

I believe that Canadians and the Government are acutely aware of the suffering throughout Africa. A great deal of debate has taken place in the House on that suffering, and I think there has been ample demonstration by the Canadian Government in response to that need. We recognize that some five million Sudanese have been seriously affected, in addition to almost one million Ethiopians. Canada responded immediately by providing emergency food, particularly wheat. However, we are also concerned about the long-term economic benefits. We are endeavouring to support policies which will aid transport, agriculture and forestry.

Let me emphasize that since 1980, Canada has provided the Sudanese people with some 80,000 tons of wheat and wheat flour with a total value in excess of \$31 million. So far during 1985, Canadian food aid shipment through Port Sudan include 11,000 tons of wheat from CIDA for the Sudanese people and an additional 14,000 tons from CIDA and Canadian non-governmental organizations for distribution to Ethiopians. An allocation of \$12 million has recently been approved for the supply of food aid to Sudan for the fiscal year 1985-86. We consider this to be substantial support.

The African Emergency Aid, a consortium of nine Canadian non-governmental organizations, is providing emergency relief assistance to Sudan at the present time, consisting of over 6,000 tons of food supplies valued at \$7 million. A great deal of this aid is expected to arrive in Port Sudan on June 1. Officials will be attending that port on the date of arrival to ensure that the food shipments reach their final destination.

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Canada was a full participant in the January World Food Program which estimated that Sudan this year faces a cereals deficit of approximately 1.5 million tons. Through this mission Canada has collaborated with the Government of Sudan in preparing a list of quick recovery projects which can be implemented immediately and without great cost. This will enable Sudan to take advantage of any break in the drought this year.

● (1840)

We have investigated and the Canadian Government is satisfied that the distribution of food is comparatively efficient. There are a number of international organizations which are in place. They are continuing to monitor the placement of the food and the distribution system. We also recognize that the world food program is co-ordinating and monitoring all food aid and food aid shipments through a 29-person logistics team which is now established in the Sudan.

The CIDA program in the Sudan is monitored from the Canadian Embassy in Cairo which is accredited to Sudan to oversee Canadian activities. To date we have had no adverse reports that the system of distribution is imperilled or is prejudicial to the persons who are the intended recipients.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but unfortunately his time is up.

The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 6.41 p.m.