

I regret, as I am sure do all Hon. Members, the fact that it has not been possible to work this out. I hope it still will be possible. Most of all I hope that the war will be over.

The Committee's proposal for international machinery to aid innocent civilian victims of hostilities is one I supported at the United Nations. The House may recall, and the Members who were observers at the United Nations General Assembly will remember, that I made specific recommendations along these lines. These are now being discussed with other governments, and I hope will result in some positive action.

The Committee's third recommendation relates to the continuation of our emergency aid to the victims of the hostilities. The Government has intensified its efforts to be of assistance in the humanitarian sphere. I wish to announce, Mr. Speaker, that we have made a further allocation of food aid to Nigerian-Biafra in the amount of \$1,600,000. A shipment will be made early in the new year.

This aid will be distributed, as the other food aid was, to both sides. When we made our shipment on the vessel that left some time ago - and the vessel arrived recently - it was decided that the food was to go to various bases so that it could be moved either into the rebel areas or into the areas controlled by the Nigerian Government. The planning we have undertaken has followed consultations with the Red Cross and other contributors in order that the delivery of our supplies could fit in with their plans.

As to the airlift into rebel territories, it is obvious that daylight operations would permit the delivery of much larger quantities of relief. The Prime Minister therefore appealed to the rebel authorities to agree to daylight flights. I earnestly hope that Colonel Ojukwu will give his consent without further delay. It is tragic that food should be waiting to be moved in to feed hungry children, and is being held up because the necessary authority has not been granted for the movement. As to relief operations on the Federal side, Canadian Caribou aircraft have been offered through the Canadian Red Cross Society, and we await confirmation from the Nigerian Red Cross that they can be put to effective use.

In all these efforts we have worked closely with and relied heavily on the International Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross Society. We are grateful for their help and advice.

The Committee proposed that we should offer, in concert with other interested governments, to provide non-military assistance in building a civil airstrip for the exclusive use of relief flights. This is a useful proposal, which will be explored, along with others, in preparing further development of our aid programme to Nigeria. For the immediate future we have considered it better to use the facilities already existing and, for example, just recently we offered the lighter Caribou aircraft for use in federal-held territory, since the Hercules is too heavy for the forward airfields. It has been said on a number of occasions that the Canadian Government would like to have the Hercules aircraft fly into Nigerian territory and into Biafran territory. They are not flying to Biafran territory because we cannot obtain agreement from the rebels, and they are not flying into Nigeria because there are no airstrips suitable for that size of aircraft.