

SECTION C

CHINE

CHINA

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Note pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Memorandum for Secretary of State for External Affairs

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], April 9, 1949

CONVERSION OF CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICE IN SHANGHAI INTO A
CONSULATE-GENERAL

The Department has had under consideration for some time now the desirability of consolidating the offices of the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Department of External Affairs in Shanghai into a Consulate-General. For many years a Canadian Trade Commissioner had been stationed in Shanghai. In 1946 the Department of External Affairs assigned a Junior Officer to the Canadian Embassy in Nanking to take care of consular, immigration and political work that required attention in Shanghai. Colonel L.M. Cosgrove, Senior Canadian Trade Commissioner in China, who has had a concurrent designation of Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy, left Shanghai a few days ago to return to Canada. This leaves a Junior Trade Commissioner of the Department of Trade and Commerce and a Junior Secretary of the Department of External Affairs in Shanghai.

2. Shanghai is the greatest city in East Asia, with a population of seven million. It is the commercial, financial, industrial, news distribution and radio centre of China. The majority of Canadian commercial interests are concentrated there. Regardless of any change in Government, Shanghai will retain its importance. The city faces a grave period ahead as the Communists have already extended their power to the north bank of the Yangtze River and are threatening an early crossing.

3. Under these circumstances it seems wise to have a senior and experienced officer of the Department in charge of the Shanghai Office. Dr. G.S. Patterson, who served as Counsellor in Chungking, Nanking and Tokyo and as Canadian Representative on the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, is available to go to Shanghai immediately. In order to give a status that would parallel that of other foreign consular representatives in Shanghai and that would enable him to deal satisfactorily with the local Chinese authorities it is proposed that he should be designated Consul General. He would occupy existing office space and would not require additional staff. The Department of Trade and Commerce concurs in this appointment.

4. The Honourable T.C. Davis, Canadian Ambassador to China, expects to sail from Shanghai on May 26 to return to Canada for consultation and a short period of leave. In order that Dr. Patterson may reach China before Mr. Davis leaves it has