



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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FOR RELEASE IN ALL PAPERS OF
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1953.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that \$50,000 worth of evaporated milk is being loaded aboard the S.S. Columbia, at Quebec City, as part of the first shipment under the \$500,000 relief programme authorized by the Canadian Government on September 9 for the victims of the disastrous earthquakes in the Greek-Ionian Islands last August.

The S.S. Columbia will call at St. John's, Newfoundland, to pick up \$200,000 worth of codfish in addition to the evaporated milk. The ship will leave St. John's on November 23 and is expected to reach the Piraeus, the port of Athens about December 9.

The other \$250,000 in relief supplies will comprise mostly hardboard and aluminum sheets, useful in construction of new dwellings which will replace some of those destroyed during the earthquakes. These construction materials will be shipped within the next few months.

The earthquakes which struck the Ionian Islands repeatedly during the week of August 11 left thousands of victims dead or injured and over 100,000 homeless. On August 17 an RCAF aircraft flew from Toronto to the stricken areas, bearing a load of emergency supplies which had been donated by the Canadian Red Cross Society.
