

42. *In the course of the ensuing discussion*, it was noted that Canada was the only Commonwealth country with the possible exception of Ceylon that had not so far had one of its own citizens as its Governor General. The proposed change would not preclude the appointment of non-Canadians on later occasions. As Lord Alexander felt unable to remain for another term and no suitable successor appeared to be available in the United Kingdom, the present was an appropriate time to appoint a Canadian. Knowing Mr. Massey very well, the King would feel that he had a personal representative in Canada. The circumstances of Lord Alexander's departure should help to make the appointment of a Canadian understandable to those who had a preference for the office of Governor General being filled from the United Kingdom. While it was important that the announcement of Lord Alexander's new post be issued separately, it should follow very closely on the announcement of his replacement at Rideau Hall by Mr. Massey.

43. *It was also noted* that it would be necessary to inform Mr. Massey of the proposals before any communications were passed to the Palace and that these would not be delivered pending discussions with Mr. Churchill.

44. *The Cabinet*, after further discussion, approved the proposal of the Prime Minister that the name of the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey be submitted to the King for consideration for appointment as Governor General of Canada to succeed Lord Alexander who would be relinquishing this office, and noted the steps that would be taken if the submission were approved.

7.

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au haut-commissaire au Royaume-Uni*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to High Commissioner in United Kingdom*

TELEGRAM 67

Ottawa, January 10, 1952

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL

MOST IMMEDIATE. For the High Commissioner's eyes only, from the Minister, Begins: Mr. Abbott will be taking with him on Sunday a letter from the Prime Minister to His Majesty recommending the appointment of Mr. Massey as Governor General to succeed Lord Alexander. Will you let Sir Alan Lascelles⁵ know at once about this so that he can inform The King in advance of the receipt of the letter, if he desires to do so.

2. It should be pointed out that Mr. Massey himself has not yet been formally approached. Mr. Abbott will do this immediately on arrival on behalf of the Prime Minister and, of course, will not transmit the formal communication to His Majesty until this has been done.

⁵Le secrétaire particulier du Roi./Private Secretary to the King.