

Best' migrants welcome

By JOHN GOLD
in Vancouver

CANADA'S Minister of Public Security, Doug Lewis, has pledged to attract more immigrants who can contribute to economic development while promising to crack down on those who enter the country illegally.

Yesterday's announcement followed Prime Minister Kim Campbell's controversial decision to turn all immigration selection and enforcement matters over to

the newly-created Public Security Ministry, which is also responsible for the national police force and Canada's security and international intelligence agency.

Despite criticism from Chinese Canadian organisations who argue the move will fan the flames of racism, Mr Lewis told the *South China Morning Post* the decision to combine immigration jurisdictions with police and intelligence agencies followed in the footsteps of many European nations.

"What we want to do is to have the most cost effective way of processing immigrants and refugees, and at the same time maintain the integrity of our programme," he said.

"It does not for a minute mean we are slamming the door on immigrants or turning our backs on refugees," he said.

Mr Lewis said Canada had fallen short of this year's goal of 250,000 immigrants by about 20,000.