

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Pakistan Government has requested further assistance in meeting the critical shortage of food grains in that country and that the Canadian Government has offered an additional grant of \$5 million for the purchase of wheat from Canada.

In view of the urgent character of the food situation in Pakistan, and in view of the fact that sufficient time was not available for action by Parliament at this Session, the Canadian Government has decided that these wheat purchases should be financed temporarily from funds appropriated under the Colombo Plan Vote for 1953/54. In order that this emergency action shall not hamper economic development projects to which Canada might be able to contribute directly during the year, it is the intention of the Canadian Government to recommend to Parliament at the next session that this portion of the Colombo Plan Vote be replaced with funds appropriated for the purpose.

The Pakistan Government has been asked to place the rupees resulting from the distribution of this wheat in a special fund which would be used to meet the local costs of economic development projects in Pakistan to be mutually agreed upon by the two governments.

The provision of this wheat by Canada will assist in alleviating the immediate food shortage in Pakistan. It will also help to improve the longer-term food prospect by assisting economic development projects in that country to go forward.

This grant is additional to the allocation of \$5 million for a similar purpose from the Colombo Plan Vote for 1952/53 which was announced on February 24, 1953.