

HUGE WHEAT SALE TO U.S.S.R.

The sale of 3.5 million tons (about 130 million bushels) of wheat to the U.S.S.R. was announced at a press conference earlier this month by Mr. Otto Lang, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, and Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The value of the contract, which was negotiated by the Canadian Wheat Board with V/O Exportkhleb, the Soviet grain-trading agency, is approximately \$235 million. Delivery, which will begin this month will continue throughout 1972.

"The sale involves two separate contracts," the Ministers said in a joint statement. "The first contract is for 1,030,000 long tons (38.4 million bushels) to be shipped this calendar year. This completes the outstanding purchase obligation under the agreement signed by the Canadian Wheat Board and V/O Exportkhleb on June 14, 1966 for 9 million long tons of wheat. The second contract covers an additional sale of 2,220,000 metric tons (81.5 million bushels), of which 970,000 metric tons will be shipped this year and the balance in 1972. Of the total quantity, 350,000 metric tons will be shipped in the form of flour."

In addition to the above firm commitments, the buyer has the option to purchase a further 250,000 metric tons for shipment during the period from May to July 1972.

Shipment of the wheat will be made from both Pacific and Eastern Canadian ports, with the buyer having the option to ship a portion from Churchill during the 1971 navigation season.

Grades to be delivered during 1971 are Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Manitoba Northern and No. 1 C.W. Red Spring Wheat - 13 percent protein. The buyer also has the option of taking No. 3 and/or No. 4 Canada Western Durum wheat as part of the whole purchase contract. Grades to be delivered in 1972 will be negotiated at a later date.

As in previous contracts with the U.S.S.R., the terms of the sale call for payment in cash at the time of delivery.

AID TO REFUGEES

An initial allocation of \$680,000 by the Canadian Government for emergency relief for refugees from East Pakistan has been announced by the Canadian International Development Agency, to be made to international and voluntary agencies.

A total of \$300,000 is being provided through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which is acting as the co-ordinating body for UNICEF, the World Food Program and the World Health Organization. UNICEF is providing medicine, food, clothing and shelter for children and mothers, the World Food Program is providing food, and the World Health Organization is sending massive air-shipments of

cholera vaccine, rehydration fluid for cholera victims, and general medical supplies.

A further \$100,000 is being provided to the League of Red Cross Societies, which is providing milk-feeding stations and medical treatment facilities.

The remainder of this first allocation is being provided to Canadian voluntary agencies. Oxfam of Canada which is receiving \$150,000, is shipping all the supplies of cholera vaccine available in Canada. Other grants are being made to the Canadian Council of Churches (\$40,000), the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) (\$40,000), and the Mennonite Central Committee (\$50,000).

The allocations have been made after consultation with the UN agencies, the Red Cross and other organizations to establish priorities and to co-ordinate the types of relief being supplied. There is a particular need for cash grants, since many of the needed supplies, such as medicine and blankets, can be purchased locally for less than it would cost to ship the goods to the area. The Canadian capacity to supply medicines of the type needed is limited, and the organizations receiving grants can get the pertinent medicines more readily. They can also supply food during this initial period of relief.

The Canadian Government has provided a total of \$2,050,000 to meet this emergency. A contribution of \$50,000 was provided as a result of the League of Red Cross Societies appeal launched on April 30. It was used to purchase mobile dispensaries for the Indian Red Cross. The second contribution of \$2 million was announced in the House of Commons on May 28.

Other requirements are being closely watched, and the allocation of further funds will be announced shortly.

CANADA-U.S. FIRE-FIGHTING PACT

Canada and the United States have signed a co-operative agreement for fighting forest fires along the Yukon-Alaska border, Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced recently.

The agreement establishes buffer zones ten miles wide on either side of the border where parties from either country can start to fight a new fire at once without applying for formal permission or documents of any kind.

Weather information will be shared during the fire season through the installation of weather-recording instruments within 50 miles of the buffer zone.

An exchange of diplomatic notes between the Canadian Embassy in Washington and the Department of State confirmed the arrangements, which are outlined in a memorandum of agreement signed last month by Mr. Chrétien and Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior.

"A border line drawn on a map has no meaning