

Albania. Here 500 sacks of flour were distributed after ceremonies marking the partly religious, partly festive nature of the occasion. In the same manner the operation of distributing Canadian flour to mountain villages continued in the Florina and Kastoria districts. Later in May, distributions took place to villages in Epirus on the western slopes of the Pindus range. The Canadian Ambassador and Mrs. Magann, driving northward to attend the distributions here, were tendered unexpected receptions in centres along their way, and were asked to convey to the Canadian Government the thanks of the Greek people for help given to their fellow-countrymen farther north. At Ioannina, the capital of Epirus, church bells were rung and streets were decorated with a surprising number of Canadian flags, many of them of local manufacture.

The distributions in Thrace took place during the month of June. In the same month, also, a smaller ration was distributed to the inhabitants of four villages in the island of Mytilene where destitution had followed the failure of olive crops in two successive years.

On April 30 the Greek Prime Minister, General Plastiras, who had been confined to his room for some months, invited the Canadian Ambassador to call on him. He asked Mr. Magann to transmit to the Canadian Government his personal expression of deepest gratitude for the gift of Canadian flour. Canadians, he said, had earned the affection of the Greek people by keeping thousands from starvation and illness during and after the war. They had continued their interest without imposing restrictive conditions and were always concerned with measures to improve the lot of the poor and suffering.

Message from Greek Parliament

On June 2 the Speaker of the Greek Parliament wrote to the Canadian Ambassador in the following terms:

Your Excellency,

At a session of the Greek Parliament on May 27, 1952, the Acting Prime Minister of the Government, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sophocles Venizelos, as also Messrs. Phokion Zaimis, Minister of Welfare, Kosmas Alexandrides, Deputy of Serres, Panagiotis Kanellopoulos, Deputy of Athens, D. Manentes, Deputy of Kozani and other speakers, expressed their gratitude and the thanks of the Greek people, and of the Parliament, to the Government of your country, and the noble and brave Canadian people for the valuable assistance to the Greek population, in donating gratis 11,000 tons of flour, a gesture demonstrating once more the generosity and courtesy of the friendly Canadian people.

Attached are excerpts of the official minutes of Parliament. I would ask you kindly to transmit to your Government and the noble Canadian people the feelings of the Greek Parliament, to which I add my own personal thanks.

Please, Mr. Ambassador, accept the expression of my highest esteem. I am,

Yours very truly,

D. B. GONTIKAS.

In the extracts from the debate of May 27 enclosed with this letter there was the record of an explanation made by the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Venizelos, and the Minister of Welfare, Mr. Zaimis, regarding the basis on which the distribution of flour had been made. 120,000 bags of flour unloaded at Salonika had been for the use of persons in Northern Greece while the remainder, unloaded at Piraeus, were destined for Northwestern Greece and other parts of the country. It had been the wish of the Canadian Government and the Canadian Red Cross Society that the Greek Red Cross Society should make itself responsible for the distributions in

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