annual evaluation reports for officers M. Molloy, L. Carroll (Ottawa), K. R. Carter (ex-Beirut, posted to Milan), P. Simard and B. Davis, both at Beirut. With Don Lygo, four Officers were on full-time interviews, i.e., J. Drapeau, L. Carroll and M. Molloy. They will be busy interviewing 100 cases per day.

When I arrived at the hotel, John Paddick, Australian Migration Officer from Nairobi wished to discuss our selection process. He was keen to select high profile Asians so that "Canberra" would endorse his selections. He spent much time sending detailed telegrams on each Asian interviewed. Unfortunately his Director did not share his enthusiasm and dedication. He was utterly frustrated at the number of times they turned down his selection. He said, "your Officers make decisions based on a generous selection criterion, either to accept or reject (which is seldom the case) after an objective interview." I, on the other hand, must wait two weeks for a decision by "Canberra" and it was rarely "yes." He showed his appreciation for our efficiency supplying us with cigarettes and refreshments. After the meeting, I invited him and his HighCom as my guests for dinner.

Thursday, October 5: Mr. Christiansen, Chief of the ICEM, Geneva, introduced himself. He was instructed to set up a centre for stateless persons. He was primarily interested in the medical examination of Asians and, as I escorted him to meet Dr. Piché, he said the medical would be cursory. The Asians would undergo a more thorough medical examination at the Traiskirchen Refugee Camp, Vienna. When he returned, I explained how we processed stateless Asians and gave him a cancelled "Affirmation for Visa" form. I told him the Uganda MFA accepted the form and give us permission to use it but refused to issue re-entry permits. He intended to use a similar form.

After closing the office, I saw Kevin Croakham, the Chief Immigration Officer for the British team. Not a single Asian showed up at his office this day while our queues stretched around the IPS Bldg. He was sending some of his Immigration Officers back to the UK. It was a paradoxical situation. Our Prime Minister said in his August 24th statement, "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..." The situation "on the ground" in Kampala was now reversed. We were extremely busy while the British team had nothing to do. Kevin Croakham 's laconically remarked "we have been ready to fold up for some time, you Canadians took the cream..."!

Friday, October 6: The technicians helped Campbell and McNeish with the 145 Asians boarding buses headed for Charter #5. Frank Sharp, was the escort officer. Everyone was anxious to meet the arriving Ottawa-based staff aboard Charter #5. We would close on Monday, October 9, Uganda's National Day and some members would enjoy a well-earned rest going to Monbasa. At noon, George Reynolds, Mo Benoit, Mrs. Hélène Labelle, Peggy Watson and Veronika Clarke got a warm welcome. I told Mo Benoit that he will replace me at the counter and I briefed him during lunch. Soon, Asians referred to Mo as "Gengis Khan" though he was never overbearing. The "veteran" typists left to fly to Mombasa, Kenya, with McMaster, Drapeau, Campbell, Miss R. Hughes and two technicians for a rest.

The Booking Desk had 125 Asians departing with Charter #6, October 11 and another 23 booked with Charter #7, departing October 12. Even if the next few days were not productive, we had a backlog of 656 visas awaiting to be picked up. I was confident that all flights would be filled provided there were no schedule changes. That evening, I discussed the outlook over the next three days with Reynolds, Molloy, Benoit, Carrol, Lygo and the CPO typists. I told them that I want a review, for the last time, of all the applications that were "screened out" for interviews. This was needed in view of the revised selection approach concerning the expelled Asians, as stated by Mr. Mitchell and IMFOR. The culling exercise will take place over the next three days, i.e., Saturday, October 7 to Monday 9.

Saturday, October 7 to Monday October 9: The culling exercise, completed by 8:00 pm Monday, covered 6,000 cases of which 1,988 Asians will be called for interviews. Lists were typed inviting 145 cases daily from October 18 to October 31. Based on the rate of "No Show," we should achieve the 6,000 visas target.

Tuesday, October 10: Terry Colfer arrived from Rome and started interviewing. G. Reynolds observed Mo Benoit at the counter to learn about "streaming" Asians. The "vacationers" returned from Mombasa, **elated that Charter #6 and Charter #7 were fully booked with 152 and 157 passengers.**

HIATUS IN NAIROBI-THE ISMAILIS-Tuesday, October 10: Mr. VM Olivier asked me to come to Nairobi to discuss our operations. I left at 18:30 for the Entebbe Airport and arrived at Kenya's Embasaki airport at 21:15. It was 10:00 pm when I registered at the New Stanley Hotel. Once in my room, I felt strange and disoriented. It was the silence and the fact that no one asked questions, no crowds, no rushing, no shouting. It was so peaceful after the pace at Kampala over the past weeks. I went to the "white hunters" long bar, ordered a cool one and a scotch egg.

Wednesday, October 11: At 09:00 I met with Mr. VM. Olivier briefing him on developments since we last met in Kampala. I outlined plans for winding up as of October 31, after reaching our goal of granting 6,000 visas to Asians. The team members will leave Kampala a few days after the 31st. I will suggest to my Hdqrs. that one Officer remain at Kampala after November 8 to oversee the packing of the files and documentation. John McNeish could look after the disposal of the furniture, the rented typewriters and close the account at the Bank of Uganda. Outstanding vouchers submitted after the closing of the account could be paid by the Nairobi HighCom and recovered from M&I encumbrance Project 32. Mr. Olivier appeared satisfied.

He then changed tack and spoke about a Sir Ibhoo Pirbhai, Head of the Ismaili Community in East Africa who wishes to meet with "us" in the afternoon. I hoped it would be informal as I wore a safari suit for the overnight stay. Moreover, the HighCom never mentioned Sir Iboo. I had lunch with Mr. Olivier at the residence, with his wife and daughter. A few times, he mentioned Sir Ibhoo. I got the impression that my invitation to Nairobi had more to do with meeting Sir Ibhoo than the Kampala operations. He said that Sir Ibhoo wanted assurances that the Ismailis in Uganda. Would be able to be accepted without limitations. "We" would have no cause for further representations at this end or, informally, through Extl Affairs. I had a trump card up my sleeve for our meeting.

When Sir Ibhoo arrived he was impeccably dressed, as if he just came out of London's Saville Row haberdashery. Sir Ibhoo expressed concern about my conversation with Ismaili Community representatives in Kampala to the effect that I would not interview all the Ismailis. I said that I followed guidelines from my Minister re the selection of Asians in Uganda. The criteria did not favour any group and, as Head of Canada's Mission, I enforced that criterion.

I told him that over last weekend, I review of all applications not initially accepted for interviews has resulted in an additional 2,000 applicants, for a total of nearly 5,000 persons, will be invited for interview from October 18 to 31. The majority are Ismailis. I thought this information would bring some satisfaction instead, Sir Ibhoo jumped up and said "all Ismailis" are "stateless." I told him that to the best of my knowledge, it was a tenet of the Ismailis to hold the nationality of the country of their residence. However, I do not minimize their fear and, as is the case for all Asians they will receive due consideration if stateless. He said he would refer our conversation to "higher authority." He left without a word of appreciation for our efforts nor for Canada's contribution to this humanitarian movement thus far. After he left, Mr. Olivier admitted being surprised that Sir Ibhoo did not say a word about our work.

Earlier that day, I learned that Mr. J. Gignac, Ambassador at Beirut, Lebanon called Mr. Mitchell at Ottawa to say that my wife was anxious for news. I was unable to call her from Kampala but I had more success from the Hotel New Stanley. At 02:00 I spoke with her and re-assured her that Mike and I were well and will return in a few weeks.

Thursday, October 12:

I boarded East Africa Flight 99 at 07:30 am for Entebbe airport. The Uganda Immigration Officer said that my "Permit to stay in Uganda" dated August 31 had expired. After I told him the reason of my purpose for coming to Uganda, he said "I will give you a few more days to make sure Canada get all the Asians out on time!" The PWA Charter #7 was due to arrive at 11:00 that day and I went to the airport building where 157 Asians were going through the Immigration and Customs checks. I saw Georges Reynold looking quite peeved as a Customs Officer insisted on checking his briefcase and luggage. The Customs staff had one aim, confiscate jewelry, excess money and any goods of value from departing Asians including women and even small children. Georges was no exception when examined by a temporary Custom Officer from the Kampala office. Norm Olson, Hal Malone, Dr. Pélerin and Peter Griffith were the new arrivals that day. The latter, Peter Griffin, would assist Dr. Piché with administrative tasks in the Medical Section. We reached the hotel after being delayed at two road blocks. At the close of business on October 12, this was the situation:

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

To-date, 2,031 visas were issued. Another 750 Asians were accepted after interviews and were to undergo medical examinations in the next three days. This three-day backlog gave us a reserve to draw upon to fill future flights to capacity. The half-way target of 6,000 visa i.e. 3,000 visas should be reached in days.

Friday, October 13:

Jim Versteegh arrived after travelling indirectly from Cologne via Beirut! He came just in time help with a workload that increased by a third. A record 202 visas were issued- the next flights looked good:

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

Sunday, October 15: The Ismaili representatives brought applications from older Ugandan Asians claiming to be stateless. If we issued them visas, they would be public charges on arrival. I told them to contact me in a week, after I raise the matter with my Dpt. They fell within C2, Annex "A."

Monday, October 16: Charter #8 was due out this morning. DND technicians joined Campbell, Olson and Lygo overseeing the departing Asians aboard buses for Entebbe. If overweight, they had to leave one suitcase behind.

At 22:00, GM Mitchell called and asked me to take note of the revised charter schedule:

OCT	AIR	PAS	OCT	AIR	PAS	NOV	AIR	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

Mr. Mitchell agreed to **cancel the A/C flight of October 25, adding that I would have to accept this latest schedule until further notice.** Again, **luminaries at Foreign Service Hdqrs did not ask my advice.** He brought up the question of "Stateless Persons" and I was to give them priority over other Ugandan Asians. Sir Ibhoo had reached someone at the highest level. He then **suggested that I be relieved because I needed a rest** and he suggested that Roger Martineau from the Rome Visa office take over. I told him that I came to Kampala at his request (he ordered me!) and that I intended to see the job through to the end. Reading from notes, he said External Affairs will provide two more typists from Embassies in Africa and mentioned that the Medical Section need a typist. He suggested that I let the Medical Section have Miss Clarke. I said that Doctor Piché never asked me for clerical assistance and Miss Clarke is not available-she is the fastest typist to complete forms 1000s and I would never release her. I said that I will speak with Dr. Piché about secretarial help, reminding Mr. Mitchell of the problems I have had with him ever since the start of the operations. (He would not speak with Dr. Piché himself about this question!) He ended by saying that he will arrive October 20 with Wally Dickman, my nemesis on the matter of the charter schedule. Giving priority to "stateless" Asians (mostly Ismailis) over others may cause criticism because of preferential treatment. Dan Gruer and Laurent Gagnon from Ottawa and Major Benson from the Montreal Longue Pointe Reception Centre were due Oct. 18. Four technicians arrived to relieve their colleagues.

Tuesday, October 17:

At 06:00, I watched G. Campbell and others assisting Asians boarding buses for Charter #8. After arriving at the office, I told the staff about Mr. Mitchell's instruction to **give priority in selecting stateless persons** and to interview all "stateless" cases coming to our attention through "paper screening" or representations. Dr. Piché was not in his office. I spoke to P. Griffith about their need for a typist, offering the services of a Canadian secretary from External Affairs. He said that will not be necessary. Dr. Piché phoned the Rome Office requesting an Italian employee. **How could an Italian secretary be more qualified than an experienced Canada-based secretary?** We issued 3,499 visas and, of this number, 839 Asians left by charter. We had 638 Asians booked on the next five flights. The revised schedule placed a heavy burden on each one to produce a high yield of visaed Asians for the flights. The Medical Section and the MU technicians met that challenge.

Wednesday, October 18:

Gerry Campbell, assisted by J. Drapeau, Mike Molloy and J. McNeish were up at 06:30 supervising the bussing of Asians departing with Charter # 9. At the office, Hal Malone, Information Officer, interviewed Asians to gather human interest stories. He told me that in Canada, Asians referred to me "the man." Flattering but that could not go over well with the Hdqrs senior staff. We accepted 217 Asians who were referred to the MU. The Visa Desk issued 163 visas for a total of 3,662 thus far. We were over the 50% target. Filling the "Affirmation for Visa" forms slowed the process for an increasing numbers of "stateless" Asians.

Thursday, October 19:

At 07:30, I gave M. Schellenberger, the escort officer on Charter #10, an updated statistical report for Mr. Mitchell. **In that letter I told Mr. Mitchell that the Oct. 25 A/C Charter for was not yet cancelled** and there was a lack of Asians to fill twin flights. I went to watch the three buses with 152 Asians leaving with Charter # 10. J. Drapeau had the flu and was re-assigned to complete "Affirmation for Visas forms." L. Carrol came in the office with Mrs. A. Tettoni, Secretary from the Rome Office and Ms. B. Kindrachuck, from Dar-es-Salaam. (Mrs Tettoni was my first secretary interpreter when I arrived in Rome in October 1957!) She was called by Dr. Piché to come to his assistance, without consultation! How I wished that I could send him back, but I received no support from my senior officers at ImmHdqs. The Visa Desk issued 234 visas. Charters #11, 12 and 13 were filled and another 119 Asians were booked on Charter #14.

Friday, October 20:

Mo Benoit was quick to familiarize himself with the bus loading operation at the back of the Hotel Apollo. This morning, 148 Asians were departing with Charter #11 a Pacific Western Airline aircraft. Gerry Campbell and Larry Carrol became suspicious when some Asians failed to report claiming that they could not get their "Tax Clearance" document on time. Their excuses could not be disproved but raise some suspicion. The convoy left with only 114 persons for the flight. The escort officer on this flight was Information Officer Hal Malone-he intended to taped interviews with Asians aboard that charter.

Mo Benoit went to meet Mr. GM. Mitchell and Wally Dickman at the Airport. When they arrived at the office, Mr. Mitchell distributed mail to the Immigration staff and glad-handed everyone. He saw the Rome base Italian secretary Adriana De Angelis-Tettoni in the Medical Section but made no comments! Not surprisingly. We went to the quiet of seventh floor to discuss the operations. The first thing is said was "the A/C flight of Oct 25 is cancelled." I repeated to him and Dickman the modus operandi, stressing that Asians with visas cannot be forced to travel via charter. I said that 34 persons failed to show up for yesterday's flight. I estimated that four or five flights must be cancelled since it was unrealistic to maintain the present schedule. I provided statistics on the number of visaed Asians and it does not mean that those visaed will leave with charters. To back my points I quoted these statistics:

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

LESS: LEFT ABOARD CHARTER: 1,358

BOOKED UNTIL OCT.25: 662

VISAS NOT PICKED UP: 569

TOTAL- 2,589 2,589

LEFT VIA OTHER AIRLINES..... 1,307

Based on the above data, I had to foresee the seating capacity according to the number of persons in the "medical stream." As many as 80% of these Asians may choose to travel charter and I have no control over those who "fail to appear." Wally Dickman thought it was a complex formula to arrive at the passenger load factor. I said it worked and that is why I asked for no more than three flights per week. I then asked Wally Dickman on what information does he base his estimates for the number of scheduled flights, he said "on the number of visas issued!" Wrong! And I pointed out why. I insisted that some flights must be cancelled and I go on record to that effect. I do not accept the blame for someone else's miscalculation. Charters #2, 3 and 4 were a disaster because no one listened to me. W. Dickman said flights could not be cancelled and then changed tack and said some could be cancelled.

