**09CANBERRA1022**

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VZCZCXRO3427 OO RUEHPT DE RUEHBY #1022 3240515 ZNR UUUUU ZZH O 200515Z NOV 09 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2257 INFO RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 1169 RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 0280 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1209 RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 1327 RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0007 RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 2399 RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0160 RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 5055 RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 6789 RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 5057 RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2040

 UNCLAS CANBERRA 001022 SIPDIS STATE FOR PRM/ANE REBECCA KINSEY; MARK WEINBERG E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: BT IN NP PGOV PREF PREL AS SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA IS ACCEPTING BHUTANESE REFUGEES REF: STATE 113863 [Â¶](http://www.bhutan-research.org/us-diplomatic-cables-on-bhutan/09canberra1022#par1) 1. (U) Australia is committed to the work of the Core Group. Approximately 220 Bhutanese refugees were granted visas between July 2006 and June 2008. In September 2008, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Evans, announced that Australia would accept 5,000 Bhutanese refugees over five years. Approximately 800 Bhutanese refugees have been granted visas since September 2008. They are being resettled throughout Australia. [Â¶](http://www.bhutan-research.org/us-diplomatic-cables-on-bhutan/09canberra1022#par2) 2. (U) Comment: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's South and Central Asia Branch would be interested in the number of refugee visas the US plans to grant to Bhutanese refugees this year. DFAT would also like a confirmation of the number of Bhutanese refugees accepted in the U.S. last year. The number quoted by DFAT is 5,300. Please email responses to Canberra's POC at strohmeyervb@state.gov. End comment. CLUNE