

UNEMPLOYMENT, MENTAL PROBLEMS

Turmoil in peaceful land for many 'Boat People'

VANCOUVER (CP) — The 60,000 Indochinese refugees who were dubbed Boat People when they arrived in Canada four years ago are living — many for the first time in their lives — in a country at peace.

But that doesn't mean their lives are free from turmoil.

The refugees, almost 50 per cent of whom have since become Canadian citizens, are pleased to be here but are not without problems.

Speakers to a University of British Columbia symposium on Indochinese refugee resettlement Sunday emphasized that the refugees face two major problems.

Unemployment is the first and most important of the two. Following closely behind is the growing problem of mental disturbance.

Surveys done within 18 months of their arrival indicate their initial employment levels were promising,

but the recession ended that trend, speakers said.

Phyllis Johnson, with the University of B.C. refugee resettlement project, told of a survey done by the university in late 1981 which showed two-thirds of all refugees sponsored by private organizations such as church groups had jobs and one-half of those sponsored by the government were working.

More recent Canadian surveys were unavailable, but a survey done by the University of Michigan's refugee resettlement group in 1982 showed that 43 per cent of the refugee households surveyed in five major U.S. cities were living completely on government assistance, said John Whitmore, of the resettlement group.

"Clearly the refugees, in terms of economic self-sufficiency are not doing that good," Whitmore said.

Encouragingly, though, the study showed that the longer the refugees were in the country the better they fared.

"Of those that had been here four years 75 per cent of the households had at least one job and of those almost 50 per cent had two jobs," said Whitmore. "And a significant proportion of the remaining 25 per cent who were without jobs were students and could be expected to be employed in the future."

Another concern, raised by several speakers, is that of professionals from Vietnam who are unable to resume their careers here.

Nguyen Hai Binh, head of the Canadian Federation of Vietnamese Associations from Montreal, said he knows of 40 refugees who are medical doctors in Quebec who can't practice medicine.

"They are working as janitors, stretcher carriers, any work they

can find," said Binh. "That is all right for two or three years but after 10 or 12 years they won't be able to continue their work."

They have not been able to use their medical skills because they are not certified by the Quebec medical association, he said. To get certification they must spend one year of internship at a hospital and there are waiting lists of Canadian-trained doctors for the internships. Only one or two refugee doctors a year are given internships, he said.

The problem is not confined to the medical profession — many professional and trade organizations limit their membership, he said.

Dr. San Duy Nguyen, the only Vietnamese psychiatrist in Canada, told the conference of the pressing need for specialized assistance to help refugees with mental problems.

The refugees, he said, lived through years of turmoil in war then fled their country — either leaving family members behind or losing them in the escape. They arrived in a country with marked cultural differences and may not have found work.

It is to be expected that they are "at risk," he said.

He said he knows of five suicides by refugees in a three-month period last year in Montreal and of another two recently in Toronto. A doctor treating refugees in Vancouver knows of 19 attempted or threatened suicides there.

The Vietnamese psychiatrist has treated 118 refugee patients and 25 per cent of them have been sent to his office because of suicide attempts.

As evidenced by the experience of the survivors of the Holocaust, there is a lag of several years between the end of the horrors and the time when mental problems begin to surface.

He warned that the next few years will be difficult ones for the refugees and called on the government to assist them by providing trained people, able to speak the refugee's language, to work with them.

A further problem is the great reluctance of troubled Indochinese refugees, mainly for cultural reasons, to admit they have mental problems and to talk to a psychiatrist about personal subjects.

The problems have taken many forms ranging from depression to anxiety and feelings of loneliness to psychosomatic complaints such as headaches, dizziness and insomnia. Incidents of abnormal behavior such as aggressive behavior, wandering and anti-social behavior such as wife and child beating have also been reported.

OUTBREAK IN MANITOBA

Mosquitoes a health risk

WINNIPEG (CP) — Manitobans are swatting, spraying, cursing and scratching through a mosquito population explosion that provincial officials fear may lead to an outbreak of a potentially fatal disease.

Heavy rains in June have littered the province with stagnant water — it is collected in everything from grainfield hollows to old car tires, all breeding grounds for the insects which carry western equine encephalitis.

The Manitoba cabinet met last week to begin planning what to do if the disease strikes for the second time in three years, considered likely because of the heavy mosquito population. More meetings are set for this week.

Meanwhile, campers, sunbathers and gardeners are pouring on the mosquito repellent. Insect specialists say the clouds of mosquitoes are so thick people can expect dozens of bites a minute at dusk.