I said I would give him five days notice before cancelling a Charter. I do not make up the schedule nor am I consulted. If someone knows better than I what is needed, then he should come here to fill the planes. Mr. Mitchell was subdued during my expose with Dickman. When I broached the subject of "stateless" applicants, I admitted not inviting all those claiming to be stateless because, some were not and could not produce a declaration from the Ministry of the Interior or the Passport Office to that effect. Some Asians to whom we issued "Affirmation for Visa" forms returned a few days later with a valid British Passports because we limited the validity of the "Affirmation for Visa" document. Our document did not give them the flexibility they wanted to postponed their departure. Who was a genuine "stateless" person? As far as the Ugandan authorities were concerned, a stamp on the person's birth certificate which read "not a Ugandan Citizen" was sufficient. I felt that is all we needed to know. I mentioned the "hard core" cases list that I gave to Schellenberger. Mr. Mitchell suggested that I exercise discretion, back to square one. He wanted to how many "stateless" Asians were not called. He would know in two days.

That evening, Mr. Mitchell discussed my yearly performance evaluation as Officer-in-Charge of the Beirut Visa Office. He said that Treasury Board agreed to a change of classification for rotational Immigration Officers to Foreign Service Officer(FSO). As a result, I was converted at the Foreign Service Officer 2 level, in a graduated scale that went from FSO 1 to FSO 5. I was nearer to the bottom of that scale after 25 years with the Federal Immigration Service, of which 17 were served abroad!

Saturday, October 21:

Wally Dickman took part in the culling exercise meant to identify those "stateless" Ugandan Asians not invited for an interview. Out of 4,465 Asian applications culled, 314 claimed to be "stateless." At the beginning of the exercise, I asked everyone to keep separate count of the "stateless" file numbers. I gave the result to Mr. Mitchell adding that we issued 462 "Affirmation for Visa" forms to "Stateless Asians." At 10:30, Miss Odette Côté, secretary to the Canada's Ambassador at Yaounde, Cameroun, walked in and introduced herself. She was immediately assigned to the "Medical" Desk of the Immigration Component. **We held 569 unclaimed visas and** I decided to place a notice in the Argus newspaper asking Asians to claim their visas. If not claimed within five days, the visas will be cancelled. The Visa and Booking Desks issued 172 visas this day. All 6 chartered flights up to and including the October 27 departure were full.

A SOCIAL EVENT- The question of taking a break after working non-stop was not a top priority. Prompted by the DND technicians and approved in person by the Director of Operations Mr. GM Mitchell, it was decided to hold a buffet to thank all the volunteers as well as the Canada-based staff for their relentless contribution to this movement. The gathering was to be held around the pool of the Apollo hotel. We invited the volunteer workers, their husbands or escorts, the Pan Am Agent and his assistants, Canadian Lecturers and Professors at the Makerere University, members of CUSO, CIDA, the US and Australian Consuls, the Hotel Management, employees of the Danish Clinic, etc. We also invited some Asians but they all left early. Mr. Mitchell, Dr. Piché and I mixed with the crowd, meeting the spouses and other volunteers. Inviting the management paid off since the buffet layout was a gourmet's surprise. We congratulated the Chef and the Management. In turn, Mr. Mitchell, Dr. M. Piché and I extended our appreciation to John Stronach and Peter Griffith for organizing a successful and memorable "social" event. None of the guests wished to stay late. Mr. Mitchell and I did likewise- we had business to attend to early in the morning.

Sunday, October 22: I caught sight of Mr. Mitchell in the lobby as I headed for the back of the hotel to see Gerry Campbell. and his crew supervising the busing of 150 Asians leaving aboard Charter #13. Two Asians did not show up. When I returned to the lobby, Mr. Mitchell wanted to review yesterday's discussions. He said that if persons claiming to be stateless could not prove it, special consideration could be invoke under the provision of the "Oppressed Minority" Policy. Only Cabinet could approve such decision and I should await word from him or Mr. Clark. As an afterthought, he said "it was a very good party last night and I thoroughly enjoyed myself." As he was about to leave, Immigration Officer Ludvik Mach arrived from London, in time to greet him before he left.

The Ugandan Asian Medical Students from the Makerere University- Sunday was not a day of rest for Mike Molloy who addressed some thirty Ugandan Asian students in the office. He outlined the problems they faced initially if they went to Canada. The decision to proceed was strictly up to them and few applied. It seemed strange that Arnold Walker, who arrived aboard the incoming CPA charter #14 failed to report to the hotel or office. At 16:00 Phil Boyes walked in with Arnold Walker. I asked Arnold where he was after he got off the aircraft and he said he waited in the arrival area! I said Mo Benoit was at the airport but he did not see him. One hour later, Mo Benoit walked in, a furious "Genghis Khan!" He was left at the shed, without transportation and there were no telephones. Phil Boyes spotted Arnold, commandeered the minibus and drove back to Kampala, leaving Mo Benoit stranded at the airport.

Monday, October 23RD : Mo Benoit lead the convoy of 152 Asians to Entebbe to board Charter #14. The escort Officer was Wally Dickman. I told Mo the driver will not take orders from anyone else. Mach, Molloy, Colfer, Versteegh and Lygo interviewed Asians. Gruer, Gagnon, Walker and Carroll were with the Visa and Booking Desks assisted by Miss R. Hughes and O. Côté. The Officers interviewed more Asians than could be referred to the Doctors and some were given medical appointments four days hence instead of three.

When Mr. Olivier expressed concerned about Asians that may be left behind November 8, I reminded him that some Asians are "exempted" from the President's decree. The UN is setting up a Centre for "stateless" Asians who may wish to take advantage of the UN presence to move elsewhere. The UN will fly them to Traiskirchen, Vienna.

I met with Hi Com GM Olivier that evening with Dr. Piché's, John Paddick, Australian Migration Officer and Dr. Gregg, an Australian Doctor working at the Mulago Hospital. Mr. Olivier seized the occasion to express his thanks for the Mission's work. Will Licari and Phil Boyd (both from the HiCom Nairobi) said they visited the British and India High Commissions in the afternoon and learned that 3,700 Indian nationals out of 4,400 had so far returned to India from Mombasa by ship.

Tuesday, October 24:

Immigration Officers Allan Prien and Paul Gray arrived aboard PWA Charter # 15, It left Entebbe airport with 155 passengers. This day, we informed the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the departure of Miss R. Hughes returning to the HighCom, Lagos, Nigeria, Dan Gruer and Mrs. **M.E. Hempel**. Mike Molloy assigned Paul Gray to the Visa Desk with Allan Prien. We had a slow start as fewer Asians reported for interviews. I revised my projections of visa output on a "no show" rate of 20%, but to-day, it climbed to 40%. I was confident to reach our 6,000 visas goal by November 8. By 18:00, 745 Asians were booked on the next five scheduled flights. I had to swallow a bitter pill and admit I was wrong about my doubts to fill "twin" flights as both were fully booked. I had been wrong and it proved that I was far from infallible.



Photo taken at Longue Pointe, Montreal, PQ-the site of the Canadian Army Depot that was set up for the reception of Asians, October 27, 1972-On the occasion of the arrival of the 2,000th Refugee, the Commandant presented that person with a souvenir plaque. **L. to R: Adjutant, Award recipient, Bob Lefebvre, (Immigration. Liaison), Major Benson.**

Wednesday, October 25:

Terry Colfer was the escort aboard CPA Charter # 16. Paul Gray assisted with loading the buses. I got into the lead car to Entebbe to observe the Immigration and Customs checks. I observed the Customs Agents, males and females, strip Asian men and women of jewelry, even from children who wlaak awkwardly from the hidden jewelry.

THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE-

When Paul Gray and I returned to the office, Mr. H. Christiansen, from the International Committee for the European Migration (ICEM), was waiting for me. He mentioned that the United Nations Special Envoy, Mr. B. Gardiner had arrived from New York and wanted to meet with me at 14:00. When we met, Mr. Gardiner's first words were "how much help could he expect from the Canadians because he heard that we set up shop in record time." I said I would do all I could to help him since we are here for the same purpose. We walked across our office to the temporary offices of the United Nations recently opened-a few Asians looked at me, not quite knowing how to react as they probably failed our selection criteria being non-Ugandan who could return to their country. As holders of Pakistani or Indian passports, they would now claim to be "stateless." I also met Mr. Schmidt, the International Red Cross (IRC) representative. He showed me a copy of the IRC Travel Document, a mimeographed form with few details and a "two line" declaration from the applicant declaring himself "stateless." No photos were needed. His employees had orders NOT to prod persons about their claim to "stateless" status. This was a very lax and indifferent approach to the question of who is "stateless." As far as the UN representatives were concerned, they were here to remove any Asian out of Uganda who met the minimum requirements. This belated "magnanimous" gesture was a show of last resort on the part of the United Nations, and it would make headlines. It would attract Asians who did wish to return to their country when they had that every opportunity to do so.

PHASING OUT THE INTERVIEWS AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS- Thursday, October 26:

Jacques Drapeau returned from Montreal aboard Charter # 17, having recovered from the flu. Immigration Officers N. Derrick, Al Lukie and J. Mitchell arrived aboard that same charter. Mike Molloy assigned them to relieve interviewing officers or assist at the Visa/ Booking Desks. Gerry Campbell also looked forward to a rest at Las Palmas, aboard Charter # 17, with Al Prien as the Escort Officer. I asked J. McMaster to cull all "visaed" applications as I wanted to be certain that the data sent to FBHdqs was exact. He completed the task by 15:00. L. Gagnon gave me a list of 250 unclaimed visas that was taken to the Argus for the Oct. 27 edition. They had 3 days to claim their visas or forfeit them.

We were apprehensive about to-morrow's handling of 353 Asians to be bused to Entebbe Airport to board charter # 18 and #19, a first. I asked Norm Derrick, Jim Mitchell and Al Lukie to assist with the loading of passengers under the supervision of G. Campbell and L. Carroll. Upon return to the office, Al Lukie felt at ease at the Visa Desk, interviewing Pakistanis-he worked at our Rawalpindi Visa Office. J. Drapeau, still pale, insisted on interviewing though I told him he could relax as the next four flights were filled to capacity. When Jim McMaster told me that G. Campbell was back at the Hotel I didn't quite believe him. When I met Gerry, he was very bitter. He related that after boarding the aircraft, he met his nemesis, Captain Bell of PWA. The latter refused to sign him on as "supernumery" because of an earlier incident at Entebbe airport with Charter #9, on Oct. 18. At that time, Captain Bell asked Gerry to take six Asians off the flight so that five crew members could travel to Accra. Gerry refused, slighting the pride of a senior pilot who never forgot. As a consolation, he could share a five-pound round of Black Diamond cheese, compliments of GM. Mitchell. A few days earlier, NH&W Ottawa sent two boxes of apples that was distributed to the volunteer staff, Canadian wives and their children who forgotten what they tasted like.

The call from Mr. GM Mitchell came at 23:30-he asked that I take notes:

- a) Accept cases on humanitarian grounds where the persons can establish themselves! I may accept up to 300 hard core cases.
- b) Use the procedure outlined in OM23M where this is more expedient if deemed necessary.(no need for medical X-rays, tests)(why was this previously refused to fill the second, third and fourth charter?)
- 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 files and stamps for Nairobi;
 - vi) There will be a charter for November 6, 7, 8;
 - vii) FBHQs had grave reservations about cancelling flights;
 - viii) Even if flights three quarter full, accept schedule as is;
 - ix) Since 2,000 visaed Asians have not yet arrived in Canada, there is no limit to accept **those who meet** the relaxed criteria.

Notwithstanding c) vii) and ix) I could not fill the twin flights on November 5, 7 and 8, having exhausted every possibility to find Asians eligible under the relaxed criteria. Wally Dickman agreed and Mr. Mitchell relented saying he would think it over. I agreed to end medical examinations November 3 and Immigration interviews on October 31. **He confirmed that 6,000 visas remains the ultimate aim. The Government wants to avoid criticisms about any "stateless" or "humanitarian" cases left behind.** I said the UN Centre will accept Asians regardless of status. I gave him the latest statistics: we issued 5,076 visas and 523 Asians accepted are awaiting medical examinations. We have invited, over the next 4 working days, 500 cases for a total of 1,722 persons. The "no show" rate has jumped to 70% and I expect that only 657 persons out of 1,722 may be visaed for a total of 6,256 visas. **We hold 256 unclaimed visas and if they remain unclaimed, we will reach the target of 6,000 visas.** Both charter flights for to-morrow are full.

Friday, October 27: Most of the staff watched our first experience loading seven buses that would transport 353 Asians to Entebbe, to board Charter Flights # 18 and 19. I appointed Mo Benoit as supervisor, assisted by volunteer Officers and technicians. The latter directed Asians to buses according to the colour of the boarding passes, blue for CPA, red for A/C. The three buses for the CPA flight formed the first convoy to Entebbe Airport followed by the other three buses for the A/C flight. Dr. Stubbings was returning to Canada aboard the CPA charter while Paul Gray and Jim Versteegh were the Escort Officers aboard each flight. At the Customs hangar, they kept the CPA passengers separate from the ones flying with A/C. The Uganda Customs did not unduly delay anyone and I saw no need to stay.

Don Lygo returned to the Birmingham Visa Office in time for his son's birthday. Upon arrival at the office, J. McMaster handed me the Uganda Argus. The front page caption read "11 DAYS TO GO-ASIANS MUST LEAVE." The Asians with visas who procrastinated realize that President Amin was serious about the November 8 deadline. I went to the UN Centre across from our office to ask Mr. Christiansen if he needed furniture for tomorrow's official opening of the UN Centre and he said they could cope. He added "we will register all persons claiming to be "stateless," "the more the better." A copy of the list of "stateless" Asians, from our latest culling, was delivered to the Argus newspaper at 18:30, stressing that "only those who are "stateless" need apply."

Saturday, October 28: OPENING OF THE UN CENTRE- The opening attracted as many African Ugandans as Asians. This morning, only 89 Asians came to our office out of 145 called up. However, 193 Asians came to collect their visas. I instructed the staff to limit the visa validity to ensure the holders are serious about leaving via "charter." A number of Uganda Asians, with valid visas for Canada, faced a Catch 22 situation. The Bank of Uganda forbid Travel Agents to sell tickets to Asians destined to Canada as they could fly "free." That may explain the high rate of "no show." If an Asian thought he could be accepted elsewhere, he could buy a ticket and travel anywhere.

The members of the Team felt elated as we neared the homestretch. The flights were booked until November 2, including the twin flights on October 31. However, few Asians were booked on the second flight for November 2, A/C Charter #25 because the CAF technicians, the MU equipment and two generators would take up precious space and weight. Dr. Piché and J. Stronach agreed with me that no Asians will be referred to the MU after October 31. The Medical Section will examine those Asians who underwent X-Ray, and the lab tests up to and including November 3. In effect, the MU could be removed the evening of November 1 to Entebbe and loaded next morning on Charter #25.

