

from His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid reporting a conversation he had yesterday with Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the course of which the question of wheat was discussed at length.

Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that Spain was in a desperate position and could not wait weeks or even days while negotiations were proceeding. He urged that we furnish Spain with immediate assistance, and added that if 100,000 tons of wheat could be made available at once an imminent crisis would be avoided and the whole situation would change.

Sir Samuel Hoare is of the opinion that if he could be authorized to inform the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs in the course of the next day or two that wheat would be forthcoming immediately, a very great change in the situation could be effected. He has asked for most immediate reply.

In view of the extreme urgency of this matter, we should be grateful for the earliest possible decision as to whether Canadian Government would be prepared to provide Spain with wheat up to the quantity mentioned, and if so on what terms.

During the course of the conversation discussion turned to Spanish relations with the United States. The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Sir Samuel Hoare that the United States Government had just offered to send one ship with wheat by arrangement with United States Red Cross organization. He had accepted this offer on the previous night with gratitude, together with the conditions attached to it, namely, publicity and supervision of distribution by the Red Cross.

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*Mémorandum du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*

[Ottawa,] December 4, 1940

WHEAT FOR SPAIN

In accordance with your instructions, I got in touch with Mr. Moffat. He said he had been familiar with the general subject of possible food for Spain which had been under discussion for some time. He understood the United States were prepared to make extensive sales of wheat to Spain on easy credit terms, but difficulty had developed in connection with guarantees. It had been suggested to the American Red Cross that they should undertake it instead of the Government, but while prepared to see to the distribution of