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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

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

IMPORTANT

[Ottawa], March 29, 1949

RE: FUTURE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY TO CARE FOR REFUGEES

While the attached memorandum is not altogether satisfactory, I am sending it to you, at once, in case you have an opportunity of bringing it up at tomorrow's Cabinet. I am asking for further details on the financial implications of the alternative courses to Canada.

I am sending a copy of this note to Mr. Robertson.

A.D.P. H[EENEY]

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

Ottawa, March 28, 1949

FUTURE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY TO CARE FOR REFUGEES

I. General Background:

The question of future international action to care for refugees and stateless persons is on the agenda of the General Council of I.R.O., the second session of which opens in Geneva on Wednesday, March 30. Mr. Désy has requested instructions as to the position he should take on the recommendations of the Director-General for dealing with the problem. Certain aspects of the matter will also come up at the Ninth Session of the Economic and Social Council and thereafter at the Fourth Session of the General Assembly in September, and it is thus important that Canadian policy should be consistent from the beginning.

The subject has two related parts, first, procedure for the termination of the present work of I.R.O. itself, and second, the international machinery that may be required thereafter.

II. Termination of the Present Work of I.R.O.

The present terminal date for I.R.O. is June 30, 1950. There is no constitutional requirement to this effect, but all financial calculations have been made on this basis. Owing to continuance of political difficulties in Europe, the numbers of refugees applying for assistance and qualifying under I.R.O. rules have increased to an extent not originally foreseen. If new registrations are refused after December 31, 1949, it is estimated that by June 30, 1950 approximately 1,450,000 persons would have been repatriated or resettled, that is to say, almost two and one-half times the number of refugees which came under I.R.O. care when it assumed its mandate in July, 1947. Nevertheless it is expected that on June 30, 1950 about 370,000 persons will still be registered with the organization.