



"*None is too many*" was the response given by a high-level Canadian government official when asked how many Jews should be accepted into the country, during the time of the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

This phrase described the immigration policies of the Canadian government, which closed its doors to Jewish refugees* who were fleeing the Holocaust. During the Second World War, Canadian policies were anti-Semitic and Jewish refugees were treated differently than other European refugees.

Only 5000 Jewish refugees were allowed to enter Canada during the 12-year period of the German Nazi regime. Most other Allied countries admitted tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants in an attempt to save them from the Holocaust. It was not until after the war that Canadian immigration policies regarding Jews began to change.

Note:

F.C. Blair, who was in charge of immigration policies in Canada during World War II, was not the only person in Canada to express anti-Semitic views. The government of William Lyon Mackenzie King saw the acceptance of large numbers of Jewish immigrants as a threat to Canadian society, and many people viewed Jews as being "inassimilable." At that time it was widely believed that Jews would not conform to the laws of the land, nor would they change their cultural and religious beliefs in order to become a part of Canadian society.

Sources:

Irving Abella and Harold Troper, *None Is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933 - 1948*.

Website of the Canadian Council for Refugees: <<http://www.web.net/~ccr/safethirdccr.html>>

***Refugees:** immigrants who are forced to flee to another country because they find themselves in danger of persecution or death in their home country.