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NEIGHBOURS -- HALF A WORLD AWAY

An address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, to the CARE Canada Dinner, Ottawa, April 15, 1953.

CARE Canada

On behalf of the Canadian Government, it gives me great pleasure to welcome to Ottawa and to Canada, Mr. Paul Comly French, Executive Director of CARE and his Deputy, Mr. Reuter. Mr. French has come here to give to the Director of CARE Canada, Mr. Neil MacNeil, and to its great fellowship of Canadian supporters, a first-hand report on the humanitarian work of this great international voluntary agency.

Established seven years ago to provide an effective means for delivering essential relief supplies to the peoples of war-torn Europe, CARE organizations in several countries of this hemisphere now bring food, clothing, tools, plows, medical supplies and technical knowledge to Asia, Africa, South America -- indeed, wherever human need is evident.

Canadians can well be proud of the significant contribution they have made to the \$150,000,000 programme administered by CARE since the end of the war. It is really a remarkable achievement that with little public awareness of the magnitude of this effort, Canadians alone have given \$4,250,000 through CARE Canada.

Through voluntary agencies like CARE, opportunities are provided for direct citizen participation in the task of helping others to help themselves. Governments can do much for less privileged peoples -- indeed there is much that only governments can do. But there is a value in voluntary effort, there is a warm friendly feeling about gifts freely given by people to people that government grants -- no matter how generous -- can never match. By sharing in this vital work, thousands of Canadians have established personal bonds with their neighbours half a world away.

How much better it is to deliver to Asia and other parts of the world packages of food marked "CARE" than boxes of ammunition marked "HANDLE WITH CARE"!

Nothing that governments or voluntary agencies can do for the people of the under-developed countries could help these people as much as the chance to find out, in peace, their own ways to the future. The great question of today is whether the climate of the years ahead will be "set fair" for peaceful progress or whether human hopes will continue to be beaten down by the storms of war.

It was in an effort to help mankind find the right answer to this question that the United Nations organization was established. In its short history there have been disappointments and failures, but the total effect has been forward.