

broadcast which he is making tomorrow and it would be easier for him to do so if you raised the question in your conversation with him and Tsouderos this morning. So far as we are concerned, the arrangements have not been negotiated at any stage with the Greek Government itself. There could be no objection to the King of Greece officially acknowledging, on behalf of his country, the assistance which the Government of Canada is arranging to give.

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

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*Mémoire 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, 1943

RELIEF WHEAT FOR GREECE

During the past year Canada agreed to make a donation of 15,000 tons of wheat a month, to be shipped by Swedish vessels, for relief distribution in Greece. Owing to shipping difficulties, it has not been possible to transport this full amount during this year, and we have now received an inquiry from the United Kingdom authorities as to whether the Canadian Government would be willing to carry forward 12,000 tons of this deficiency. It is suggested that this amount should be shipped during the year ending in September 1944 as an addition to the present programme of 15,000 tons a month. The quantity of wheat already authorized as a gift to Greece would include this additional amount for 1944 and no further financial burden would arise. The Wheat Board has reported that the additional 12,000 tons could be made available, if approval is given.

The following is a quotation from a report by Mr. Deutsch on the Greek relief scheme:

“At the UNRRA Conference at Atlantic City I had the opportunity of a conversation with Dr. Mohn, former Chairman of the Swedish-Swiss Relief Commission in Athens, concerning the distribution of Canadian relief wheat in Greece. Dr. Mohn was most emphatic regarding the importance of this contribution in avoiding serious starvation on the part of a large section of the Greek population. He said that the Canadian wheat shipments provide an average of from 500 to 700 calories a day to about 3,000,000 people. This constitutes from 1/3 to 1/2 of the average total consumption of foodstuffs available to this population and makes up all the difference between subsistence and starvation. He said that the food provided by the Canadian wheat could not be obtained from any other source. Dr. Mohn assured me that the Greek people are keenly aware of the assistance given by Canada, for which they are most grateful.

Dr. Mohn said it was very urgent that the 15,000 tons a month should go forward as regularly as possible. Since there are no local reserves, any delays in