

*Supply—External Affairs*

assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation in Greece. The next is to provide famine relief for Pakistan and the third is to provide flood relief for Japan. In all three instances which agencies will undertake the distribution of this assistance?

**Mr. Abbott:** In the case of Greece the supplies are made available to the Greek government. In connection with Pakistan the supplies also were made available through the government of Pakistan. As regards flood relief for Japan I am not too sure about that but I believe that would be arranged through the Japanese government or the Red Cross, but I am not positive.

**Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain):** I wonder if the minister could tell the committee whether or not the government is fairly certain that these supplies reach the people to whom we want to give assistance and that there is no black market in regard to the distribution of these goods?

**Mr. Abbott:** Our representatives in the countries concerned do their best to see that these goods involved in humanitarian enterprises in the case of Greece and Pakistan are distributed through the governments of these countries. I believe we must take it for granted that the relief is properly handled.

**Mr. Noseworthy:** Does this \$5 million cover the cost of the first shipment to Pakistan, or does it cover the total amount of the shipments made to date?

**Mr. Abbott:** That represents the total cost of wheat shipped to Pakistan.

**Mr. Stick:** Is that \$5 million to Pakistan part of the Colombo plan?

**Mr. Abbott:** No. The wheat was originally made available out of the Colombo plan vote and this vote is to reimburse the Colombo plan vote.

**Mr. Argue:** How many bushels of wheat does that cover and what was the price?

**Mr. Abbott:** I am afraid I have not that information here.

**Mr. Argue:** Can the minister of external affairs say whether the discussions which led to the granting of this gift were between Canada and the United States, or confined to Canada and Pakistan?

**Mr. Pearson:** Discussion was between the Pakistan and the Canadian governments on this particular matter; but we did, of course, know that similar discussions were going on between Pakistan and the United States for help in this same emergency.

**Mr. Harkness:** From what the minister has said, I understand that this wheat has already

been shipped. Will he tell us when that wheat was shipped or, in other words, out of what group of statistics we now have as to available stocks, disappearance and so forth, did this \$5 million come?

**Mr. Abbott:** It was in the spring of 1953. I have not the exact date.

**Mr. Harkness:** It is nearly a year ago now?

**Mr. Abbott:** That is correct.

**The Chairman:** Shall items 557 to 560 inclusive carry?

**Mr. Knowles:** No, Mr. Chairman. Have you called them as a group?

**The Chairman:** They have been discussed as a group.

**Mr. Knowles:** I was waiting until item 559 was reached, but since you are calling them as a group, I can make my comment now. Terminable services—

559. To provide for a gift of wheat as a contribution to famine relief for Pakistan, \$5,000,000.

**Mr. Knowles:** From what has been said already when we were discussing the previous items, I think it is clear that the committee is pleased to have the opportunity to vote this sum of money. We are pleased to know that it is an addition to what we are doing by way of aid to that part of the world under the Colombo plan and under United Nations technical assistance programs. This gives me the opportunity—if I might take half a minute to do so and since Pakistan is part of Asia—to commend the Secretary of State for External Affairs for the speech he is reported to have made over the week end urging the importance of our learning to live with and to get along with the peoples of Asia. As I listened to the report of the speech he made I felt it was one that he might well make at the next meeting of the cabinet.

**Mr. Bryson:** As a matter of information, may I ask the minister what agency is responsible for this barley-for-Korea drive that is going on in the city of Ottawa among the school children?

**Mr. Abbott:** What was my hon. friend's question again?

**Mr. Bryson:** What agency is carrying out and is responsible for the details involved in this barley-for-Korea drive to which the school children are being asked to subscribe 20 cents?

**Mr. Abbott:** I am afraid I do not know. I will make some inquiries and see whether I can find out. It does not come under this item in any event.

Items agreed to.