

REFUGEE POLICY GROUP

CENTER FOR POLICY ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH ON REFUGEE ISSUES

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:
FRAMING THE ISSUES****By Lance Clark****INTRODUCTION**

Around the world today more than 30 million persons have been forced to leave their homes because of the effects of human conflict. Most have fled from warfare or other types of violence, repression or persecution. More than half of these individuals still remain inside their own countries. It is this particular sub-group of the overall category of internally displaced persons, that is, those who have been internally displaced because of human conflict, who are the subject of this international Symposium.

Your work in the next few days is to identify why these people continue to fare so badly and to suggest ways to better help them. My job this morning is to provide you with information that can facilitate your work.

I will present three types of information. First, I will talk about the background of these persons who are internally displaced by human conflict -- who are they? where are they? how many are there? and why should they be the focus of this Symposium? Second, I will review the guidelines that have been suggested for our discussions here. Lastly, I will suggest a number of key questions and issues that this Symposium should address.

This speech was the opening presentation at the Georgetown Symposium on Internally Displaced Persons, held October 16-18, 1989 in Washington, D.C. Lance Clark is a Staff Associate with the Refugee Policy Group.
