

aircraft. The Government took immediate steps on receipt of this request to have the Royal Canadian Air Force assemble six "Dakota" aircraft at their repair shop at Trenton and put them into first-class condition. These aircraft will be departing from Trenton at noon tomorrow and will be ferried by the RCAF to India, where they will be turned over to the Indian Government.

It is important that India's economic progress and the implementation of her Five Year Plan should not be impaired by the need to defend her frontier, and we shall be mindful of this in considering India's request for military supplies. Other countries have also been approached by India, and we are being kept informed of the constructive steps which are being taken to provide military assistance.

*On November 20, the Prime Minister returned to the subject with the following report:*

. . . I am sure that all Members of the House have followed with concern reports of the fighting now being conducted on India's northern frontiers against the Communist Chinese invasion of India.

Despite determined resistance, Indian forces have had to withdraw. In the northwest frontier area, in the Ladakh district of Kashmir, the situation at the moment appears to be relatively stable though strong Chinese attacks are being directed toward the capture of an important Indian air field at Chushul. In the northeast frontier area, however, between Bhutan and Burma, the Chinese have delivered two massive attacks, moving beyond Walong near the Burmese border and pressing south of the Se La pass near the Bhutan border.

The result of this Chinese offensive has been to bring their troops to within 30 miles of the Assam plains, a part of India of great economic value and importance. In these plains flows the great Brahmaputra River, which is a vital factor in the lives of the people of Northeast India, and also for the people of East Pakistan. In these grave circumstances we would all wish to assure once more the Indian people and the Indian Army of our support for their determination to defeat aggression, and our sympathy for the losses they have suffered.

We have given, and intend to give, practical evidence of our support for India at this time. As I stated to the House on November 5, we have dispatched six DC-3 "Dakota" transport aircraft in answer to an urgent Indian request. These aircraft were flown out by RCAF aircrews and are now in India. Over the weekend we received, through the Canadian High Commissioner in New Delhi, more specific advice from the Indian Government about their needs for further assistance in the form of aircraft, clothing for their forces and other materials. In the light of this additional information, the Government is at the moment urgently considering how we can best meet the Indian Government's requests and the most expeditious way by which our assistance can be sent to India.

There is one other factor in the present situation which derives from the fact that the great and populous subcontinent, part of whose borders has been pene-