

might be possible for you to ask the Americans what amendments they intend to propose in plenary and find out whether these would be accepted by the French and other supporters of the resolution. If a compromise could be reached, I think that we ourselves should be prepared to accept it. We and others who supported the French resolution might then state frankly in plenary that we were now supporting a resolution which was somewhat different from that which we had originally favoured and that we were doing so in the interests of securing wider support.

212.

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*Extrait du procès-verbal de la réunion des chefs de direction**Extract from Minutes of Meeting of Heads of Divisions*

SECRET

Ottawa, December 5, 1949

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THE UNITED NATIONS

1. *Mr. Holmes* said that the General Assembly was rapidly drawing to a close. The Minister and most of the other members of the Canadian delegation have returned to Ottawa. General McNaughton is acting as chairman of the small section of the delegation which remains in New York.

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3. The item on Refugees and Stateless Persons was disposed of in plenary session on December 3 with the adoption of a joint French-United States resolution calling for the establishment of a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees. The vote was 35 in favour, 7 against, with 13 abstentions. We had been concerned over this item since the French and United States delegations held divergent views on certain fundamental issues and the resolution which was adopted in Committee with the French alternatives carried with less than the substantial majority which we considered essential for the successful functioning of a High Commissioner's Office. Moreover, in Committee the United States voted against the resolution. Largely owing to the efforts of the Canadian delegation, a compromise was arrived at between the French and the United States delegations before the resolution was put to the plenary where it was supported by both France and the United States.

4. Under the terms of the resolution, a High Commissioner's Office will be established not later than January 1, 1951. The High Commissioner's functions will be primarily of a legal nature but he is authorized to distribute any funds he may receive for material assistance. He is not to request governments for contributions for this purpose except when specifically authorized to do so by the General Assembly.