

from the Soviet Union, were on their way to India; 50 thousand tons only, purchased on a cash basis. He added that negotiations for the purchase of an additional 500 thousand tons of other wheat in exchange for certain Indian commodities were in progress. China has sent 50 thousand tons of rice as part of a barter deal, China receiving Indian jute in exchange; and India has also purchased from China 50 thousand tons of milo.

This afternoon reference was made to the United Kingdom contribution. It is true that the United Kingdom agreed to the diversion to India of some cargoes of Australian wheat out of its own purchases in Australia. Some 42 thousand tons of wheat have been so diverted to India and paid for by the Indian Government. It was suggested this afternoon that the Government were negligent in their appreciation of the terrible famine situation in India. It was suggested by an hon. member of the Opposition that we should make a contribution of \$100 million for famine relief to be spent in Canada, and that we could do it if we wanted to...It would be very difficult at this particular moment--and I am not sure that it would be the best way to proceed at this particular moment--to make any such contribution to India for famine relief. Hon. members will recall that the Government recognized as long ago as February of this year that a famine in India was likely to occur. At that time we offered wheat to India under the Colombo Plan, and the purpose and meaning of that offer has led to some misunderstanding. The only wheat of this year's crop that was not already fully contracted for by purchasers was grade 5. The Indian Government advised us last month that it wished to accept our offer of wheat under the Colombo Plan but that it preferred to wait until our next crop was harvested before obtaining the wheat in the hope that a better grade would be available.

I should like to assure the House of Commons at this time that the Government, as indicated by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) the other day, (May 2 and May 14), is giving the closest attention to what Canada can do to ameliorate famine conditions which are rapidly developing in India. We are exploring every avenue, including some of the helpful suggestions which have been made during the course of this discussion, through which help might be given. I am very hopeful that we shall be successful in finding a number of ways in which we can contribute to the relief of starvation and suffering in India.

The Objectives in Korea

...I turn to consider once again what are our objectives in Korea and how those objectives can be reached...I realize that in such a confused situation as does exist in Korea it is difficult to have a clear objective or to see the objective that we have clearly. It is now more important than ever that we should have as exact an idea as possible of what we are trying to accomplish in Korea, along with other members of the United Nations. The Canadian brigade group will shortly be in action, so not only they but every other Canadian will want to know what is their purpose in Korea and what is the policy of the Canadian Government in regard to achieving that purpose.