

Supply—External Affairs

tection for refugees upon the termination of the international refugee organization. Because of the serious plight of refugee groups in various areas, the United Nations high commissioner has had to concern himself with the problem of care and maintenance, and it is for this purpose that he has sought contributions to the emergency fund.

The objective of this fund was set at \$3 million. Cabinet approved a Canadian contribution of \$100,000 to this fund on Thursday, February 12, 1953, and recommended that the necessary provision be made in the final supplementary estimates for the fiscal year 1952-53.

As I understand it, it is really to provide for a continuation and clean-up of the work of the international refugee organization.

Mr. Graydon: Did any of these nations behind the iron curtain give us anything in the way of a contribution to this extremely valuable project?

Mr. Abbott: My understanding is that they did not.

Mr. Green: Will there be a vote for this project in the coming fiscal year?

Mr. Abbott: I cannot recall offhand, but I am inclined to think that there is. However, I would have to verify that. In any case, it would probably be a supplementary estimate, as is the case this year. It would depend on circumstances.

Item agreed to.

Colombo plan—

566. Notwithstanding section 35 of the Financial Administration Act to authorize the establishment of a special account in the consolidated revenue fund to be known as the Colombo plan fund to which shall be credited, on or after March 31, 1953, the unexpended balances on March 31, 1953, of votes 113 and 114 of the Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1952 (the amounts so credited to be a charge to those votes) and any amounts provided by parliament for the purposes of the Colombo plan; and to provide for payments out of the Colombo plan fund, in the current and subsequent fiscal years, (a) for grants and loans to governments of countries in south and south-east Asia to assist in their economic development, and for special administrative expenses in connection therewith; and (b) for technical co-operation with those countries including the engagement of services of technical and professional experts in accordance with regulations established by the governor in council, the persons so engaged to be contractors and not servants of the crown, \$1.

Mr. Knowles: Will the minister explain this item?

Mr. Abbott: Yes. The purpose of this vote is to enable the fund which has been voted for the Colombo plan to be carried over and to be utilized in succeeding fiscal years. As

[Mr. Abbott.]

the committee knows, it has not been possible to expend usefully all the money voted during the current year; and because of the long-range nature of the purposes for which the Colombo plan has been developed, it seemed desirable that provision should be made that funds of this kind, when voted, should not lapse at the end of the current fiscal year. That is the purpose of this particular vote. I am sure it is a case in which no question can be raised with regard to the use of a so-called dollar item in order to make this provision. This fund will be analogous—but not with the same purposes—to the Ottawa improvement fund. The moneys will be voted and they will be there when the bills come in to be paid and when the projects are approved.

Mr. Knowles: Can the minister say how much will be left over at the end of this fiscal year to put into the fund?

Mr. Abbott: I am not sure that I have readily available here how much would otherwise lapse, but I believe there is a fairly substantial amount.

Mr. Knowles: It will also be possible, will it not, for us to get a report on the operation of this fund after it has been established?

Mr. Abbott: Yes. I had assumed that when the corresponding item in the main estimates is called, the Secretary of State for External Affairs would probably want to make a fairly complete statement as to the progress which was made. The sole purpose of this item is to make sure that the amount we voted in our main estimates last year will not lapse on March 31.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Does that apply to the previous year?

Mr. Abbott: It covers both years. Last year we transferred it to the Canadian Commercial Corporation, as may be remembered.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

General administration—

567. Departmental administration—further amount required for the purchase of books and other reference material for the departmental library, \$4,000.

Mr. Abbott: I should like to say just a word on this item. This additional amount in item 567 is to enable the department to purchase the library of the late Dr. Clark. I do not know that the purchase price will be exactly that amount, but Dr. Clark had an extremely valuable technical library consisting of publications and of books. The major part of those books and periodicals going