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The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, announced today receipt of messages from Greece and Austria expressing thanks for post-UNRRA relief shipments from Canada.

The messages of thanks from Greece were transmitted to the Secretary of State for External Affairs by the Greek Ambassador in Canada, Mr. Constantine Sakellaropoulo. One was addressed to the Prime Minister by the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Constantine Tsaldaris. It read as follows:

"Upon the arrival of the first shipment of commodities sent to Greece by the Canadian Government, I beg you, on behalf of the Greek people, to accept their warmest thanks and the assurance of their most friendly feelings toward the Canadian people."

The other communication was from the Minister of Supplies in the Greek Government, Mr. Phocion Zaimis, and was addressed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It read as follows:

"The arrival of the first shipment of commodities sent by Canada to the Greek people offers me the occasion to renew their profound gratitude toward your nation. This new testimony of the Canadian solicitude, recalling our common struggle, was received in Greece with deep emotion."

Replying to the Greek Ambassador, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, wrote:

"These messages have been forwarded as you have requested and I have been asked if you would convey to your Prime Minister and your Minister of Supplies the appreciation of the Canadian Prime Minister and the Minister of Trade and Commerce for the kind messages which they have sent."

The Federal Chancellor of Austria, Dr. Leopold Figl, expressed the Austrian people's gratitude in a telegram to the Prime Minister on the occasion of receipt of the first instalment of Canadian post-UNRRA relief. Dr. Figl's telegram read as follows:

"Colonel James Manion (Commercial Secretary in Italy, supervising relief supplies to Austria) remitted to me today first instalment of Canadian relief. I profit of this occasion to transmit to you the warmest thanks of the Federal Government and the expression of the Austrian people's gratitude for this noble act from the side of Canada."

The Prime Minister's reply read as follows:

"I desire to express my appreciation of your telegram of February 19. My colleagues and I were pleased to learn that the first instalment of relief supplies from Canada had reached Austria and have now been transmitted to you. These supplies are a token of the earnest hope shared by all the people of Canada for Austrian recovery and for the well-being of the people of Austria."

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