

Biafra in the amount of \$1,600,000. A shipment will be made early in the new year.

This aid will be distributed, as the other food aid was, to both sides. When we made our shipment on the vessel that left some time ago — and the vessel arrived recently — it was decided that the food was to go to various bases so that it could be moved either into the rebel areas or into the areas controlled by the Nigerian Government. The planning we have undertaken has followed consultations with the Red Cross and other contributors in order that the delivery of our supplies could fit in with their plans.

As to the airlift into rebel territories, it is obvious that daylight operations would permit the delivery of much larger quantities of relief. The Prime Minister therefore appealed to the rebel authorities to agree to daylight flights. I earnestly hope that Colonel Ojukwu will give his consent without further delay. It is tragic that food should be waiting to be moved in to feed hungry children, and is being held up because the necessary authority has not been granted for the movement. As to relief operations on the Federal side, Canadian *Caribou* aircraft have been offered through the Canadian Red Cross Society, and we await confirmation from the Nigerian Red Cross that they can be put to effective use.

In all these efforts we have worked closely with and relied heavily on the International Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross Society. We are grateful for their help and advice.

The Committee proposed that we should offer, in concert with other interested governments, to provide non-military assistance in building a civil airstrip for the exclusive use of relief flights. This is a useful proposal, which will be explored, along with others, in preparing further development of our aid programme to Nigeria. For the immediate future we have considered it better to use the facilities already existing and, for example, just recently we offered the lighter *Caribou* aircraft for use in federal-held territory, since the *Hercules* is too heavy for the forward airfields. It has been said on a number of occasions that the Canadian Government would like to have the *Hercules* aircraft fly into Nigerian territory and into Biafran territory. They are not flying to Biafran territory because we cannot obtain agreement from the rebels, and they are not flying into Nigeria because there are no airstrips suitable for that size of aircraft.

I hope Colonel Ojukwu is listening when the Prime Minister of the country makes an appeal. I hope he responds quickly so that we may help to feed these people.

The Government heartily endorses the Committee's appeal to all Canadians to support the relief effort with their contributions. With the new allocation I have mentioned, the Government's contributions to relief and transport activities now come close to \$3 million.

The Committee's sixth recommendation deals with assistance to children from stricken areas. The Canadian *Hercules* aircraft stationed on the island of