

I am glad to inform the House that the Government has today placed at the disposal of the Canadian Red Cross Society two North Star aircraft. These aircraft will deliver the material to some airport in Europe which has not yet been designated. Through arrangements made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Defence, both of whom are in Rome attending the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe have undertaken to deliver the material from whatever airport is selected to the actual scene of the disaster . . .

Mr. Drew expressed approval of the Government's action.

CBC International Service

On November 9, the Minister of National Revenue, Mr. J. J. McCann, speaking to his own motion for a committee to consider the CBC Annual Report and an amendment to the Canadian Broadcasting Act, made the following statement regarding the work of the CBC International Service:

. . . The committee will also likely wish to consider the work of the International Service which the CBC operates in effect as an agent for the Government. This service has continued to be carried on under close consultation with the Department of External Affairs regarding policy matters.

At the end of last year a weekly service to Finland was begun which has brought a remarkable response from that country. In February, following discussions with British and United States authorities, a service to Russia was opened. Broadcasting in the Ukrainian language will shortly be incorporated in this service. Members of the committee may wish to examine material that is broadcast from Canada in fourteen languages and to consider some of the evidence of the response to it. I do think it is unfortunate that it is not easy for many people in Canada to hear these broadcasts because they are beamed directly to other countries although they can be heard fairly clearly and regularly in many parts, including the city of Ottawa.

I might say that there is no secret in any way about what is broadcast. The CBC International Service is glad to show any scripts at any time to any responsible person. In addition, recordings of what actually goes on the air are kept and are available for some time afterwards. The service is, of course, designed to play an effective broadcasting role in the present international situation with all its tensions and dangers. I think members of the committee will be very interested in seeing just how it goes about this work in the present international situation.