Sunday, October 29: I spotted Mo Benoit at the rear of the hotel supervising Asians boarding busses for Charter # 20. Danny Gruer helped him. At the office, I was joined by G. Campbell and L. Mach. Few Asians queued up at the UN Centre. Out of 140 applicants invited, 59 appeared. The new arrivals to-day were Nadia Stachowski, Warren Major and Wilf Greaves. I told them to rest or take a walk around the city. At 17:00 there was no one at the UN Centre. They were disappointed at the low turn out.

Monday, October 30: WINDING DOWN: PHASE 2-STAFF AND OPERATIONS- The night before, Nadia Stachowski told me that she was sent to Kampala by DirGen Mr. M.G. Clark and Mr. G.M. Mitchell, DirOps, FBHdqs, with specific instructions to obtain full details concerning the phasing out of "Operation Asian Exodus." I asked Mr. Licari, Counsellor from the Nairobi HighCom to attend a meeting scheduled for 10:00 am: I invited the following-

- Mr. W. Licari, Nairobi CHC, representing the HighCom-Mr. P. Boyes, Liaison Officer, Nairobi HighCom.-
- Dr. M. Piché, Head, Medical Section, NH&W, Team Kampala-
- Sgt. J. Stronach, CAF Chief Technician, Mobile Unit-
- Miss Nadia Stachowski, Special Representative from , FBHdqs, Ottawa-
- A. Lukie, (because of his impending posting to Nairobi)-
- R. St. Vincent, Team Leader, Kampala Mission-

Nadia Stachowski wished to know if it were possible that some Asians, eligible to apply for Canada, could be left behind after November 8. She said this question preoccupied the office of the Prime Minister. I said it was unlikely because:

- The United Nations Center would register and take under its protection all Asians who wish to leave Uganda, whatever their nationality or lack of same after November 8th-
- In the past ten days, the "no show" gradually climbed to 50 per cent. The "no shows" had left Uganda or they would have asked for a second appointment.
- The Decree did not apply to Asians in "key" jobs-they are exempted from the Decree-I don't know how many there are and, if known it might embarrass the Government of Uganda.
- Thousands of unclaimed "Vouchers" to enter the UK are held at the British HighCom-for British Passport Holder-they can't explain why.

At least 4,000 Asians returned to India and others returned to Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Australians took less than one hundred and the US issued visas to a few hundreds. The British expected 80,000 Asians and gave out 25,000 vouchers to BPH. The Asians still here are "shopping for the best deal." They hold valid passports and can return "home" but, some may opt to apply at the United Centre. I stressed there was no reason to be apprehensive

about those "left behind. We lived up to our mandate." There would be no Asians at our doors on the morning of November 8. I read the list of staff disengagement subject to approval by FBHdqs:

OCT. 31-N. Stachowski, Escort Officer Charter # 22 J. Mitchell, Escort Officer, Charter # 23
 NOV. 01- W. Major, Escort Officer, Charter # 24
 NOV. 02- L. Gagnon, Escort Officer, Charter # 25 A. Lukie, Escort Officer, Charter # 26
 Miss O. Cote to Yaounde
 NOV. 03- W. Greaves, Escort Officer, Charter # 27 Miss J. Carriere and Mrs. V. Clarke to CPO
 All technicians return to Montreal Miss B. Kindrachuck to Dar es Salaam
 NOV. 05- T. Colfer to Rome via Nairobi J. Drapeau to Athens via Nairobi
 Mrs. Labelle/Mrs. Watson to Ottawa Mrs. A. De Angelis-Tettoni to Rome
 Gerry Campbell to London J. Versteegh returns to Cologne
 LD Carroll to Ottawa via Nairobi(may be needed to interview Asians in Kenya, Tanzania)
 NOV. 08- J. McMaster to Ottawa-L. Mach to London-R. St. Vincent to Beirut
 NOV. 10- M. Molloy to Beirut MG Benoit to Ottawa

John McNeish can look after the disposition of furniture, ending the lease, etc. He can also look after any outstanding expenses incurred after November 8 to be paid against Project 32, subject to audit. Dr. Piché was satisfied that his section will not be examining Asians after November 3. The DND 's MU will be dismantled for shipment to Canada the next day. The doctors will return to their respective posts after November 3. Peter Griffith will collect and consolidate all the medical files and take them back to NH&W, Ottawa. The volunteer staff will return to their previous activities. Nadia Stachowski, who kept notes, said she would report to Mr. Clark and Mr. Mitchell. At 18:00, 208 Asians were booked on future flights. We issued 5,572 visas thus far. There remained 113 cases for interviews totalling 282 persons-the Medical Section had 463 persons to examine.

Tuesday, October 31: We had 290 Ugandan Asians departing with Charters #22 and #23. Some officers noted that an East African Airline baggage handler took bribes to let Asians take extra luggage aboard charters stopped the practice. One elderly Asian wanted to take wood logs to Canada. He told Mo Benoit that it was cold in Canada! Mo's remonstrances could be heard up to the tenth floor of the hotel! When the staff arrived at the office at 08:00, there were very few applicants. We interviewed 59 cases for 132 persons. The interviews were over by 11:30. With a few additional persons who turned up to leave with the Charter, 158 persons were booked this day. We reached a crucial point in our operations where it was imperative to know exactly how many persons had yet to be examined and booked.. We had to confirm that the statistical data given to Nadia Stachowski was exact. The tally at 17:00 stood:

VISA ISSUED TO-DATE.....	5,712
LESS VISAS NOT CLAIMED.....	45
EFFECTIVE VISA OUTPUT.....	5,667
PENDING MEDICAL EXAMINATION.....	377
MAXIMUM VISA OUTPUT.....	6,034
EXPECTED "NO SHOW" FOR MEDICAL	34
FINAL EFFECTIVE VISA OUTPUT.....	6,000

Based on the above, I telex FBHdqs for the cancellation of the charter for November 5, 7 and the one for November 8. Bookings were progressing well but we had reached the end of the line as far as eligible Asians were concerned.

Wednesday, November 1: Gerry Campbell and Mo. Benoit, assisted by L. Carrol, Al Lukie and W. Major supervised the bussing of 148 Asians bound for Charter #24 at Entebbe. I was delighted to hear from Will Licari, HighCom Nairobi, that flights for November 7 and 8 were cancelled. I was concerned that the November 5 flight was not cancelled. I told the Booking Unit about the cancellations and to block space on the A/C flight of November 8 for four persons from Ottawa arriving November 6.

We held 145 unclaimed visas. A radio announcement might be more effective than a newspaper ad. At a cost of 80 Ugandan shillings, about \$Can 11.50, Radio Uganda read the announcement three times, adding "Asians have six days left."

By 17:00 hrs. the total number of visas issued reached 5,864. We had 180 persons pending medical examinations. That evening, I pressed Mr. Mitchell for the cancellation of the November 5 flight. I assured him that no Asians would be left stranded for lack of space. He authorized me to proceed as I saw fit. I told him the UN Centre registered anyone, regardless of nationality. He took time to read and inform me of the results of the Federal elections: PC-109; LIB-108; NDP-35; SC-15. I had yet to vote in a Federal election-I had little interest in the results.

Thursday, November 2: The six Uganda Transport buses were lined up at 06:15. The veterans of the busing operations, G. Campbell, Mo Benoit and L. Carrol checked the 302 Asians leaving with Charters #25 and 26. Even Mrs. Watson joined Jacques Drapeau and John McMaster weighing baggage. When I came to the office, two Asians appeared claiming to have been turned down for lack of valid proof of being stateless. When I said we could do nothing for them until they get proof, they said "All right, we'll go to England"! They had British passports and "Entry Vouchers" to the UK! Others came to pick up their visas offering lame excuses for not doing so before.

An unexpected incident occurred when Gerry Campbell called from the airport saying Charter # 25 was over booked by 21 persons! Nine were accommodated at the Apollo hotel while the others stayed with friends. They left with next day's charter. 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 sent a telex to FBHdqs to inform the Canada Immigration Centres to write to Nairobi after November 6 on all matters regarding Ugandan Asians. I completed Drapeau's personal assessment and gave the sealed envelope to Wilf Greaves to hand it to the Director of Personnel, Foreign Service.

Miss Odette Côté returned to the Canadian Embassy Yaounde, Cameroun. Miss Kindrachuk returned to the Cdn HighCom Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, next day. I thanked them both for their contribution to the success of the Mission. The VTU issued 214 visas this day. The total number of visas issued stood at 5,978.

The number of unclaimed visas remained at 196. I was confident that many Asians would claim their visas once they obtain their "Tax Clearance." This would apply to those 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. A few minutes after I went to my room, Mr. Clark called and said that Nadia Stachowski was on an extension line taking notes. He will come to Nairobi, Kenya November 5 to meet with the Canadian HighCom, Mr. Olivier. The next day he will arrive in Kampala....then we were cut off. Someone had a higher priority for long distance calls. The call came again five hours later, at 22:30. Mr. Clark questioned the need to cancel the Nov. 4 and 6 flights. I said he was mistaken as those two flights were being filled. The schedule should remain intact, i.e., two flights November 2 and 3 and one each day November 4, 6 and 8. I gave him my assurance that there would be sufficient seats.

Friday, November 3: We were anxious to see the last of the "twin" charter flights. The stretch A/C DC8 carried 159 Asians, fewer because of the heavy generators and the technicians returning to Montreal. Both flights, Charter # 27 and # 28 were due to leave at 13:00 with 287 Asians. Campbell and Carroll supervised the loading of the buses and escorted the convoy to Entebbe. This was our last processing day. Some stragglers came to claim their visas offering vague excuses-I had little sympathy for them. We placed two notices in the newspaper as well as a radio announcement that was repeated three times over the air. Some visas were issued a month ago and were now valid for only two days. Drs. Pélerin, Thibaudeau and Pouliot left this morning to return to their previous posts. Bob McPhee was the only technician returning to his Unit in Germany-he was the stool specialist and deserved a 'Victoria Cross' for working with stool test all day long!

Gerry Campbell and Larry Carrol returned from Entebbe with the news that both planes were late-they bought lunches for 287 Asians. A volunteer, Mrs. H. Layton, wife of a Canadian under contract to the Govt. of Uganda was leaving. At closing time, the total visa output to date stood at 5,978 visas. The November 4 and 6 charters were fully booked while 118 Asians were booked for the final flight on November 8. If any Asian Ugandan cared to look, the tents of Mobile Unit, a familiar site, were gone. The Immigration staff gathered in my room #393. I told them that Larry Carroll will go to Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Lusaka, Zambia and Mauritius to interview applicants for Canada. I have asked Ron Button at Beirut to retrieve and send the files of these applicants to the Nairobi HighCom by Diplomatic Mail.

Saturday, November 4th: There were too many volunteers to help with the bus loading of the 151 Asians departing this morning. Charter # 29, a CPA aircraft, was due at 11:00 at Entebbe. As there was now time to do so,

wanted a final review of all the applications received since day one. Since there was no rush, the officers accepted. While this exercise went on, Luis Mach attended to counter enquiries. 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. McGrath came for the purpose of verifying disbursements against Project 32. I could filled him in on the larger financial aspects and John McNeish will provided the details. Dr. Wood wanted to know about the degree of cooperation I received from Dr. Piché. Although I could have said so much about Dr. Piche's lack of cooperation throughout the duration of the Mission, it was over and no longer mattered.

Sunday, November 5th: The last culling exercise would go on until Monday. Larry Carrol did not leave with the 07:15 East African Airline flight-it was cancelled for lack of passengers. He was re-booked for the 20:15 flight. He was very anxious to get to Nairobi. The Canadian Pacific Airline Charter #30 was landing at Nairobi to-day with its crew of hostesses and Larry was keen to meet them at Nairobi's Intercontinental Hotel. The flight would come to Kampala next morning and Larry would be ready to oversee the boarding operations. Roy McGrath was busy with John McNeish and so was Graham from Finance & Administration, External Affairs. They would audit expenses of the Liaison Officers and all the others from Nairobi. Some Immigration members and Army technicians took advantage of a lull to go on a one-day outing to Murchison Falls, Lake Albert and the source of the White Nile, a favourite destination for African safaris. I mentioned to Mo Benoit that Luis Mach, Roy McGrath, Drs. Wood and McQuade and myself would like to go to Murchison Falls. He called Bruce McNally of Pan Am who said "CaspAir" was still in business, confirming the trip was on for the next morning. The plane could accommodate six persons. I was apprehensive about leaving, even for a day, in view of the arrival of the Director General, Bud Clark. But Roy McGrath said that Messrs Clark and Malone were arriving at Kampala tomorrow evening. We could absent ourselves this one time. The Mission was in good hands with Molloy who would ensure that all pertinent aspects regarding charter #30 would go without a hitch.

Monday, November 6th: It was dark as the Minibus took the six of us to Entebbe Airport, reporting to the "CaspAir Safari" desk. The Pilot greeted us and asked "are all six of you intending to go to Murchison Falls?" We said "yes." Then he said "who is going to fly the plane?" It had six seats but one was for the pilot. No one wanted out so, I suggested that we flip a coin, using a Ugandan shilling. Doctors Wood and doctor McQuade had none so I loaned them two of mine. Those whose coin turns up with the crested crane will go. The coins of the two doctors came up with the coat-of-arms and, when they flipped once more, and Doctor McQuade lost out. The good omen, the "seven crested cranes" held true. That was an unforgettable experience, surpassing our expectations. At the hotel, we lived among the wild beasts and were warned several times to stay inside. The ride aboard the Nile boat and the sight of hippopotamus and man-eating crocodiles was awesome. The sight of the latter were a reminder of how expeditious it is for President Idi Amin and his goons to get rid of those who oppose him.

On the return journey, the pilot told us that this was his last trip. Without the assistance of Asians in Travel Agencies who organizing safaris, he could not stay in business. He was moving his operations to Kenya. When we arrived late at the hotel, Director General MG. Clark and Information Officer Hal Malone had checked in. When I mentioned our trip to Murchison Falls, Mr. Clark said he wished he could have done the same. Because of the late hour, we agreed to meet early next morning to discuss the final stages of the operations.

-

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED-

Tuesday, November 7: When Mr. Clark arrived at the office, I gave him a copy of the final culling exercise. I said the stats reflected a three-day review of all applications and the result of our activities since September 6th, 1972 :

	CASES	PERSONS
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.....	8,065....	23,392
APPLICATIONS REFUSED.....	4,172....	12,446
APPLICANTS INTERVIEWED...	3,893....	10,942
	CASES	PERSONS
LESS:REFUSED, WITHDRAWN	911	2,125
"NO SHOW" INTERVIEW.	767	2,347
"NO SHOW" MEDICAL...	29	89
TRANSFERRED.....	31	89
TOTAL CASES & PERSONS	1,738	4,650
TOTAL CASES AND PERSONS VISAED.....	2,115....	6,292
LESS: VISAS NOT CLAIMED.....	- 39....	- 117
NET EFFECTIVE TOTAL.....	2,116....	6,175
DEPARTED "CHARTER" AIRCRAFT-AS OF NOV. 6	4,228
BOOKED FOR NOVEMBER 8 "LAST CHARTER".....		192
TOTAL OF PASSENGERS TO CANADA VIA CHARTERS.....		4,420
ASIANS EXPECTED VIA "COMMERCIAL"..	1,725

As I spoke, he looked inside and outside our office-there was no one around. Very few genuine "stateless" persons appeared lately because we questioned their claims. We walked to the UN Centre. I pointed to African Ugandans waiting to register. The UN accepted them if they proved that one of their parent was Asian. I mentioned a pet project of President Amin "Asians who wanted to stay must leave the cities and live in villages where they must mix and marry. He added: "some might become village chiefs." There were no takers apparently. We drove up a hill overlooking Kampala where there was a small, Bahai Temple nearby. I said you are looking at "The Pearl of Africa" to coin Winston Churchill's words. Unfortunately, a despot was ruling the country with an iron fist. Few members of the original Team were left when I returned to my suite, room 393, for the last time. We would have to get up early next morning for the departure of the last charter. I was pleased that Mr. Clark came to Kampala. He could give our Minister of Immigration a vivid description of what he observed.

