

responsible to a large extent for the uncompromising attitude shown by the United States. He seemed anxious above all to reduce the importance of the proposed Office to a purely administrative role and entertained suspicions that the French were trying to build up the Office which would soon undertake the assistance of refugees on a large scale. In fact, one wonders why the United States Delegation ever approved the establishment of a High Commissioner's Office, as the creation of an administrative service within the Secretariat would have been much more in conformity with their professed views on the role to be performed by the High Commissioner.

17. Most of the Arab States abstained from voting on this measure. Their attitude was determined mainly by the fact that they did not wish to contribute to the establishment of an Office whose primary responsibility would be the protection of European refugees. The representatives of India and Pakistan referred to their own refugee problem which they considered far greater in scope than the European problem, and stated that their first duty was to help their own people.

I have, etc.

PAUL TREMBLAY
for the Chairman, Canadian Delegation

211.

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
à la délégation à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Permanent Delegation to United Nations*

TELEGRAM 324

November 22, 1949

CONFIDENTIAL

Refugees and stateless persons.

1. We hope that some further steps may be taken to achieve a compromise before this matter comes up in plenary. In view of the stand which we have already taken in the Committee it does not seem to us that it would be possible for us to vote against or even to abstain on the resolution. Nevertheless it would be unfortunate if the Assembly were committed to a new policy on this important matter by so small a majority. It would be particularly unfortunate, furthermore, if a resolution were passed without United States support, under the provisions of which voluntary contributions might be necessary for the assistance of European "hard core" or other refugees, in view of the fact that United States financial and other assistance would almost certainly be essential for the success of any programme of this kind. The situation is not dissimilar from that in which we found ourselves several years ago on the question of post-UNRRA relief, and it may be useful to talk to Mr. Martin about this subject, with which he was deeply involved.

2. It seems to us most important that the United States and French delegations should make another effort to reach agreement. If they have not done so, we hope it