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CANADIAN AID TO INDIA UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN

Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced in the House of Commons on February 6 that \$17 million will be made available to India out of Canada's Colombo Plan appropriation for the fiscal year 1958-59 to enable the Indian Government to purchase in Canada essential commodities and equipment which they have requested from us.

The Minister went on to say:

"Of the \$17 million, \$1 million will be applied to the Canada-India reactor to enable the work on that project to go forward; \$10.5 million will be devoted to the provision of industrial raw materials including aluminum, copper and nickel, which are urgently needed by India in various phases of her development programme and which will help sustain adequate levels of industrial activity and employment; \$2.5 million will be provided in the form of railway sleepers--which I interpret as railway ties--to assist in the expansion and improvement of railway facilities in India; \$2.5 million will be made available in the form of fertilizers which are required in connection with India's programme to increase her food

production; \$120,000 will be devoted to the purchase of another three cobalt beam therapy units for use in Indian hospitals. Discussions covering allocation of the balance of the funds being made available to India in the current fiscal year are still in progress.

"In all cases where Canadian aid is taking the form of commodities, the Indian Government has agreed to establish local counterpart funds equivalent to the amount of the Canadian grant. These counterpart funds, as in the past, will be used to cover the local costs of economic development projects agreed upon by our two governments.

"The House will be aware, Mr. Speaker, that over the past 15 months Canada was also able to assist India in meeting her requirements of food grains by making available a total of \$48 million in the form of grants and loans for the purchase of Canadian wheat. Of this amount \$7 million has been provided under the Colombo Plan and \$41 million over and above the assistance available to India under the Colombo Plan."

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OPENING OF SEAWAY

The Prime Minister, Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, has announced that President Eisenhower has accepted an invitation to come to Canada on June 26 to join Her Majesty The Queen in the ceremonies marking the opening of the St.

Lawrence Seaway at the St. Lambert Lock near Montreal.

The President and Mrs. Eisenhower will fly from Washington to Montreal in the morning and join Her Majesty and Prince Philip on the Royal yacht BRITANNIA for the opening ceremonies.

(Over)