

(A) INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

1. Termination of relations with Vichy, statement issued by the Prime Minister, November 9, 1942.

The fact that the men who have been in nominal control of the Government of France have ordered the armed forces of France to offer resistance to military forces of the United Nations sent to assist in the liberation of France from Nazi domination makes it perfectly clear that there no longer exists in France a government that has any effective independent existence - in other words, that there no longer exists in France a legal or constitutional government in any sense representative of the French people, but only a German puppet government.

In these circumstances the Canadian Government has ceased to recognize the present Government at Vichy as being the de jure Government of France and diplomatic relations with Vichy are accordingly terminated.

2. Parcels for Canadian Prisoners of War and civilian internees in Europe and North Africa, press statement of November 9, 1942.

For some time letters reaching Canada from Canadian prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe and North Africa have contained requests that items of food should be allowed in the quarterly parcels being sent to them by next of kin resident in Canada. Hitherto the contents of these parcels have been restricted to clothes, small personal articles and chocolate. But since it is evident from reports reaching Canada that prisoners of war and civilian internees have on the whole adequate supplies of clothing, the regulations governing these parcels have been altered to allow the inclusion of a number of additional food items. Such items will of course be allowed in addition to the permissible articles already listed in the printed regulations published by the Post Office Department concerning communications with prisoners of war interned abroad.

United States regulations governing this type of parcel have recently been revised, and a comparison between the new regulations in both countries reveals that the contents permitted in Canadian and United States parcels are now substantially the same.

The food items are intended primarily as extras which will add variety to the food already supplied in weekly Red Cross parcels and camp rations. In their selection due regard has been taken both of the preferences of the prisoners themselves and of the restrictions imposed in these matters by the German and Italian Governments.