Wednesday, November 8:

Mo Benoit was in charge of the arrangements for the 209 Asians boarding the last flight, Charter, # 31. All went well as the DirGen M.G. Clark who was one of the passengers. Mike Molloy helped Mo Benoit and so did Luis Mach and Jim McMaster. Mach and I returned to the office where we arranged transportation to the airport for Mr. M.G. Clark, Dr. R. Wood, Roy McGrath and Hal Malone. The area around our office was desolate and I asked Mr. Clark to take one last look around before getting into the car, to satisfy himself "that no one was left behind." Instead there were a mix of people at the UN Centre. We headed for the airport in two cars and, on the way I pointed interesting sights, stopping to show him weaver birds and vendors selling tropical fruits particularly small sweet bananas.

Mo Benoit had everything under control at the airport "clearance" shed. I said farewell to the Ottawa visitors and took photographs as they boarded the plane. They will be crowded as every seat was occupied. The loading of baggage was slow due to breakdown of equipment. Minibuses shuttled the luggage from the shed to the aircraft and they had to revert to manual handling of luggage to place it aboard.

I spotted two Ismaili Community Leaders disembarking from the bus. They had come to see me quite often recently especially concerning some handicapped Ismailis who wanted to accompany their children to Canada. One came towards me and gave me an envelope. He said "it is a cheque to repay Canada for the generous treatment of his people." I opened it and it was a cheque for 1,000,000 Ugandan Pounds. I immediately gave it back to him adding that the Government of Canada covered the expenses. As he insisted, I tore it up in front of them and Mo Benoit. I believe my decision was the correct one and I needed no approval from ImmHdqs luminaries.

Entebbe International Airport had never been so busy. There were close to 1,000 Asians waiting to depart aboard aircraft from Sabena, BOAC, Alitalia, British Caledonia, and Air India. But, the most impressive sight was the Air Canada stretch DC 8 with its maple leaf logo on the tail. With officer Luigi Mach we watched the DC 8 taxied along the tarmac towards the start of the runway. It began to roll, accelerating somewhat slowly-I became apprehensive when nearing the end of the runway it was not yet airborne. But, just at the very end, it got off the ground without gaining usual height-it disappeared slowly in the distance, a sign that it was overloaded with baggage and fuel.

It was my turn to depart and to thank Mike Molloy, my reliable and competent "Number One," as well as Mo Benoit for their unfailing support. John McNeish deserves as much for his resourcefulness under adverse conditions. I bade farewell to the hotel staff, including the Seychelles telephone operator with whom I spoke in French. They were sad to see us leave. That evening, Louis Mach and I headed for the airport one last time. My Mission accomplished, I was returning to Beirut via Nairobi. All the staff and volunteers could take pride in the success of the Mission and say "I took part in Canada's humanitarian mission to Uganda during the expulsion of the South Asians in the autumn of 1972." Many of our staff wore elephant's tail hair bracelets on their wrists believing, as Africans and Asians did, that it brings luck. For my part, my good omen throughout was the seven crested cranes. My Mission was accomplished.

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON TO BE REMEMBERED IS THAT THIS WAS A TOTALLY CANADIAN OPERATION !!!!

POSTSCRIPT

The words "improvise," "extemporize" and "ad lib" best describe what took place on this Mission. Although I was "selected" for the job of Team Leader, the members of the "Ottawa Committee" never consulted me. They should have known there was no Canadian representation at Kampala, Uganda and yet, left it to me to set up shop at a difficult time. Without Jim McMaster's numbering machine, we would have faced a never ending nightmare typing index cards for Asians whose names were difficult to spell, let alone pronounce. Two unnecessary aspects stand out: at first, the need for Assisted Passage and its time consuming completion. Then, the need for urine, blood and stool tests. The Head of the Hdqrs Committee never consulted me at Beirut-when we accepted Asians in the many years previously, we never required such tests. Whose idea was it to ask for the tests? Certainly not the Prime Minister's!

The lack of cooperation from Dr. Piché was regrettable more so because I received no backing from the Director General or the Director of Operations, either to overrule him or replace him. Yet, they refused to let me issue Minister's Permit in order to fulfill the second and third flights. No one ever explained or consulted with me regarding what the "technical" problems to schedule three or even four flights a week, rather than two. The failure of Air Canada and PWA to have Agents in Kampala caused their crews to expect us to act on their behalf.

I welcomed the help of Phil Boyes from Nairobi though at crucial times, he was unavailable. Criticism by a few Sikhs that we accepted more Ismailis was founded. For years, we selected Ismailis from East Africa who, once in Canada, "sponsored" or "nominated" relatives from East Africa. However, I must say that Mr. Mitchell, gave me the needed flexibility to achieve the success of the Mission i.e., exercising discretionary authority for humanitarian cases. I welcomed visits by senior Hdqrs Officers to discuss aspects of the operations even if, once back in Ottawa, they forgot what I said. The provision of Officer and Support staff guaranteed the success of the undertaking.

SELECTION CRITERION BY CATEGORIES

- A-ASIANS who meet the selection criterion//A1-Entrepreneurs-no assistance required ANNEX "A"**
A2-Applicants with relatives in Canada NOT requiring assistance//
A3-Applicants with relatives needing assistance
A4-Applicants with friends in Canada NOT requiring assistance//
A5-Applicants with friends requiring assistance
A6-Applicants requiring assistance except employment//A7-Applicants requiring full assistance and job
A8-Applicants who will require training//B-ASIANS WHO NOT WITHIN CRITERION "A"
B1-Applicants with friends, distant relatives able to settle with a minimum of help
B2-Applicants without friends or relatives able to settle with a minimum of help
B3-Applicants requiring assistance beyond one month and re-training
B4-Applicants seeking first employment, without experience and requiring help
C-HUMANITARIAN CASES
C1-Applicants with some prospects of light employment
C2-Applicants without prospects of employment

Each Immigration Officer kept statistics as to which category each selected Asian came under.

ANNEX "B"

AN INTERESTING "MEMO" DATED 31 OCTOBER 1972 FROM THE 'HEAD' OF THE UNITED NATIONS TEAM ABOUT THEIR "CONTRIBUTION." THE NUMBER OF AFRICAN UGANDAN PROCESSED IS NOT STATED-THEIR STAFF DID NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN ASIANS AND AFRICANS; HE REPORTS A "PROBLEM" AND "EXTREMELY ADVERSE CONDITIONS" AFTER ONLY A FEW DAYS- WE WERE IN SITU FOR 68 DAYS..WHAT'S NEW.....

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.

W.R. Prattley
Resident Representative

31 October 1972

CHARTER FLIGHTS DEPARTURE-ENTEBBE, UGANDA TO MONTREAL, CANADA

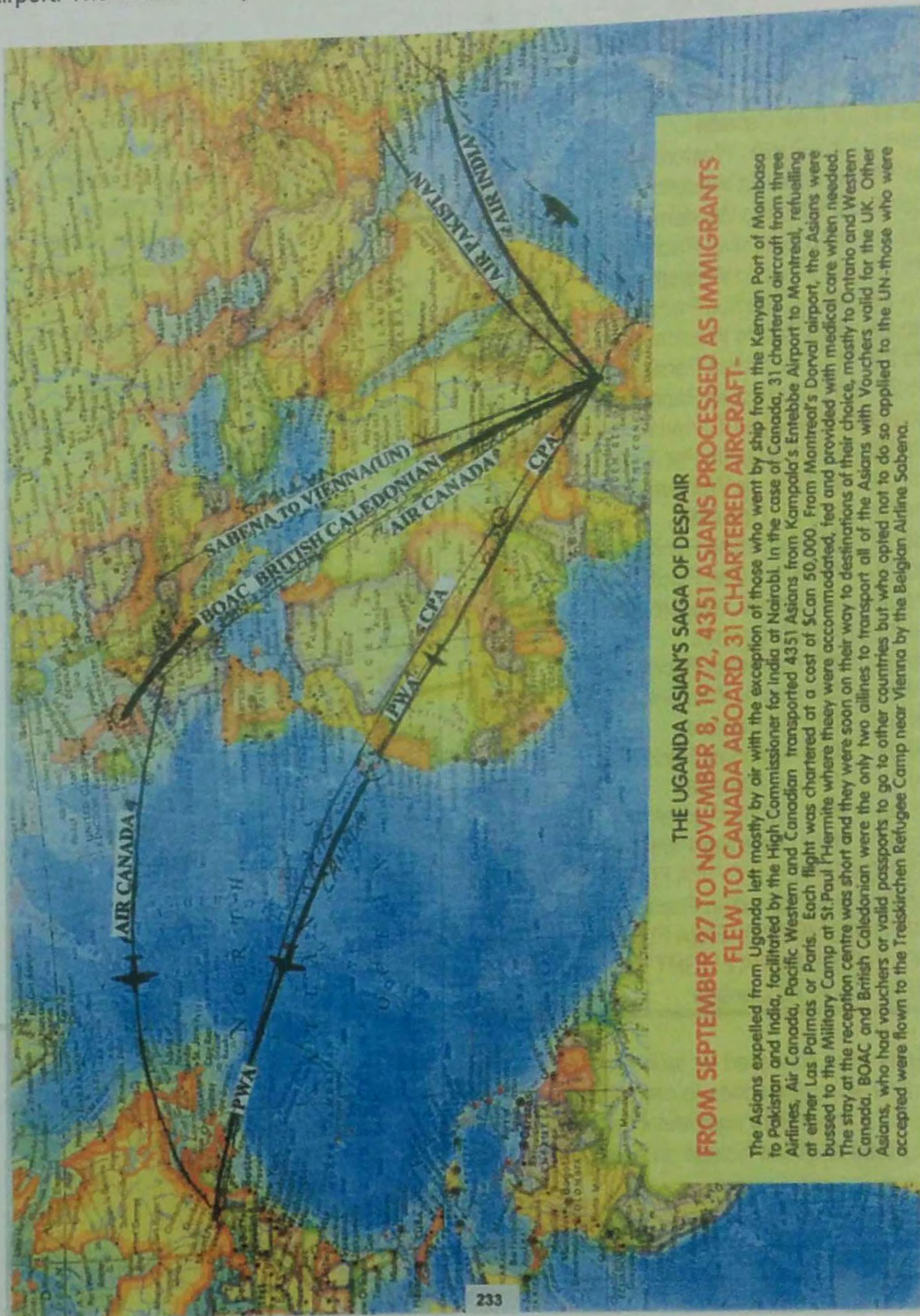
DATE, 1972	CHARTER #/AIRLINE	PASSGS	TOTALS	ESCORT PERSON
Tue Sept 19	Air Canada-cancelled by Team Leader-Medical Section not Ready			
Wed Sept 27	# 1 Air Canada	138	138	GM Mitchell
Sat Sept 30	# 2 Pacific Western Airl.	60	198	Frank Sharp
Mon Oct 02	# 3 Pacific Western Airl.	48	246	Milt Schellenberger
Wed Oct 04	# 4 Pacific Western Airl.	83	329	NH&W Male Nurse
Frid Oct 06	# 5 Pacific Western Airl.	145	474	Frank Sharp
Wed Oct 11	# 6 Air Canada	152	626	NH&W Male Nurse
Thur Oct 11	# 7 Pacific Western Airl.	157	783	George Reynolds
Mon Oct 16	# 8 Pacific Western Airl.	156	839	Norman Olsen
Wed Oct 18	# 9 Pacific Western Airl.	163	992	NH&W Male Nurse
Thur Oct 19	#10 Canadian Pacific Air	152	1144	Milt Schellenberger
Frid Oct 20	#11 Pacific Western Airl.	114	1258	Hal Malone
Sat Oct 21	#12 Canadian Pacific Air	148	1406	Jacques Drapeau
Sun Oct 22	#13 Pacific Western Airl.	150	1556	GM Mitchell
Mon Oct 23	#14 Canadian Pacific Air	152	1708	Wally Dickman
Tue Oct 24	#15 Canadian Pacific Air	155	1863	Arnold Walker
Wednesday October 25 Air Canada Charter Flight Cancelled by Team Leader				
Wed Oct 25	#16 Canadian Pacific Air	148	2011	Terry Colfer
Thu Oct 28	#17 Pacific Western Airl.	150	2161	Alan Prien
Frid Oct 27	#18 Air Canada	198	2369	Paul Gray
Frid Oct 27	#19 Canadian Pacific Air	148	2507	Jim Versteegh
Sun Oct 29	#20 Canadian Pacific Air	148	2655	Daniel Gruer
Mon Oct 30	#21 Pacific Western Airl.	152	2807	Norman Derrick
Tue Oct 31	#22 Air Canada	198	2359	Nadia Stachowski
Tue Oct 31	#23 Canadian Pacific Air	148	3097	Jim Mitchell
Wed Nov 01	#24 Pacific Western Airl.	150	3247	Warren Major
Thu Nov 02	# 25 Air Canada	150	3397	Laurent Gagnon
Thu Nov 02	# 26 Canadian Pacific Air	152	3649	Al Lukie
Frid Nov 03	# 27 Air Canada *	159	3708	Wilfrid Greaves
Frid Nov 03	# 28 Pacific Western Airl.	128	3836	Alan Findlay
Sat Nov 04	# 29 Canadian Pacific Air	151	3987	NH&W Male Nurse
MONDAY NOVEMBER 5 TH PWA FLIGHT CANCELLED AT MY REQUEST				
Mon Nov 08	# 30 Canadian Pacific Air	155	4142	NH&W Male Nurse
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 07 PWA FLIGHT CANCELLED AT MY REQUEST				
WED. NOVEMBER 8 CPA FLIGHT CANCELLED AT TEAM LEADER'S REQUEST				
Wed Nov 08	# 31 Air Canada	209 **	4351	Hal Malone

Three flights were cancelled for lack of a sufficient Asians with Visa ready to fly "Charter."

*Charter # 27 set aside space to carry not only the two heavy generators that were not used, the Technicians and their tents, laboratory equipment back to their St. Hubert base. Longueuil, PQ.

