

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No. 31

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 18, 1968

RELIEF FOR NIGERIA

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Government has decided to make a further contribution of \$500,000 in food aid for distribution among the needy in those parts of Nigeria most affected by the hostilities. The Prime Minister announced a first contribution of a similar amount in food aid and medical supplies on July 31, and earlier there had been a smaller cash grant of \$60,000 to the International Red Cross. It is clear that the need continues to be great and that this further amount can be effectively used. This brings the Canadian contribution to more than a million dollars. The food aid being sent by the Canadian Government is consigned to the International Red Cross to be distributed by them wherever the need is greatest.

The earlier contribution by the Canadian Government has not yet been completely used up. It has been the Government's intention to provide food aid in an orderly way so that the stocks now available in Lagos and other points of distribution could be replenished as the supplies are moved forward to the needy. The Government has been informed by the Red Cross that it is necessary now to plan further shipments in order that the flow can continue. Planning is well advanced for a sea shipment from the East Coast of contributions from both the Government's allocations and the efforts of the Canadian voluntary agencies, and it is expected that this shipment will move off as soon as the supplies can be assembled, including those of the private agencies.