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A TOKEN TO RUSSIA

The directors of the Canadian Aid to Russia Fund announced yesterday that since the inception of the fund in the autumn of 1942, the people of Canada have contributed \$9,393,683 in goods for relief to the Soviet Union. From November, 1942, to August 31, 1945, the fund shipped to the U.S.S.R. purchased and donated goods valued at \$7,193,683. In addition, as a member of the United Allied Relief Fund, it received an allocation of \$2,200,000 from the Red Cross financial campaign this year. The latter sum has been almost entirely expended on relief purchases shipped and en route to Russia.

Of particular satisfaction to the donors should be the fact that the administrative expenses of the fund to the end of December, 1944, were 2.55 per cent. This means that, 97.5 cents of every dollar contributed represented relief goods.

Though it seems a large sum of money, nine and a half million dollars, collected over a three-year period, represents a donation of 30 cents per person per year. Canada's aid is deeply appreciated in Russia. Our relief supplies have served as ambassadors of goodwill and helped to cement the friendship between the two nations.

Some Canadians may consider that, in the light of the Soviet Union's contribution to rallied victory, a thirty-cent gift per year is a mild way of saying "thank you" to an ally who lost 21,006,000 lives and whose norms losses are estimated to be \$136,000,000,000. It will require almost superhuman efforts for the Soviet Union to restore what the Germans destroyed in property and human strength. None of the belligerents in this war had losses comparable to those of the three republics – Russia, Ukraine and Belo-Russia – which formed the 2,000-mile eastern front. The shock caused by this war to the population is beyond estimation. On her return from Russia where she opened three hospitals donated by the British people, Mrs. Churchill reported: "I came home with a haunting sense of the immensity of Russia's medical needs. Stalingrad was an appalling scene of destruction. Odessa and Sevastopol struck a chill in my heart." This summer 2,000,000 persons who had been enslaved by the Germans returned to the Soviet Union. Millions of wounded Russian servicemen and civilians, and hundreds of thousands of orphans require care.