



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 52

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1956.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS OFFERING TO PROVIDE 25,000 TONS OF WHEAT TO PAKISTAN AS A GIFT TO ASSIST IN RELIEVING THE SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGE WHICH HAS RECENTLY ARISEN THERE. THE SCARCITY OF FOOD IN PAKISTAN HAS RESULTED FROM THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE LOCAL CROPS BY A COMBINATION OF LATE RAINS IN SOME AREAS, FLOODS IN OTHERS AND HAIL STORMS AND STRONG WINDS IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

THE PROVISION OF THIS WHEAT WILL BE FINANCED TEMPORARILY WITH FUNDS VOTED BY PARLIAMENT FOR COLOMBO PLAN PURPOSES. THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RECOMMEND TO PARLIAMENT THAT THIS PORTION OF THE COLOMBO PLAN VOTE BE REPLACED WITH NEW MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PURPOSE IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE TOTAL OF CANADA'S REGULAR COLOMBO PLAN PROGRAMME FOR THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA FROM FALLING BELOW THE INTENDED LEVEL.

THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO DEVOTE THE LOCAL CURRENCY PROCEEDS FROM THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS WHEAT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE PROVISION OF THIS GIFT OF WHEAT WILL ALSO SERVE THE PURPOSES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN BY ASSISTING THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THIS CRITICAL FOOD SITUATION IN A MANNER WHICH WILL LESSEN THE EFFECTS OF THE FOOD SHORTAGES ON THE PROGRESS OF ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.