"It basically becomes intolerable to sit outside," says Roy Burkett, head of the Winnipeg mosquito spraying program. "What we are experiencing is record-high populations of mosquitoes."

Winnipeg wound up its first 1983 ground-fogging sweep for mosquitoes through city streets, parks and golf courses in the pre dawn hours today.

The city declared chemical warfare on the bugs this month after mosquitoes were pulled into air-suction traps at a rate of several hundred per trap each night. Twenty-five insects in a trap is considered intolerable.

But Burkett says the fogging with chemicals isn't going to lead to much immediate improvement in the mosquito situation. At least a couple of more passes through the city by spray trucks will be needed.

Burkett says mosquitoes are five times thicker outside the city limits and any bug that zips into Winnipeg 10 minutes after the spray trucks go by isn't affected.

So far, mosquitoes have mainly been a nuisance to Manitobans who were forced to stay indoors during last week's spell of temperatures hovering around 30 degrees.

There hasn't been a reported case of western equine encephalitis this summer.

However, Health Minister Larry Desjardins says that if there is an outbreak, he will consider the same type of controversial aerial spraying program that was used during the last major outbreak two years ago.

Encephalitis hit 25 Manitobans in the summer of 1981, killing two and leaving others with memory losses and personality disorders.

Western equine encephalitis was first identified in the 1930s when it ravaged horse populations in the western United States. Humans were later found to suffer from the disease, which attacks the brain and can result in permanent paralysis. Symptoms include headaches, fever and disorientation.

"Western equine encephalitis is a serious infection," says a report on the 1981 outbreak. "Even individuals who apparently recovered completely may have subtle psychological changes which may cause impairment."

Soviet diver dies

EDMONTON (CP) — The body of Soviet diver Sergei Shlibashvili will be flown home today, a spokesman for the World University Games said Sunday.

Shlibashvili, who had celebrated his 21st birthday a few weeks before, died Saturday in Edmonton's University Hospital after falling in a coma for one week.

"He'll likely be flown out of here from the International (Airport) first thing in the morning," said John Russell, Universiade media services vice-president.

Soviet diplomat Sergei Kruglov arrived in Edmonton during the weekend to arrange to have the body sent to Moscow.

During preliminary diving competition at the Games on July 9, the native of Tbilisi in the Soviet state of Georgia had attempted a feat considered difficult in diving circles.

From the 10-metre diving platform Shlibashvili attempted a reverse 3½-somersault tuck from a standing position.

During the second loop of the tuck, however, his head struck the diving platform and he fell limply into the pool. He remained on life support systems but never regained consciousness.

Hospital officials announced Saturday morning that the athlete had died of cardiac arrest. Attempts to resuscitate him failed.

Ken Stewart, senior medical investigator at the medical examiner's office, said Sunday that no autopsy had been ordered because the cause of death is clear.

POLITICAL FUTURE

Mixed feeling on Gregoire

QUEBEC (CP) — Members of the national assembly appear split over whether Gilles Gregoire should be forced to resign his legislature seat after being sentenced for committing immoral acts with juvenile girls.

The 57-year-old Gregoire was sentenced Thursday to two years less a day in prison and ordered to pay a \$2,900 fine on charges involving sexual acts with seven girls aged 12 to 17.

Despite the sentence, Gregoire, who was expelled from the Parti Quebecois caucus after his conviction last month and sits as an independent, keeps his assembly seat because legislature rules bar only those convicted of offences punishable under the Criminal Code by more than two years. He was convicted under the Juvenile Delinquency Act.

Gregoire will continue to receive \$44,702 in annual salary and tax-free allowance minus a \$100 fine for each day he is absent from assembly meetings.

PQ national assembly member Carmen Juneau said she would support an amendment to the law to oblige Gregoire to resign the Frontenac riding seat he has held since 1976.

"If he doesn't want to resign, I would like us to have the ability to force him," she said. "What Gregoire did is undeniable."

Liberal Harry Blank said legislators could lose their seats for less important offences if the law was changed. "If you amend it here, you'll have to amend it for everything else and you'll have people convicted of everything else — like drunk driving on a second offence — losing their seat."

Liberal Michel Gratton said he opposed a change in the law aimed at excluding Gregoire from the assembly.

"Laws aren't made for individuals, they're made for everyone and they shouldn't be amended because of a special case like Gregoire."

Running store ads puts paper in court

RED DEER, Alta. (CP) — The Red Deer Advocate has been charged with breaking a new civic bylaw by publishing advertisements for stores that were open on Canada Day, July 1.