**The final total does not include an additional 69 children who did not occupying seats.

The information appearing on this map is as accurate as could be ascertained at the time this was written. And it was based on data gathered from the Visa Officers and myself when we went to Entebbe airport. The routes of departure by sea came from the HighCom from India

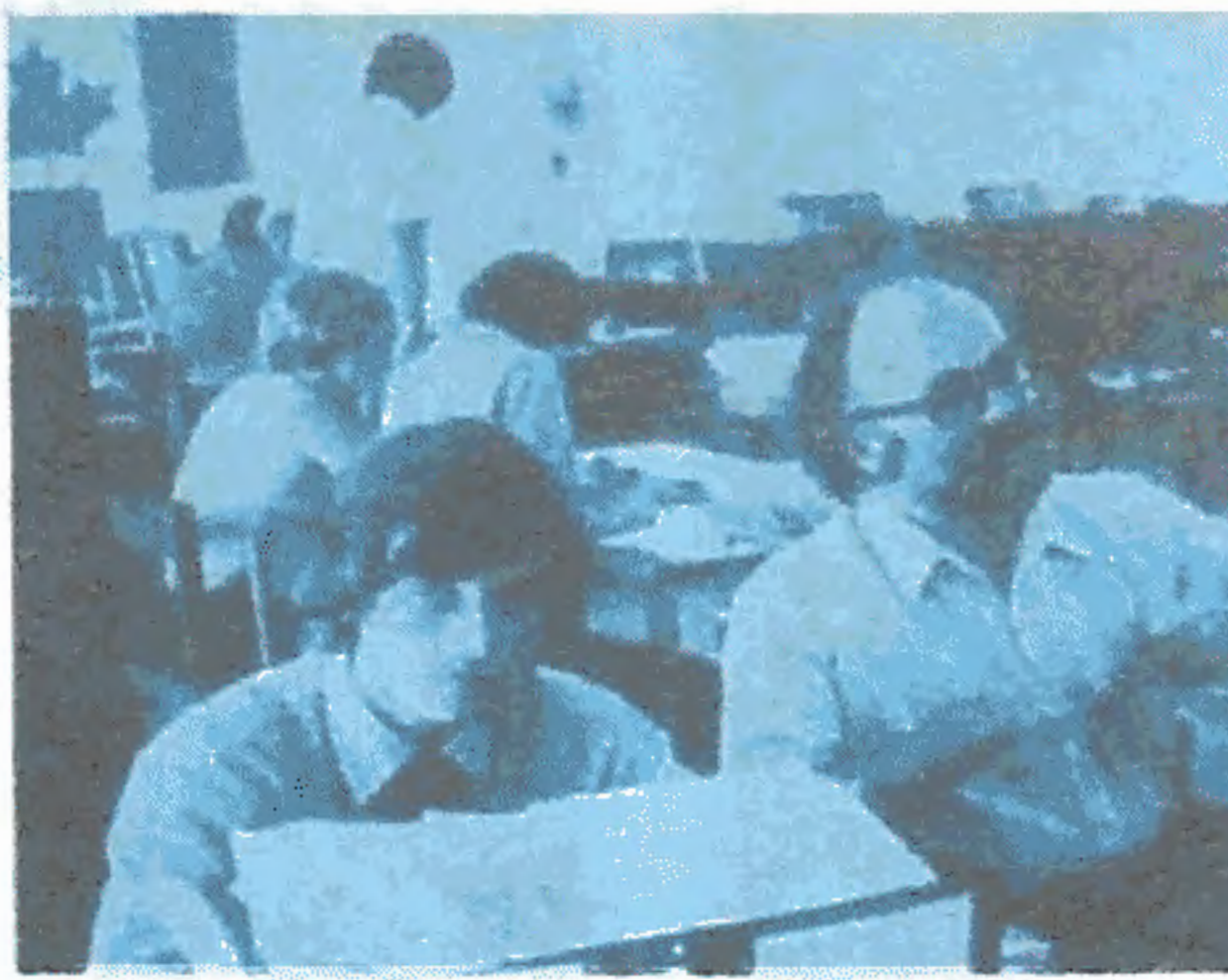




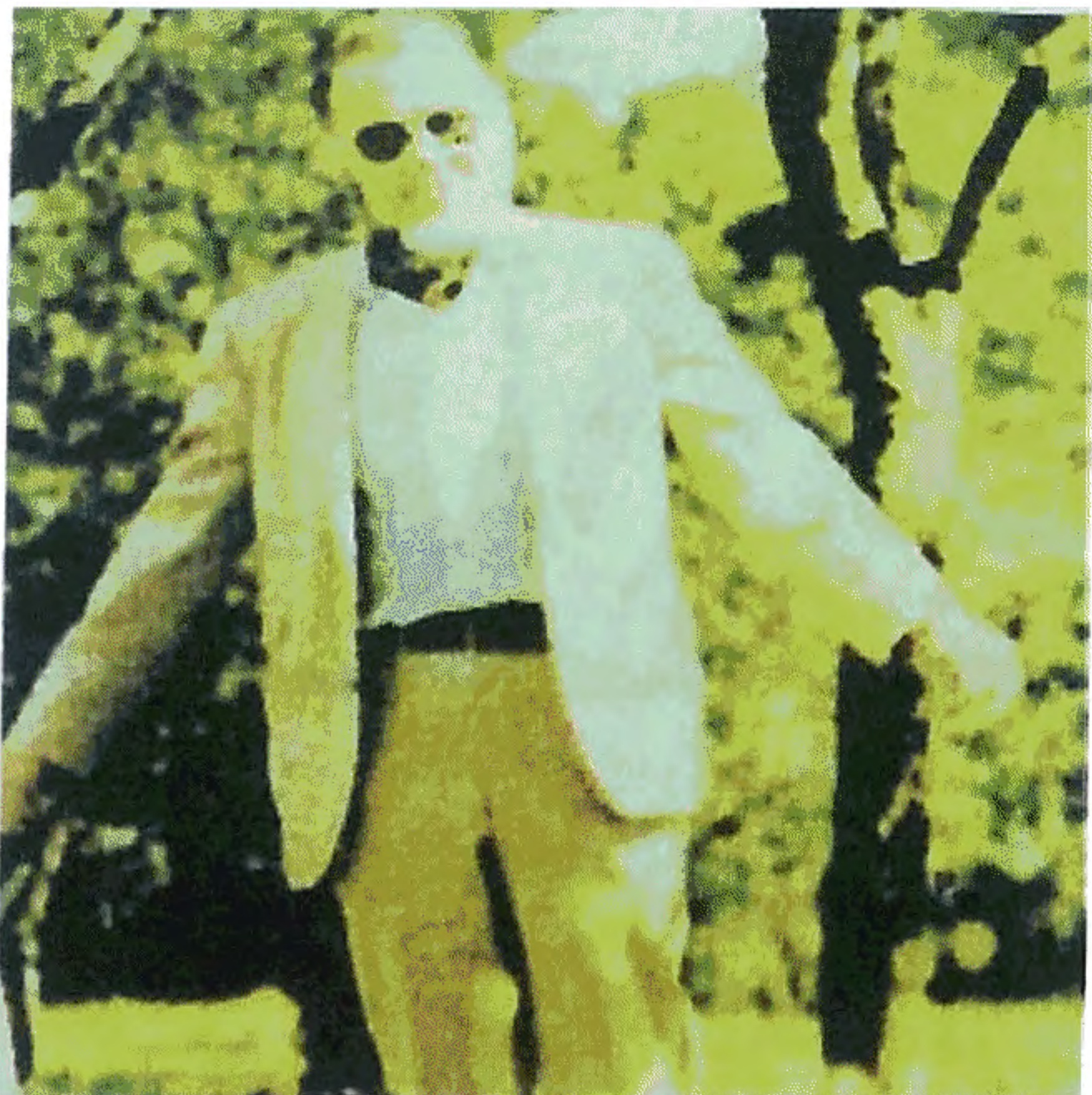
Kampala, Uganda, September 1, '72-with Phil Boyes (CIDA) from the Canadian High Commission Nairobi discussing office rental and layout for the office. Wednesday September 6, '72, two photos of the opening day-the queues of Uganda Asians winding around the block;-Ginette Leroux and on her left Jolène Carrière both from the Ottawa Immigration Central Processing Office typist, handing out application forms at the busy reception counter. I present the first visa to Sami Marodali. It was issued by Mike Molloy and the landing document was typed by Jolene Carriere; clearing a point with reporters-note the background queue-



Seven Crested Cranes



By numbers: Dr. Piche (doctor NO!)-I appear to show him where he should best be! (See page 95)-Gerry Campbell and Laurent Gagnon; the Department of National Medical Technicians, John Stronach, Ben Moser, Bob McPhee, Bill Maloney, John Martimbeault, John Deschamps, R. Daigneault; Jim Versteegh, Luis Mach and Gerry Campbell; Jacques Drapeau, unequalled when it came to interviewing and issuing visas, with sound judgement; two "greats," Mo Benoit and Al Lukie; Peg Watson, typist from CPO Immigration, Ottawa; Nancy Di Gregorio wife of a CIDA teacher, a volunteer who gave her utmost best; Immigration Officer Terry Colfer, from the Rome Visa Office.



In the usual order-Gerry Campbell, John McNeish and Jim Versteegh posing with the drivers of the Uganda Bus Company that provided prompt service for the transport of Asians to Entebbe Airport, without a mishap.



Next, Bud Clark, Director of the Foreign Service and Maurice Mitchell Director of the Immigration Foreign Service Operations. If I was "the man" in Kampala, Maurice Mitchell was "the man" in the "hot seat" in Ottawa having to brief Mr Clark, the Deputy Minister and Minister of Immigration. He was the one who called me at midnight and even later to get the latest developments. For him and the Director, it was 5 PM!

Jim McMaster and Helen Labelle from the Central Processing Office, Immigration Hdqrs, Ottawa.

Asian Exodus-Photo Album



Top: the scene as Ugandan South Asians step from the buses at Entebbe and proceed with their luggage to the Customs hangar to show their "Tax Clearance paper," be searched and stripped of jewelry, etc. November 8th 1972, Leaders of the Ismaili Community boarding the plane-one of them presented me with a cheque for one million Ugandan pounds which I destroyed in front of Moe Benoit. More Ugandan Asians board the last Charter, a stretch DC 8-Roger St. Vincent stands at the foot of the ramp, hands on his hips, watching the operations. Next, Moe Benoit comes down after the Director of the Foreign Service Mr. Bud Clark, Dr. Woods of NH&W and Roy McGrath got aboard. The departure of the A/C DC 8 ended Canada's Mission to Uganda. Next: United Nations buses take "Asians Refugees" to Entebbe for onward movement to Vienna and Scandinavian countries.

ROGER ST.VINCENT-ROY McGRA

NOVEMBER 5, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Figure 7

Mission accomplished-a time to relax-Roy McGrath known as "Freebee"-This is the one day "off" which allowed some of us to fly to Murchison Falls. Below, I snapped this photo of Roy, Luis Mach, Mo Benoit and Dr. Woods, H&W Ottawa.



NAMES OF PERSONS MENTIONED IN THIS CHAPTER-

IMMIGRATION/MEDICAL STAFF FULL TIME : —————

IMMIGRATION/MEDICAL STAFF-PART TIME- —————

Canadian Armed Forces- —————

Abear L. Dr NH&W Rome
 Amin Idi (Dada) President of Uganda
 Banfield A. Cdn wife of Airpt. Controller
 Barnes Bill PWA liaison
 Benoit Maurice FBHQs Ottawa
 Benson R. Major DND Long Pointe
 Bissett J. O-i-C Immig. London Office
 Bokassa Jean Bedel Pres. CAR
 Boyes P. CIDA HighComm Nairobi
 Broadfoot R. Brit HighCom Kampala
 Button Ron Immig. Beirut (Asst. O-i-C)
 Buryanik S. HighCom Nairobi
 Campbell Gerry Immig. London UK
 Carrière Jolène CPO Ottawa
 Carroll Larry FBHdqs Ottawa
 Chiha (two sisters, typists-left for Cda
 Christiansen H. ICEM, Head of UN Mission
 Clark M.G. Director General FBHdqs Ott
 Clarke Veronica CPO Ottawa
 Colfer Terry Immig. Rome
 Collins B. Dr. NH&W Ottawa
 Côté Odette, Cdn Embassy, Yaounde, Sec
 Culpier René RCMP Beirut, Lebanon
 Croakham K. Brit Team Kamp.
 Dagenais Soeur Rachel (Cdn nun teacher)
 Daignault René DND St. Hubert P.Q.
 Derrick Norman FBHdqs Ottawa
 Deschamps John DND St Hubert P.Q.
 Dickman Wally IDHQs Ottawa
 Di Gregorio Nancy, wife of Cida (v)
 Dorothy Robert Caltex Uganda
 Dow P. Rental Agent, Kampala
 Drapeau Jacques Immig. Athens
 Duncan R. Dr. NH&W Rome
 Emson T. UK Liaison Brit HCom
 Findlay Al FBHdqs Ottawa
 Gardiner B. UN Special Envoy
 Gagnon Laurent FBHdqs
 Gignac Jacques HOP Beirut
 Graham R. Finance Ext. Affrs. Ottawa
 Gray Paul FBHdqs Ottawa
 Grey Saul Liaison E.A. Ottawa
 Greaves Wilfrid FBHdqs Ottawa
 Griffith Peter NH&W Ottawa
 Gruer Daniel FBHqrs Ottawa
 Hempel Mary H. CPO Ottawa
 Hughes Roseanne, HighCom Lagos, Nig.
 Jacquemain P. French Consul Kamp.
 Kassam Semin-first visaed Ugandan Asian
 Kindrachuk B. Sec. HighCom Tanzania
 Komorski P. UNHCR Rep, Kampala
 Labelle Hélène CPO Ottawa
 Leclerc P. Dr. NH&W Ottawa
 Lefebvre R. Immig. Liaison DND Montreal
 Leighton Heather wife of CIDA teacher(v)
 Leroux Ginette CPO Ottawa
 Levine Z. Asst. to Min. B. Mackasey
 Licari W. HighCom Nairobi
 Lukie Al FBHqrs Ottawa

EXTER. AFF. NAIROBI- —————

Lygo Don Immig. Birmingham
 Mach Luis Immig. London UK
 Macklin Michelle (vol) from Regina
 Major Warren FBHdqs Ottawa
 MACKASEY Bryce Minister M & I
 Malone Hal Info IDHdqs Ottawa
 Maloney Bill DND St Hubert P.Q.
 Martimbeault Jim DND St Hubert P.Q.
 Martineau Roger O-in-C Immig. Rome
 Mauser Ben DND St Hubert P.Q.
 McGrath R. IDHdqs F&A Ottawa
 McKenzie Mrs. wife of CIDA tech.(v)
 McMaster Jim ex CPO Ottawa
 McNally Bruce PanAm Agent
 McNeish John HighCom Nairobi
 McPhee Bob DND St Hubert P.Q.
 McRae D. Dr NH&W Rome
 Mevghi A. Mgr. J.I.C. Kampala
 Mitchell G.M. FBHdqs Ottawa
 Mitchell Jim FBHdqs Ottawa
 Molloy Mike Immig. Beirut Lebanon
 Oldham Beverly (v)
 Olivier W.M.G. HIGHCOM Nairobi
 Olson Norman FBHQs Ottawa
 Oseku R. Uganga MFA, Kampala
 O'Sullivan Don Caltex Uganda
 Paddick John Australia HighCom Nairobi
 Pellerin P. Dr NH&W Ott
 Piché Marcel Dr. NH&W Ottawa
 PIRBHAL Iboo-Head Ismaili Community
 Pouliot M. Dr NH&W Rome
 Prattley Warren UNDP at Kampala
 Prien Allan FBHdqs/TB Ottawa
 Reynolds George FBHdqs Ottawa
 Roche I Brit HighCom) Kampala
 Sadruddin Aga Khan, UN Highcom Ref.
 Schellenberger Milton FBHdqs Ott
 Schmidt E. International Red Cross
 Sharp Frank FBHdqs Ottawa
 Smith R. HighCom Nairobi
 Stachowski Nadia FBHdqs
 Stronach John DND St Hubert, P.Q.
 Stubbing F. Dr NH&W Rome
 St. Vincent Roger Imm Beirut
 Tattoni Adriana Les NH&W Rome
 Thibeau P. Dr. NH&W Ott
 Tufts Floyd Immig. Rome
 Versteegh Jim Cologne Visa Office
 Walker Arnold FBHdqs Ottawa
 Watson Peggy CPO Ottawa
 Wood R. Dr Head NH&W Immig. Ott.



