

for the international wheat relief pool. In the circumstances, the Canadian Government are prepared to make a free gift of 15,000 tons of wheat a month from Canadian stocks. I am to add that the Canadian Government were glad to learn that the United Kingdom Government, for their part, would be ready to regard this gift of wheat by Canada as an instalment of the Canadian contribution under the proposed Wheat Relief Pool.

I am bringing this decision at once to the attention of the Canadian Wheat Board and asking the Board to make the necessary arrangements for shipment without delay.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. ROBERTSON

1508.

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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,] July 3, 1942

WHEAT FOR GREECE

When you receive the Greek King and Prime Minister Tsouderos this morning, it would be appropriate to say something to them about the provision which the Canadian Government is making of 15,000 tons of wheat a month as a free gift for the relief of the desperate food situation in Greece.

The negotiations for the establishment of the relief scheme have been worked out in consultation with the United Kingdom Government and the Swedish Government, with the collaboration of the International Red Cross. The Italian and German Governments were at first unwilling to accept the safeguarding conditions it was necessary to impose, but they have now agreed to do so. The principal point of difficulty was the composition and status of the Control Commission which was to supervise the distribution of relief in Greece. The International Red Cross worked out a formula which, while leaving in existence as liaison with the occupying powers the present Athens Relief Committee, on which the Axis Red Cross are represented, gives independent powers of control and reporting to a purely neutral body of Swiss and Swedes. The way now seems to be clear for the scheme to be introduced and the Swedish Government have asked the Italian and German Governments for safe conducts for the first three Swedish ships to sail from the Baltic to Canada to load wheat.

The Swedish Government have urged strongly that no publicity should be given at present to the proposed sailing of these three vessels lest this should give rise to further difficulties with the Axis for the granting of safe conducts.

The Greek Minister told me last night that his King would like to express his country's gratitude for the Canadian share in these relief arrangements in the