

The United Kingdom Government welcome the readiness of the Canadian Government to provide wheat at once for Greek requirements. The Canadian Government will, however, realise that the United Kingdom Government are willing to allow limited quantities of cereals to go to Greece through the blockade only because they regard the desperate food situation there as entirely exceptional. Similar concessions are not being made to other Allied Governments and it is most important that these Governments should not be given an opportunity to claim this transaction as a precedent nor be put in a position where they could be blamed by their countrymen for not so claiming.

Furthermore, owing to the great delicacy of the question of sending relief through the blockade, the United Kingdom authorities would not wish to bring the Argentine Government into this matter at this stage.

In these circumstances the United Kingdom Government would greatly prefer that the wheat should be made available to Greece on an *ad hoc* basis. They would, however, see no objection to the Canadian Government, at a later stage, asking the Governments concerned to regard these shipments as part of the Canadian contribution to the relief pool when it is instituted. For their part, the United Kingdom Government would be ready to agree to the shipments being so regarded.

It is very much hoped that the Canadian Government will agree with the foregoing, and I am asked to enquire whether in that event it may be assumed that the wheat will be a gift from the Canadian Government and will not be financed from the billion dollar gift to the United Kingdom. I am also asked to express the hope that the wheat will be available without delay. The Italian Government are understood to have agreed to the scheme put to them by the Swedish Government and the German reply is believed to be awaited in Stockholm any day now.

Yours sincerely,

C. A. E. SHUCKBURGH
for Sir Patrick Duff

1507.

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au haut commissaire par intérim de Grande-Bretagne*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Acting High Commissioner of Great Britain*

SECRET

Ottawa, April 25, 1942

Dear Sir Patrick [Duff],

I would like to refer to your letter of April 20th and our previous correspondence on the subject of relief shipments of wheat to Greece. On reconsideration of this question and in the light of the views expressed in your letter, it has been decided not to press the original suggestion, outlined in my secret letter of April 11th, that the contribution of wheat from Canada should be related to the plans