Slovenia: to its left, Italy, to the north, Austria, to the east, Hungary, to the south east and south, Croatia. The large green arrow points to the small hamlet of Kozarisce, where I went with my wife on holidays after the end of my assignment to Kampala and after I returned from my meeting with the Minister of Immigration. The photo to the left below shows the house and the room (blue arrow) while the photo on the right is the trophy room of my wife's brother-in-law, a hunter. I sat at that desk to write my first draft of the report "Seven Crested Cranes", "The Asian Exodus from Uganda" from a diary, notes and clippings that I accumulated during the Mission and that I brought with me to Slovenia.



BACKGROUND NOTES ON IDI AMIN-1925-2003-



IDI AMIN DADA-Born in 1925 in Ruwenzori, on the Uganda-Zaire border, he enlisted in the British Colonial Army at the age of 15. He first worked as a cook and, some fifteen years later, rose to the rank of officer. He was the first black officer in the British African Colonial Army(King's African Rifle). In a few years he rose to the rank of Major and again to the rank of Colonel. After two years in that rank, he was promoted to Major General. To rise so quickly in rank, he must have impressed his British Colonial Army superiors since no other African had equaled this impressive achievement.

When Uganda became independent in 1962, he achieved the rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Uganda Army in 1966. In 1971, fired by ambition, he led the coup that overthrew President Milton Obote. (It was no secret that Britain helped him overthrow Obote who nationalize British firms and was inclined toward socialism.) This took place while President Obote attended the Commonwealth Conference in Singapore, attended by Prime Minister P.E. Trudeau. Later, a London University granted him a "honoris causa" degree!

7 June 1977-Rumours circulated throughout London that a person, traveling "incognito," would come to attend the London Conference of Commonwealth Heads. Everyone knew that the "incognito" was Idi Amin. He was not invited to the meeting, for good cause. Prime Minister Callaghan wanted to make sure that the uninvited and unwanted President would be kept out of this meeting and not allow to come to England. President Amin's unaccepted behavior in 1972 and the expulsion of Asians made him person non grata to Commonwealth Heads.



Notwithstanding London's attitude, Radio Uganda repeated daily that President Amin will attend the Conference and that he will transit through European countries before arriving at London for the meeting. It said that he would cross the English Channel by ship as his personal airplane did not get clearance to land at Heathrow Airport. That led to a number of countries, including France, to take similar action as London in refused to let the let his plane land except to refuel or in case of an emergency. The Republic of Ireland followed suit. Feeling slighted by such attitudes and rebukes, he decided instead to fly to Lybia to visit his "bagman," Colonel Moammer Khadafi.

He tried to go to London a second time, to follow a cure to loose weight. No clinic nor hotel wanted him. Had he succeeded, rumors said he wanted bearers carry him throughout the streets of London! His star had now reached its lowest perigee.

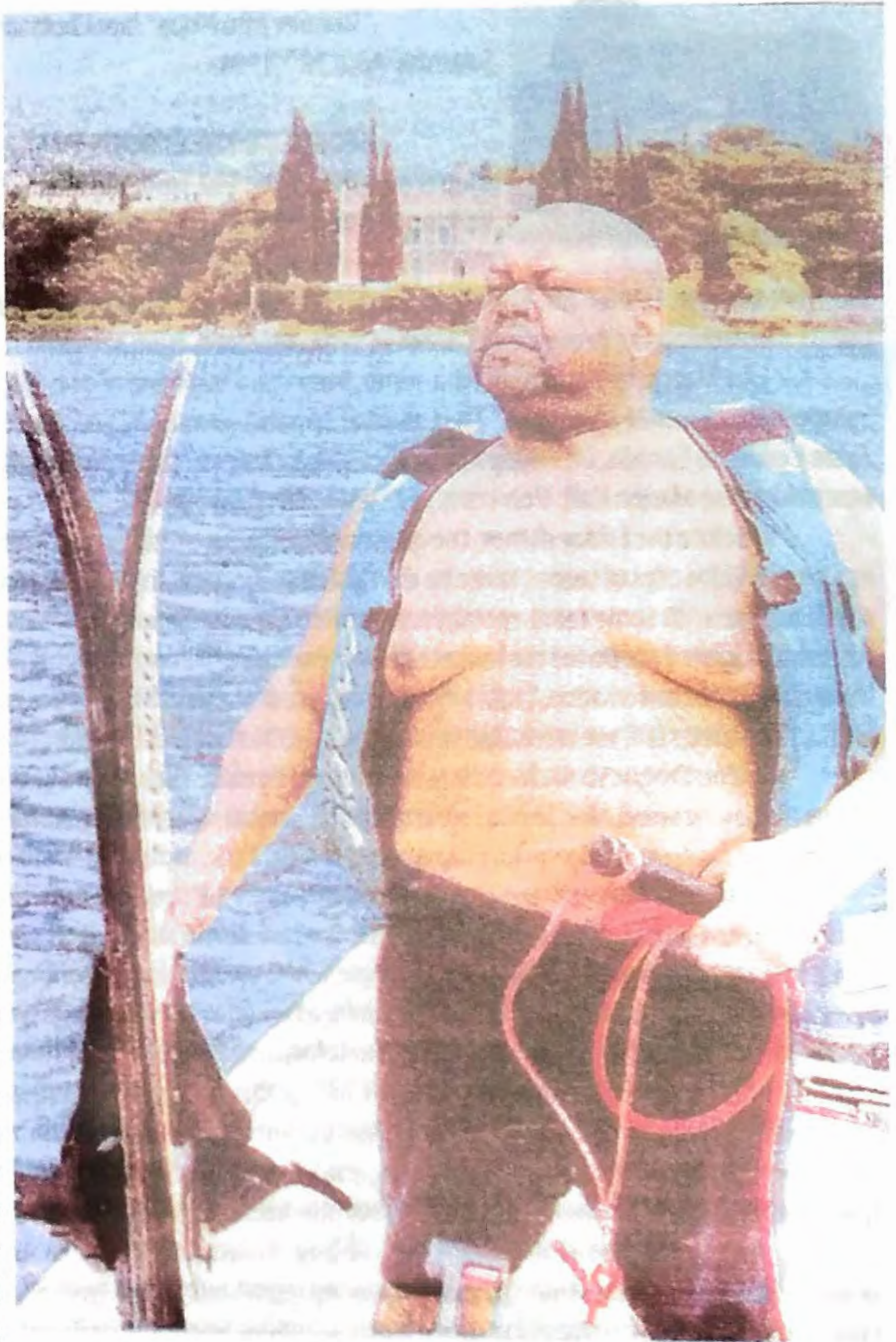
Boastful as ever, he indulges himself in water sports, as shown in this picture taken on lake Garda, in northern Italy, where he spends his vacation in a luxurious villa. He told reporters that he often dreams about his birth place and "glorious days

in Kampala." He also volunteered that he would like a boxing match with George Foreman, reminding them that he was an Olympic champion at the 1960 Rome Olympics. He told how he now enjoys life and is received by the Prince of Monaco-there is nothing modest about this man who has no regrets about his "butchering days." He is still a dreamer and a boaster. The Queen of England once called him the "black Hitler" and he is still a person non grata insofar as Britain is concerned.

At right: August 1997-the General "out of uniform"-The caption reads "Idi Amin Dada never shies from publicity." The article reported that the ex-President does not accept a "double" when risks are involved. It went on to state that the "great butcher of Uganda, dictator Idi Amin, reported to have killed 400,000 people, does not hide nor shy from his past deeds.

The photo(enlarged to give the reader an "ample view") says a lot about this bombastic and cruel dictator. Yet, he travels unhindered for his past deeds nor by those called upon to enforce justice on persons having committed genocide and barbaric crimes. This is an example of double standards when it comes to dealing with and judging persons for crimes committed while head of a country. There should have been no escape from judgment by an International Court or outright condemnation from the United Nations but, it was evidently not to be so in his case. Britain did not wish to have him openly admit that they backed his "ascension to power, dictatorship and that it accepted the slaughters and murders that went on during his "reign" in Uganda.

His name will always be associated with other despots who behaved inhumanly towards mankind. The fact that he received asylum by so many countries and enjoyed all the amenities of a big time spender at luxurious European retreats leads one to believe that his past crimes did not concern the United Nations nor the International Court of Justice. Nor, for that matter, were his crimes against humanity deemed any longer indictable! Yet, other despots were brought to justice for lesser crimes....



SEQUEL 2 TO THE ASIAN EXODUS



"Journey into Hope" lapel button worn by all attendants, on Friday April 29th and Saturday April 30th 1994.

SEQUEL TO THE EXODUS-PART 2-While residing in Ljubljana, Slovenia, I received a letter dated July 29, 1992, from Mr. Nizar E. Kanji, President of the Ismaili Council of Canada, inviting me to attend a dinner on August 19th, at the Toronto Harbour Castle Westin Hotel, marking the visit of the Aga Khan to Canada. That letter reached me too late because of the incorrect address. I called Mr. Kanji to thank him. Minister of Employment and Immigration Bernard Valcourt addressed the guests mentioning the presence of Canadian Team Members from Kampala.

In March 1994, I received a letter from the President of the CHIS, Mrs Joyce Kavanah-Wood, inviting me to a Symposium, "Journey into Hope." The Canadian Ismaili Community and the CIHS wished to commemorate the 1972 Ugandan Asian Exodus to Canada. On Friday April 29th, 1994, a dinner at the Museum of Civilization, in Hull, Quebec and the symposium was held at the Marion Hall, University of Ottawa, Saturday April 30.

Before the Friday dinner, the guests milled about admiring an exhibit of memorabilia concerning the Asian Exodus as well as a video clips of scenes taken by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation film crews during their visit to Kampala. I was asked to pose with some team members attending the occasion. Miss Carrie Hunter, the Editor of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society Bulletin led me to meet and pose with the Honorable Sergio Marchi, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. During our brief conversation, I told him that because of the deadline of November 8, I had to cut corners to process the Asians, with a dedicated staff, we were able to issue over 6,000 visas in 35 working days to get the job done by November 8, 1972.

After the guests sat for dinner, Miss Joyce Kavanah-Wood, introduced the guests at the "Head Table." Apart from our Minister, they included, Mrs. Sheila Feinstone, MP, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Status of Women, Mr. Aziz Bahloo, President of the Ismaili Council for Canada and, several VIPs., including Ambassadors. She mentioned that "Roger St. Vincent came from Slovenia to attend and in the next breath, asked all those who were in Kampala as part of the Team to stand up. Mike Molloy, Jolene Carriere, Mary Ellen Hempel and the Chia sisters stood up as well as some Immigration Officers such as Al Lukie and a few others. There was sustained applause while we stood up. A great number of those present were persons that we processed during that short period of time, while other were VIPs and guests who shared their tables with them. I shared a table with the High Commissioner for Kenya and his wife. The Museum of Civilization lent itself well for the occasion.

The symposium held Saturday April 30th, at the University of Ottawa, was the highlight of the "Journey into Hope." The President of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, Joyce Kavanagh, excelled at her task as Emcee, scheduling speakers Dr. Peter Nazareth of the University of Iowa, Jim Cross, Mike Molloy Roger St. Vincent, John Eckert, Bob Lefebvre and Bob Kayserlingk. All those attending will long remember testimonies by Asians who told their experiences, choked with emotion.

Before the start of the Symposium, Al Troy, Treasurer of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, offered copies of my book "Asian Exodus from Uganda." It was my report published by the Society in October 1993. During the coffee break, I autographed a copy of my book for some guests, including Hettie Mitchell, with whom I evoked memories of Maurice Mitchell's important contribution.

In October 1994, while attending the Annual General Meeting of the CIHS at the Department of External Affairs, I watched a video of the April 29/30 event at the University of Ottawa. It was a very emotional video, showing close ups of Asians recounting the ordeal they underwent at the hands of President Idi Amin's troop to coming to Kampala in order to apply to apply for emigration to CANADA. I received a copy of this video cassette from the hands of Al Troy. When I returned to Montreal I played it to friends who were as impressed by the statements given by the Asians as I was. I had copies formatted for the PAL system for the benefit of friends and relatives in Europe and Australia. I received their comments who were also full of praise for those who made this video. (This format has now been made into CD. Rs.

THE SYMPOSIUM-"JOURNEY INTO HOPE-"

Journey into HOPE

Saturday, April 30, 1994
Marion Hall
University of Ottawa



UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

9:00 Welcome

Joyce Cavanagh-Wood,
President, Canadian Immigration Historical Society

9:20 Keynote Address

"Understanding the Expulsion Through my Fiction"
Dr. Peter Nazarath,
Professor of English and African-American World Studies, University of Iowa

10:00 The Canadian Policy

Mike Molloy, Director General, International Migration, Department of Citizenship and Immigration; former member of the Kampala team

10:20 The Canadian Team in Kampala

Roger St. Vincent, Former Officer-in-charge, Canadian Immigration Team, Kampala, Uganda

10:50 Arrival in Canada - Reception and Resettlement

Diana Fishleigh-Eaton,
Former Coordinator, Ontario Welcome House, Toronto, Ontario
Bob Lefebvre,
Former Officer-in-charge, Immigration, Montreal International Airport

11:45 The Immigrant Perspective

Pushpa Dass, Hindu Community Representative
Jesse Chima, Sikh/Punjabi Community Representative
Maurice Pinto, Goan Community Representative

The Canadian Immigration Historical Society, University of Ottawa and Ugandan Asian Communities in Canada are sponsoring a symposium on the Ugandan movement to Canada in 1972.

This is the story of more than 6,000 Ugandan Asians whose lives changed overnight, and of the hundreds who assisted them in one of the most successful migrations in Canadian history from a developing country. The event will bring together the Immigration Officers involved, academics, and the Ugandan Asians themselves.

On display will be an exhibit of testimonials, historical footage, and memorabilia capturing the full scope of the migration from expulsion to arrival, from resettlement to hope.

