



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1953

The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that the Pakistan Government had recently inquired whether, in the light of the serious food shortage in that country, Canadian Colombo Plan aid intended for Pakistan in 1952-53 could be provided in the form of wheat. The Canadian Government has now agreed to allocate \$5 million of Colombo Plan funds for this purpose. The Canadian authorities hope that the balance of funds likely to be available to Pakistan can be devoted to the provision of capital equipment directly related to the Pakistan economic development programme.

The Pakistan Government has been asked to set up a special fund to be derived from the sale of the Canadian wheat equivalent in rupees to the \$5 million Canadian grant. This counterpart fund will be used to meet the local costs of economic development projects in Pakistan to be mutually agreed upon by the two Governments.