FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1960.

Canadian Aid for the Congo

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that subject to parliamentary approval the Canadian Government would contribute $1,000,000 to the United Nations fund for the Congo. Mr. Green recalled that early in September the Secretary General of the United Nations urgently recommended the establishment of a fund for the Congo of $100,000,000. On September 20 this recommendation was approved at the Fourth Emergency Session of the United Nations General Assembly and the Secretary General immediately requested all member governments of the United Nations to give urgent consideration to making a contribution.

The fund is intended to provide immediate financial assistance on a large scale to re-establish stable administration and internal security in the Congo and to restore normal economic life. It is not designed to set up a permanent external subsidy, since the Congo is expected to be able to pay its own way both currently and for development purposes in the near future.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs also recalled that the Prime Minister in his speech to the General Assembly on September 26 declared that one of the larger tasks of the Assembly would be to ensure that sufficient support was forthcoming to sustain the United Nations in its effort to revive the financial and economic life of the Congo; and that Canada would assume an equitable share of this burden. Mr. Green indicated that the present announcement of a pledge of $1,000,000 was the sort of prompt response to the urgent needs of the Congo which the situation there required. It constituted another indication of the firmness of Canadian support for the unprecedented task which the United Nations has undertaken. Mr. Green expressed the hope that other member states would respond to the United Nations appeal in the same spirit.