

# CANADIAN AID GOES TO HELP PAKISTANI REFUGEES

The tide of people flowing from East Pakistan to India in the past six months has created a huge and complex refugee problem in a region with few resources to spare, and has flashed terrible new scenes of human suffering before the eyes of the world.

Homeless, ill and hungry, an estimated nine million citizens have fled East Pakistan to live for the time being in adjacent Indian states—often with family or friends, but in more cases in one of the many camps set up by the Government of India, or in any shelter that can be found. To cope with their most urgent needs help has mainly come from the Government of India; also from the governments of several countries, from international agencies and voluntary groups, and from individuals in all parts of the world.

In response to an April 30 appeal, the Canadian Government provided \$50,000 to purchase mobile dispensaries for the Indian Red Cross. A further contribution of \$2,000,000 was announced in the House of Commons on May 28, following an appeal for refugee assistance by U.N. Secretary-

General U Thant. About 8,000 tons of rapeseed, a high-priority requirement in India's refugee support programme, was purchased and sent at a cost of \$1,250,000 while another \$680,000 from the Canadian contribution was used to support the efforts of various organizations already at work in the camps—the U.N. agencies (UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and the World Health Organization); the League of Red Cross Societies (milk and medical stations); and four Canadian voluntary groups (Oxfam, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, and the Mennonite Central Committee).

On July 26 a further contribution of \$2 million was announced by the Canadian Government. Over \$1.2 million was used again for the purchase of rapeseed while the remainder was used for further support to the various non-governmental organizations already at work in the camps.

Contributions have also been made by some of the Canadian provincial governments; Ontario sent four ambulances last June and is sharing



Early in July, at the invitation of the Government of India, three Canadian Parliamentarians, Messrs. Macquarrie, Brewin and Lachance visited India to observe the refugee areas. While in New Delhi they discussed the problem with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi.