

*External Affairs*

More has been accomplished in making Canadian facilities available for trainees from abroad.

We have notified the bureau on technical co-operation in Colombo that we are prepared to accept twelve trainees from India, ten from Pakistan and six from Ceylon at an early date for placement in the following fields: road building, electrical engineering, pulp and paper, rail transportation and agriculture. The bureau in Colombo is being notified that we will accept three technical missions for a six to eight week tour of Canada during the summer in the field of hydroelectric power, road building and agriculture respectively.

During the February meeting of the commonwealth consultative committee in Colombo the member countries were informed by our delegation that Canada was prepared to grant fellowships to interested recipient countries in such fields as agriculture, engineering, forestry, education and medical research. Subsequently we made a specific offer of sixty scholarships and fellowships to the countries of south and southeast Asia.

Then there is the question which has aroused a good deal of interest in the house of assistance to India to deal with the very distressing and developing famine situation there. So that the facts on this matter might be clear, I should like to put into the record that the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Nehru, announced on May 10 that 50 thousand tons of wheat, purchased on a cash basis 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. Well, Mr. Speaker, we could of course do many things, but 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, 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.

During the course of our discussion reference has been made by hon. members opposite, and particularly by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, to the negligence of the government in not taking the initiative in attempting to work out a Pacific security pact along the lines of the North Atlantic treaty. I should like to point out that the arrangements which are being negotiated now in the Pacific between Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and possibly the Philippines do not constitute a Pacific pact of that type, and we have not been asked to participate in those arrangements.

**Mr. Green:** Have we asked to be allowed to participate?

**Mr. Pearson:** We have not asked to be allowed to participate in this arrangement for reasons I have already indicated in the house. The situation in the Pacific at this time is not exactly the same as that in the Atlantic. It is not the same, in many ways. And the fact that we have participated in the Atlantic pact is no reason that we should take the initiative in working out a Pacific pact at this time. Those who would be