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CANADA INVITES REFUGEES NOT IMMIGRANTS

(A small article by Dr. A. Kumar in Awaaz weekly, Montreal Dec. 2004 in response to some immigration rules announced by the federal Canadian government)

Reference the front page headlines of this newspaper dated 19th December regarding the strict changes in the immigration policy for the skilled persons, it has been made clear by the federal government that this country needs economic refugees and not qualified immigrants. It is a fact that the damage to the Canadian society in general and the Economy in particular due to the brain drain to US (thanks to the low salaries in this country), can be somewhat compensated by allowing the qualified and skilled people from other countries. They come here, get good jobs and if not, have the capability of running their own business, settle down, pay taxes and contribute to the Canadian Economy. But the federal government has proved that they are not interested in this kind of people. On the contrary, people entering this country legally or illegally, claim refugee status, start getting money to live a good life and what is their contribution to the Canadian culture, society or the economy? Big zero. By this, I just not mean to say that the refugees must not be allowed. They must be allowed. After all we are human beings and humanity must be the motive. But who does not know that over 90% of the refugees are bogus i.e. just come here for economic reasons and not for the political problems in their respective countries.

If the reason taken is security, then the government should know it better that the qualified engineers and doctors and other skilled people working in those countries, wanting to come as immigrants, are not terrorists. The terrorists enter any country because of the flaw in the security policies by such governments.

Barring the skilled persons to enter this country legally does not only show the shortsightedness of the federal government but also puts a question mark on the future of Canada. Compare the US economy with that of the Canadian. Why we forget that the U.S.A is the only country in the world having the maximum number of immigrants. In fact US is the first country known as the land of immigrants. And its economy, multi-cultural society and the unity in diversity is an ample proof of the power of the skilled immigrants.

It is further shameful for the federal government that besides denying the entry to the qualified persons to this country, it also plans to eat away their application processing fees which amounts to millions of dollars, paid through their nose as 500\$ each.

Let us allow this society and economy to flourish, let we make this country a really tolerant and multicultural society and invite the best brains from all over the world to participate in its progress. The Federal Government should rethink over their new immigration policy.

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