

3^e PARTIE/PART 3
 NOMINATION DU GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL
 APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR GENERAL

6.

PCO

Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet

Extract from Cabinet Conclusions

TOP SECRET

[Ottawa,] January 9, 1952

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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL; RELINQUISHMENT BY
 LORD ALEXANDER; APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR

40. *The Prime Minister* reported that Mr. Churchill had informed him that he wished to bring Lord Alexander into the United Kingdom Cabinet as Minister of Defence as soon as possible. Lord Alexander could hardly continue as Governor General while a Minister-designate. It had accordingly been indicated to Mr. Churchill that there should be no announcement of Lord Alexander's new post until his relinquishment of his present office and the appointment of a successor had been announced.

There was considerable support in Canada for appointment of a Canadian as the next Governor General and it was felt that the name of the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey could suitably be submitted to the King. It might be necessary for the change to be made very shortly after Mr. Churchill's visit to Ottawa. Mr. Massey would not be able to take up his duties for some time and, in the meantime, it would be necessary to continue the allowances for the upkeep of Rideau Hall.

41. *Mr. St. Laurent* said that, with the concurrence of his colleagues, he would send a letter to the King through the Minister of Finance, who was going to London, informing His Majesty that the government had agreed that he should submit Mr. Massey's name for consideration for appointment as Governor General. He had suggested to Lord Alexander that he should inform the King of his desire to relinquish his present office and, as Prime Minister, he would advise the King that this desire should be acceded to. It would be necessary to have letters patent issue[d] terminating Lord Alexander's appointment. The Chief Justice would then become Administrator until Mr. Massey took office. Upon the King approving the appointment, an announcement regarding Lord Alexander's replacement by Mr. Massey could be issued immediately, making it clear that the latter would not be able to assume his duties for some time. There would be no objection to Mr. Churchill announcing thereafter Lord Alexander's new appointment.

Lord Alexander was agreeable to these various arrangements and prepared to remain in Canada until the announcements were made. There was reason to believe that Mr. Massey would accept the proposed appointment.