Razak Ishaq, Muslim Community Representative
Zayn Alarakhia, Ismaili Muslim Community Representative

13:00 Questions/Remarks from the floor

13:15 Lunch

14:15 Personal Testimonies

Zia Haque, Muslim Community Representative
Maurice Pinto, Goan Community Representative
Jalal Jaffer, Ismaili Muslim Community Representative
I.M. Patel, Hindu Community Representative
Prem Chima, Sikh/Punjabi Community Representative

15:30 Settlement Issues

Mike Molloy,
Director General, International Migration, Department of Citizenship and Immigration; former member of the Kampala team
Clive Joakim,
Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizenship, Government of Ontario

16:15 Questions/Remarks from the floor

16:45 Wrap-up

Dr. Robert Keyserlingk, Professor of History, University of Ottawa
Dr. Peter Nazarath,
Professor of English and African-American World Studies, University of Iowa

Registration form enclosed • For more information please contact

Bill Sinclair at (613) 231-2069 (Ottawa) or Zul Hirji (416) 465-1891 (Toronto)

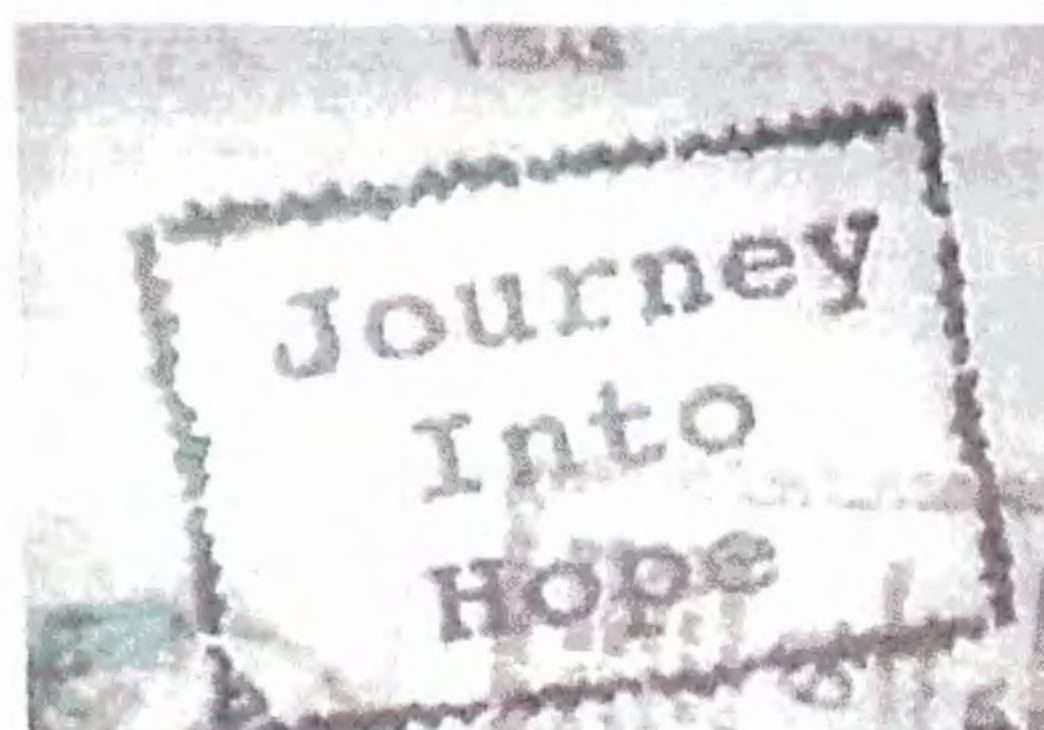
The organizers acknowledge the support of the Department of Citizenship and the Department of Heritage.

SEQUEL 2 TO THE ASIAN EXODUS

This photo was taken on the evening of March 29th, 1994, at the Reception at the Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec. It was an occasion for some members of the Kampala Team to pose for this photo. In the usual order, Mike Molloy, Jolène Carrière, Ginette Leroux, Mary Ellen Hempel, and two Uganda Asians, the Chia sisters who were of great assistance to the team. I leave it to the reader to identify the person on the far right.



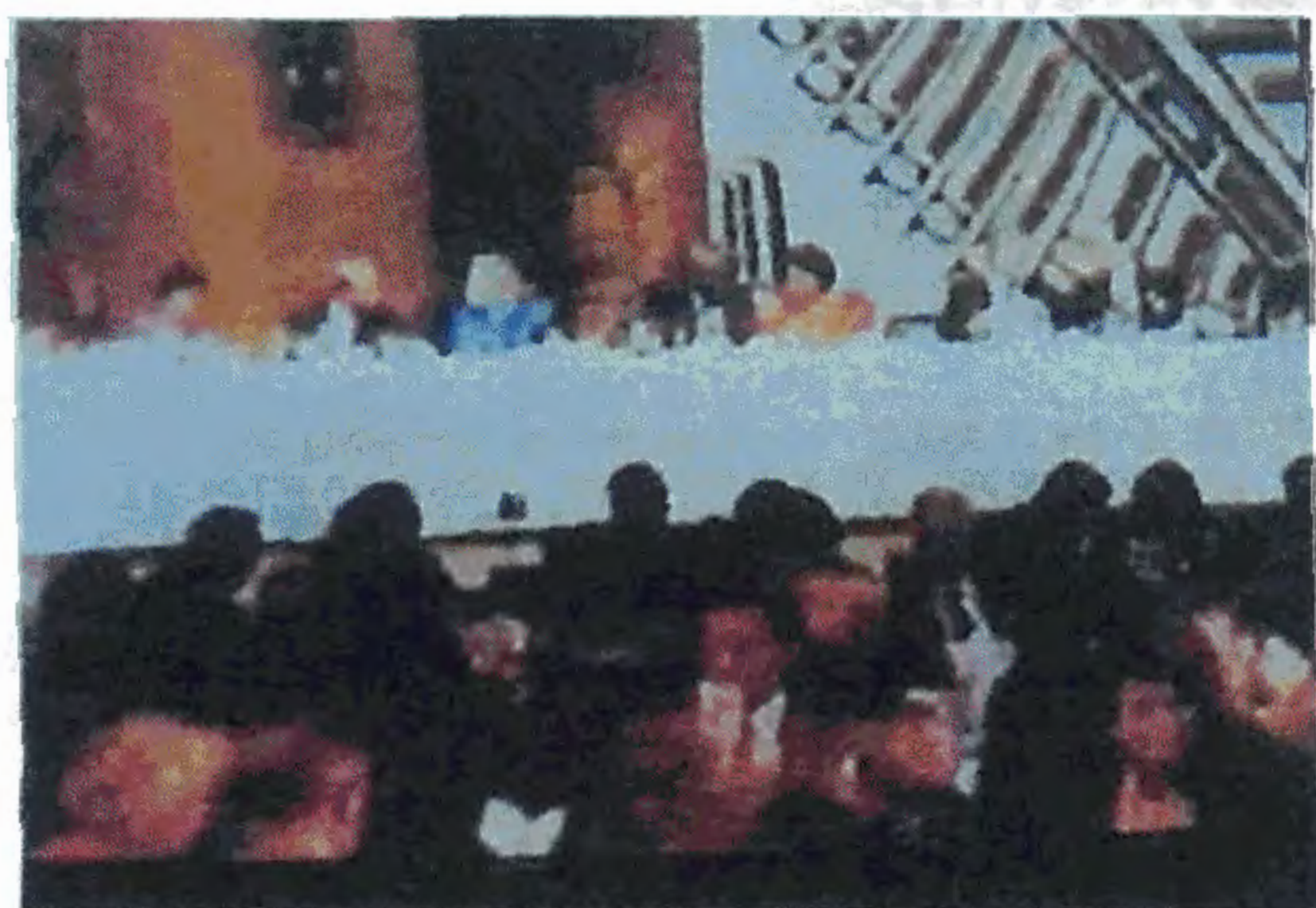
REMEMBERING.....22 Years later



THE REMEMBRANCE GATHERING AT THE MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION, HULL, APRIL 29TH AND THE SYMPOSIUM HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, APRIL 30TH 1994

Among the guests of honor at the evening dinner at the impressive Museum of Civilization in Hull, across the Ottawa river and within sight of the Parliament Buildings, were the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Hon. Sergio Marchi, Mr. Aziz Bhaloo, President of the Ismaili Council for Canada, The High Commissioner for Uganda, Miss Sheila Feinstone, Minister of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, etc. They sat at a long table above on the platform overlooking the other guests. The latter included members of the Diplomatic Corps, Parliamentarians, Immigration personnel who were part of the Team at Kampala. The largest representation consisted of Asians who were expelled from Uganda. Joyce Cavanah-Wood, as President of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society and co-host was the MC. In her introductory remarks, she asked those in the audience who were member of the Canadian Team in Kampala to stand up to a resounding applause.

The photos show some of the speakers at the evening dinner at the Museum of Civilization-next page, Asians tell their stories of their Journey into Hope..



Above-Scene at the Museum of Civilization-



Joyce Cavanagh-Wood, Pres.of the CIHS-

Bottom left: Roger St. Vincent meets Minister Sergio Marchi prior to the dinner-The Minister "*out of that horror and anxiety came one of the most uplifting saga....*" The President of the Ismaili Council for Canada, Mr. Aziz. Bhaloo. "*..22 years ago a dictator broke all norms of human behaviour.....*"



SEQUEL PART 3 TO THE ASIAN EXODUS

Members of the Ottawa Headquarters' staff of the Department of Manpower and Immigration, the Foreign Branch Service, the Inland Immigration Field Service(R. Lefebvre) and two Officers from the Beirut, Lebanon, Visa Office(Molloy/St.Vincent.)



JIM CROSS, Immigration Division Coordinator, Ottawa-

"when we got Cabinet approval, we formed a Committee...as civil servants do, to share responsibility..."



MIKE MOLLOY, Asst. Team Leader, Kampala-

"humanitarian considerations, helping England out, balancing pros and cons..."



ROGER ST VINCENT, Team Leader, Kampala-

"the assignment to Kampala was a different because the selection of those "expelled" took place in their country-and had to be done by November 8 '72...."



Robert Lefebvre, Immigration Reception

Coordinator at The Canadian Forces Base, St-Paul l'Hermite, Montreal-... "soldiers provided all the comforts and, with few exceptions because of medical reasons, these people were on their way within 48 hours...."



At left: the Director General of the Immigration Foreign Service, BUD CLARK and his Director of Operations, MAURICE MITCHELL, who were responsible to the Minister of Immigration, the Hon. Bryce Mackasey. They provided the logistics on the Exodus Operations from August 28th 1972 until the end of the Mission. Mr. Mitchell was in contact with the Head of the Kampala Mission Team at around midnight for a report on the day's on-going operations and statistics. He came twice to Kampala and Mr. Clark came once, on November 8th, 1972, the last day -Mission Accomplished.

Below-they wept telling their tales of horror shared by many of those present- very moving testimonies....

RAZAK ISHAQ-imagine Indian curry served by soldiers...there are people and there are people..."



ZIA HAQUE-"...at first I did not believe it but in hours it turned out true..."



JALLAL AND SHAMI JAFFER-"



flying back to Kampala we heard that Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of Asians..I said he must be out of his mind-I and my parents were born in Uganda...."

DIAMOND LALANI-"I arrived at Kampala from Masaka after passing many check-points...my brother was accepted for Canada; He was told you must leave in two days with our plane or you are on your own..We could no go back to Masaka fearing for my life...."



AZIZ MOTANI-"...Idi Amin) he said he had a dream in which God told him to get rid of all Asians...it became our nightmare..."



MAURICE PINTO -> "...the situation was very tense...only when the plane was rolling on the runway did we feel safe...."



HERMAN D'SOUZA-these were people my parents and I looked up to in Uganda as leaders of the Community-and here I was going to them with pots and pans....there will be others who will need our help....."



ZAYN ALARAKHIA-"with our visas we moved into the hotel where the Canadian Consul placed the Canadian flag on our door-we were now under the protection of Her Majesty's....."



Professor Kayserlingk made the arrangements for the Symposium to be held at the Marion Hall on April 30th 94'-he is an ex-President of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society.

Left, faces in the crowd- photos of 3 Ontario's Welcome House ladies-

Prem Jesse Chia-another face in the crowd- there is insufficient space to show more of the people who were present at this well attended event



SEQUEL PART 3 TO THE ASIAN EXODUS

The second great event, this one to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Ugandan Asians' Tragic Saga-

30th Anniversary Celebration

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the South Asian Exodus from Uganda to Canada, the Pearson-Shoyama Institute and the Uganda 30 Committee, welcome you to attend a dinner on October 2nd, 2002 at Parliament Hill, West Block, Room 200 at 6pm.

Guest of Honour: Honourable Sheila Copps,
Minister of Canadian Heritage

Special Guests: Roger St. Vincent, Team Leader, and several
members of Canada's Mission to Kampala in 1972

South Asians Mark Thirty-Year Anniversary of Exodus from Uganda

The year 2002 marks the 30th Anniversary of the resettlement of Ugandan Asians in Canada. Given this historic moment in time, the 30th Anniversary of Ugandan Asian resettlement in Canada offers an exceptional opportunity to reflect and appreciate the difficulties that Ugandan South Asians faced as a result of General Idi Amin's decree to expel all South Asians. It is a time to appreciate not only the actions undertaken by the Government of Canada in 1972-73 in responding to the looming humanitarian catastrophe, but also of the efforts undertaken by international organizations including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It is also a time to recognize non-governmental organizations such as the Red Cross, and various individuals who provided much assistance when it was needed the most.

The Government of Canada was the first country, apart from Great Britain, to react to the looming humanitarian catastrophe. The Government of Canada acted swiftly and generously. It dispatched a team of Canadian government officials to the capital, Kampala, to institute a program of admission of Ugandan Asians to Canada on an emergency basis. In keeping with the deadline set by General Idi Amin Dada, the mission was to be accomplished by November 8, 1972.

The Canadian government granted approximately 6,000 visas directly to Ugandan Asians. Ugandan Asians who were not able to gain admission to any state became refugees and were assisted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Those families that were assisted by UNHCR were transported out of Uganda into refugee camps in different parts of the world including Austria, Sweden, Italy, and Malta. Subsequently, many Ugandan refugees were able to gain admission into Canada.

The resettlement of South Asian Ugandans effected by General Idi Amin's decree into Canadian society is an illustration of a highly successful re-integration process. Within 30 years, Ugandan Asians who settled in Canada have made remarkable progress and have contributed to Canadian society in numerous ways including politics, business, entertainment, and social/cultural aspects of Canadian society.

"For our part, we [Government of Canada] are prepared to offer an honourable place in ODN [Canadian] life to those Uganda Asians who come to ODA [Canada] under this program. Asian immigrants have already added to the cultural richness and variety of our community and, I am sure that those from Uganda will, by their abilities and industry, make an equally important contribution to Canadian society."

Statement from the Late Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau
August 24, 1972

Program

M.C.	Goldy Hyder, VP Hill and Knowlton
Cocktail Reception	Room 209
National Anthem of Canada	Room 200
Welcome Address	Raj Rasalingam, President, Pearson-Shoyama Institute
Video Clip	From Tragedy to Triumph
Key Note Address	Hon. Minister Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage
Buffet Dinner	
Remarks	Senator Mobina Jaffer Rahim Jaffer, Member of Parliament
Remarks	Roger St. Vincent & Michael J. Molloy
Video Presentation	"Ugandan Refugees: A Canadian Success Story" Produced by S.M.F. Productions
Message from UNHCR	Judith Kumin, UNHCR Representative in Canada
Vote of Thanks	Jonathon Calof, Director Pearson-Shoyama Institute

Sponsors & Donations

This event would not have been possible without the generous participation of the following individuals/organizations:

Jubilee Fine Jewellers
B & N Transmission
Bobcaygeon Pharmacy Ltd.
Mr. & Mrs. Nasirali Sayi
His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia
Imami Ismaili Council for Ottawa
IDA Carleton Place
Mirovitz Potichin
S.M.F. Productions, Toronto Ontario
Shefik & Nimira Sayi & Family
Shoppers Drug Mart, 161 Bank St.
Zulfiqar Moledina & Family

Pearson-Shoyama Institute:

The Pearson-Shoyama Institute is a "think-tank" devoted to facilitating the involvement of a wider cross-section of Canadians in the development of public and private sector policy. The Institute believes in a policy development process that is genuinely inclusive of Canadians. We encourage greater responsiveness to our evolving pluralistic society by both the public and private sectors, and encourage a broader vision and a more global minded approach to domestic and international affairs. The Institute is currently engaged in research with Canada's leading broadcasters such as CTV, CHUM Television, Standard Broadcasting, Rogers Media and Canwest Global.

