



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1958.

NO 5

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO SEEK PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,500,000 WORTH OF CANADIAN FLOUR TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES (UNRWA). THIS CONTRIBUTION, WHICH REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 20,000 TONS OF FLOUR, OR ROUGHLY 1,000,000 BUSHELS OF WHEAT, IS IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR \$500,000 CASH CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA ALREADY PROPOSED FOR 1958.

THE CANADIAN DONATION OF FLOUR IS BEING MADE IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS APPEAL FOR INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEET THE DESPERATE FINANCIAL CRISIS WHICH IS FACED BY UNRWA, A BODY WHICH HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARING FOR 930,000 PALESTINE REFUGEES IN JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA AND THE GAZA STRIP. UNRWA IS SUSTAINED ENTIRELY BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM UN MEMBER STATES; DESPITE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM, THE AGENCY IS ALREADY SO SHORT OF FUNDS THAT IT HAS HAD TO CUT SOME OF ITS RELIEF SERVICES, ALREADY AT SUBSISTENCE LEVEL, AND WILL HAVE TO ELIMINATE ITS REHABILITATION PROGRAMME ALTOGETHER IF MORE SUPPORT IS NOT FORTHCOMING.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT ITS SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION WILL GO SOME WAY TOWARDS ENABLING THIS U.N. AGENCY TO CARRY ON WITHOUT SERIOUS REDUCTION THE VITAL HUMANITARIAN WORK IT IS PERFORMING, AND THAT THE APPEAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL MEET WITH WIDESPREAD RESPONSE.