The newspaper and five stores were charged Friday with breaking the bylaw governing Sunday and holiday closings. They are to appear in provincial court Aug. 9 for a plea.

The bylaw, passed by Red Deer city council in June, specifies fines of \$500 for large stores opening on holidays or

Higher tobacco tax wanted

by LYLE SINKIEWICZ for Southam News

WINNIPEG — The fifth World Conference on Smoking and Health ended here on the weekend with a resolution urging governments around the world to inflate taxes on tobacco as a weapon against smoking.

The six-day conference, which attracted about 1,100 delegates from 79 countries, took its cue from federal Health Minister Monique Begin, who announced earlier in the week that she would push for a 30-per-cent increase in the price of tobacco products in Canada.

Begin predicted 10 per cent of Canada's eight million smokers would quit if the cost went up.

She hinted the proposal would have widespread support in the Liberal caucus and that Finance Minister Marc Lalonde would favor such a measure. But many observers, including some delegates, dismissed Begin's proposal as pie-in-the-sky oratory.

A local gymnasium operator, with a two-pack-a-day cigarette habit, suggested an increase in the tobacco tax be accompanied by a tax on fat, and he offered to pay the portly Begin \$2.60 for every pound of fat she sheds.

Despite expectations to the contrary, the conference did not call for a world-wide ban on tobacco advertising and promotion.

Dr. Norman Delarue, emeritus professor of surgery at the University of Toronto, said in his closing address that the effectiveness of such a ban is proven by the negative response the idea attracts from the tobacco industry. He also warned delegates that many nations are about to be overwhelmed by the imminent spectre of marijuana-induced diseases.

Other recommendations issuing from the conference: — mandatory health warnings on all tobacco products sold in the world; — the formation of national smoking control co-ordinating organizations in all countries by 1987; — a global ban on the production and export of cigarettes with a tar yield of more than 20 mg.; — a call on health ministers from all nations to deliver anti-smoking progress reports to the next world conference on smoking and health, to be held in Kitakyushu, Japan, in five years; — increased support of the international anti-smoking campaign by world religious leaders; and — stronger participation by women's health groups.

Floggings threatened

WINNIPEG (CP) — Six Canadian communications experts working in Saudi Arabia have been warned they will be publicly flogged if they are found working again during daily Islamic prayer hours, a Manitoba Telephone System official said today.

The warning came after Saudi Arabian police, carrying bamboo canes, burst into a downtown Riyadh office occupied by a joint venture set up by the Manitoba telephone company and a Saudi sheik.

The incident occurred earlier this month and rumors of the threatened public beatings began circulating on the weekend.

Mike Aysan, general manager of the company's data communications subsidiary, confirmed the threat in a telephone interview.

"We were told it was against the law and ordered not to repeat it," Aysan said. "They told us they would not administer punishment — a public flogging — this time, but would if it happened a second time."

He denied one local rumor two of the workers had actually been flogged.

Aysan said he and the other Canadians working for the Manitoba company were aware of the local religious customs and regulations before they left for Saudi Arabia.

CRIPPLED YOUTH

Jury gives \$1.15 million

TORONTO (CP) — A youth who became a quadriplegic at the age of 16 because of an automobile accident has been awarded \$1.15 million by a jury.

A Bright, Ont., hotel which served beer to the boy and an underage friend the night of the accident will pay more than half the award.

Andreas Schmidt, 18, of Drumbo was paralysed from the neck down in the accident Aug. 16, 1980. He was a passenger in a car driven by a friend, Clayton Sharpe, 20, also of Drumbo, which rolled down an embankment near the southwestern Ontario city of Woodstock.

The Ontario Supreme Court jury found the Arlington House Hotel 15 per cent at fault because the boys were served despite being underage and because evidence showed Sharpe would have been noticeably drunk when he was served.

The jury found Schmidt 30 per cent at fault because he was drunk and wasn't wearing a seatbelt. It said Sharpe was 55 per cent at fault.

Vince Calzonetti, head of litigation at the firm that represented Schmidt, said in an interview there "have been only a handful of million-dollar judgments in Canadian history."

During the second loop of the tuck, however, his head struck the diving platform and he fell limply into the pool. He remained on life support systems but never regained consciousness.

Hospital officials announced Saturday morning that the athlete had died of cardiac arrest. Attempts to resuscitate him failed.

Ken Stewart, senior medical investigator at the medical examiner's office, said Sunday that no autopsy had been ordered because the cause of death is clear.

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