Uganda 30 Committee:

Almas Abdulla, Shiraz Abdulla, Salim Fakymani, Farah Gillani, Tina Moledina

The Pearson-Shoyama Institute and the Uganda 30 Committee sincerely thank all Canadians who assisted in the settlement and integration of South Asian Refugees from Uganda

Printing Services:

We are grateful to Delta Repro for their printing services.

Invitation Card/Program, Designed by Minaz Abdulla

October 2nd, 2002, West Block, Parliament Hill-30th Anniversary celebration -



Senator Mobina Jaffer, at the rostrum, announces that Roger St. Vincent and Michael Molloy will both receive the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for the part they played in the successful movement of Ugandan Asians to Canada from September 1st to November 8th, 1972. On the far left, the Master of Ceremonies, Goldie Haider who did a superb job.

I am fond of this photo not only because of the spontaneous reaction and applause by those present to the announcement but, by the enthusiasm shown by Mary Ellen Hempel, on my left, an Ottawa-based Immigration secretary, members of the Kampala Team in 1972, who kept asking me to rise in respond to the announcement and applause. Mike Molloy was sitting somewhat further away among the 250 odd guests and was asked to stand.

Address Delivered on October 2nd 2002 by L. Roger St. Vincent on the 30th Anniversary of the Exodus of Ugandan Asians at the West Wing of the Parliament Buildings under the aegis of the Pearson Shoyama Institute.

"Minister Sheila Copps, Senator Mobina Jaffer, members of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished guests,

"The United Kingdom Government sought the support of our country to relieve the pressure in the UK to accept Asians affected by the decree. Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau took immediate steps to play a major role. I was contacted at my Beirut apartment on August 24th by telegram which read like a "mission impossible" assignment in I was requested to proceed immediately to Kampala to pick up to 3,000 Asians refugees for Canada. They must meet the selection criteria based on the point system which would not necessarily apply as they were not refugees. But the telegram said something very important "bearing in mind their particular plight" and facilitate their departure for Canada. That to me was the green light, in other words, ignore the regulations.

On August 28th I went to the Nairobi High Commission and the High Commissioner place two officers at my disposal to help me get started. I flew to Kampala on August 31, located office space where the team could process 3000 (this was changed to 6,000) Ugandan Asians. There was nothing available and I had no typewriters, telex facilities, no telephones, desks or chairs, partitions for the doctors for medical examinations, etc. It's easy for "luminaries" at Ottawa, as I call them, to say get over there and get it done!

Before leaving Nairobi I was asked to meet Mr. Mevghi who had his office on the 7th floor of the IPS and he provided me with two old fashioned typewriters, two chairs and typing desk for a start. Then I went to the British High Commission and they were very helpful-we know why they were very helpful- and I go the name of a Sikh carpenter in Jinja who would come and see me the next day. When I met him next morning I told him that I needed 48 chairs and 10 tables within 48 hours otherwise we do not open our doors. The British High Commission had an expatriate carpenter and I challenged him to deliver the counter, gave him the measures as well as partitions for the medical section. He too had to deliver these within 48 hours. And both did so that we could open our doors on Wednesday September 6 to face the flood of applicants. The British High Commission arranged for us to have telex facilities, two telephones, a PO Box.

Our Minister of Immigration, Bryce Makasey wanted to come for the opening day but, for political reasons, he did not appear. On that opening day, September 6th, the queues wound around the block and we had a hard time getting in the office at 7 am. I placed the secretaries, recently arrived from Immigration Canada, at the counter to hand out application forms. When the British Immigration Team operating in a crowded space below us saw that we occupied that was refused to them. That day we gave out 2588 application for 7,700 persons.

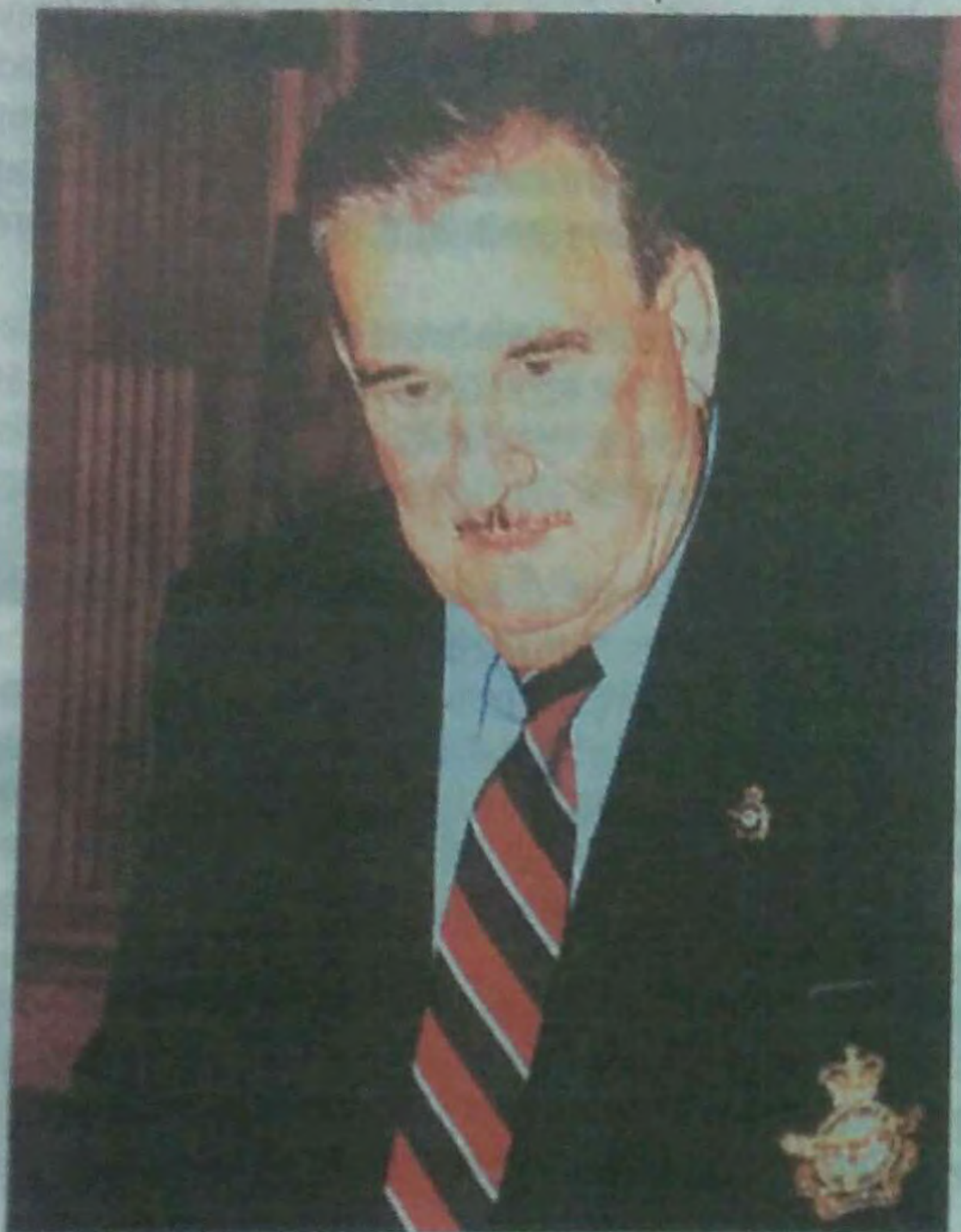
Then came what I considered was unacceptable and wasteful. During the Interdepartmental meetings at Immigration Headquarters Ottawa, a decision was made that each adult Ugandan Asian accepted had to have a stool test as well as a blood and urine test. These tests were never required previously, right Mike (Molloy) apart from the X-Rays as the Asians appeared healthy and did not need those tests, at least not the stool tests. And, to do those tests, they had to send a team of seven Canadian Army technicians based at St. Hubert, Quebec. They arrived without their equipment and when it arrived, including two generators that they never used, they pitched their tents near our building and soon found that the temperature inside reached over 100° ! They never knew at their bases that Kampala was at the equator and that it get hot! So I rushed around getting fan for them especially for the technician doing the stool test!

We had to complete a Canadian Immigration Identification Card for each person visaed and stamp a visa in his passport or on the Travel Document. Many vital entries had to be typed on the CIC such as tombstone data, the medical serial number and this required time but, the secretaries were able to complete these cards in minutes whereas it would take much more time under other circumstances. They complained their typewriters were not electric and after chasing around we found some and they were elated. Without them we could not have done it as we did.

Before I go on I would like to mention some statistics as people are always impressed by statistics even if they do not understand them. We received 8065 applications for 23,000 persons and 4,690 did not show up when called. We issued visas to 6,175 Ugandan Asians in 35 working days, a record that is unsurpassed and again this is due to the secretaries making it possible to type the Immigration card with incredible haste so that we could also issue the visas.

I went to Entebbe Airport on the last day, November 8th to witness chaos as buses unloaded Asians departing aboard British Airways, British Caledonian, Sabina, Air India but, no sight was as impressive as that of the stretch Air Canada DC 8 loading its last passenger among them the Director General Mr. Bud Clark (now passed away) and leaders of the Ismaili Community. Together with Luis Mach, I watched the DC8 as it left the tarmac to head for take-off. It rolled down the runway and did not seem to take off though accelerating-I'm a pilot and feared as I watched it raise at the very end of the runway without gaining altitude and disappearing. It was overloaded. I left for Nairobi and back to Beirut, my mission was accomplished."

Photo Album-Events that took place at the West Wing of the Parliament Buildings on October 2002-a sequel of the presentation of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal at Ljubljana, Republic of Slovenia. Canadian Ambassador Ronald Halpin came to Ljubljana to present the medal. On October 2, 2002, after the speeches came the announcement by Senator Mobina Jaffer that Mike Molloy and I were to receive the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.. We were both moved by the unexpected announcement. On December 5th 2002, Ambassador Ronald Halpin, in residence at Budapest, Hungary, came to Ljubljana, Slovenia to pin the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal on my RCAF blazer's lapel.



The photo below shows those present at the ceremony-my wife Marija, her grand niece, Natasha Svetek, myself, the Ambassador and his wife, the secretary to the Canadian Honorary Consul for Slovenia and the Consul Mr, J. Obersnel.

Right below: Vancouver-Mike Molloy received his Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal from Canadian Senator Mobina Jaffer.





The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal

The Commemorative Medal for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee was created to mark the 50th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty to the Throne on February 6, 1952.

It is awarded to those persons who, like you, have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community or to their fellow Canadians.

The obverse side of the medal bears the current Canadian effigy of Her Majesty; the reverse side, the Royal Crown above a single maple leaf on which is superimposed the Royal Cypher. The medal is suspended from a ribbon on which the outer stripes appear in red, followed by broad royal blue stripes, white stripes and a red stripe in the center.

This Commemorative Medal is part of the Jubilee year celebrations organized by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

La Médaille du jubilé de Sa Majesté la Reine

La Médaille commémorative du jubilé de Sa Majesté la Reine Elizabeth II marque le 50^e anniversaire de l'accession de Sa Majesté au trône le 6 février 1952.

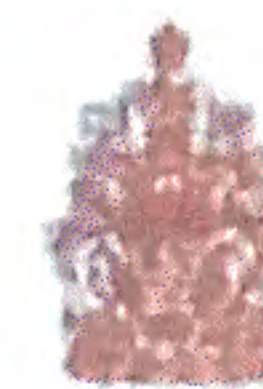
Elle est conférée aux personnes qui, comme vous, ont apporté une contribution exceptionnelle au Canada, à leur collectivité ou à leurs concitoyens.

L'avvers de la médaille porte l'effigie canadienne actuelle de Sa Majesté; le revers, la couronne royale surmontant une feuille d'érable unique sur laquelle est superposée le chiffre royal. La médaille est suspendue à un ruban dont les rayures extérieures rouges sont suivies de rayures larges bleu royal, de rayures blanches et d'une rayure rouge au milieu.

La Médaille commémorative s'inscrit dans le cadre des fêtes du jubilé organisées par le ministère du Patrimoine canadien.

THE SENATE OF CANADA

HONOURABLE MOBINA JAFFER, Q.C.
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A6

LE SÉNAT DU CANADA

L'HONORABLE MOBINA JAFFER, C.P.
COLUMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

November 20, 2002

Mr. Roger St. Vincent
1021 - 4998 Maisonneuve West
Westmount, QC
H3Z 1N2

Dear Mr. St. Vincent:

Re: Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for Mr. Roger St. Vincent

This year I had the opportunity to nominate you for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and I am pleased to tell you that my nomination was accepted.

I would have truly enjoyed presenting the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal to you personally, however under the current circumstances that was not possible.

Arrangements have been made for you to be presented with your Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal from Ambassador Halpin and I send along my greetings and congratulations. Your efforts during the Ugandan exodus greatly assisted many individuals and families, one of which was mine, and it will never be forgotten.

Kindest Personal Regards,

Mobina Jaffer
Mobina S.B. Jaffer, Q.C.



His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili
Council for Ottawa

Le Conseil Shia Imami Ismaili de Son Altesse Le Prince Aga Khan
pour Ottawa

July 24, 2002

Mr. Roger St. Vincent
(1021) 4998 Maisonneuve
Westmount, PQ H3Z 1N2

Dear Mr. St. Vincent,

On behalf of His Highness Prince Aga Khan Council for Ottawa, I am most happy to invite you and a guest to the premiere showing of 'Hayy Ibn Yaqzan' on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. at CentrepoinTE Theatre, located at Ben Franklin Place, 101 CentrepoinTE Drive.

Yaqzan is a stunning mix of traditional and contemporary music, song, and dance based on a 12th century Moorish tale by Ibn Tufayl. It is produced by young members of the Ismaili community from across Canada.


Drawing on the pluralistic cultural heritage and artistic expression of the Ismaili Muslim community in Canada, the performance includes specially composed music and choreography inspired by the name of the show – "Hayy", which means "awake", "Ibn" which means "son of", and "Yaqzan", which means "the vigilant".

I am also pleased to invite you and a guest to join us for a pre-show reception at 6:30 p.m.

In anticipation of your attendance, two complimentary tickets have been reserved for you. To help us plan to make this an enjoyable evening for you, we request that you confirm your attendance by Friday, August 2nd via telephone (728-2486 Ext. 261) or by e-mail (yaqzan_ottawa@canada.com). Please also indicate if you plan to attend the pre-show reception. Additional tickets are available from the box office at CentrepoinTE Theatre (Tel. 727-6650).

We very much look forward to seeing you at this most exciting event.

Yours Sincerely,


Karim F. Damji
President