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DEA/5475-T-40

*L'ambassadeur en Italie
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador in Italy
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

DESPATCH 51

Rome, February 1, 1949

Sir:

I have the honour to submit my report relating to the Third Session of the Executive Committee of the IRO, opened at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, at 11 a.m., 25th January, 1949, and terminated at 6 p.m., 28th January, and over which I presided as the delegate for Canada.

2. The Committee gave considered attention and issued appropriate directives to the Organization's Administration, as to the policy to be followed and the action to be taken concerning each of the three important items covered by the Agenda (Document EC/16 of 21st January), namely:

(a) *The evacuation from China of European refugees within the mandate of the IRO.* (Report EC/17, and Resolutions EC/18/Rev.1 and EC/19, herewith)†

In answer to an off the record enquiry from the Director-General, as to whether Canada could accept some of these refugees, I replied in accordance with the terms of your telegram No. 11 of 24th January, † adding that the IRO would be apprised of the Government's decision as soon as possible.

(b) *The eligibility of certain refugees in Greece and Italy for IRO assistance* (Document EC/15)

This will be the subject of an Administrative Order, based on the Committee's views to be issued by the Director-General and distributed to all Governments members of IRO for their information, the main points being that:

(i) Persons of Italian customary language now in Italy, who were domiciled on 10th June 1940 in areas transferred from Italy to Yugoslavia under the terms of the Peace Treaty with Italy and who had not opted, before 15th September, 1948, to retain Italian citizenship, to be considered eligible for IRO assistance under para. 2, part 1 of Annex 1 of the Constitution, as persons who were outside their country of former habitual residence and, as a result of events subsequent to the outbreak of the Second World War, were unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of the government of the country of their nationality or former nationality;

(ii) Persons whose reasons for not remaining in the territory transferred from Italy to Yugoslavia or for not opting to retain Italian citizenship were open to question, could be disqualified from receiving IRO assistance under the terms of para. 1 (e) of the General Principles of Annex 1, or paragraphs (e) and (d) of Section D of Part 1 of that Annex;

(iii) Similar rulings and procedure to apply to the alien refugees at present in Greece, who were of Greek ethnic origin and in regard to whom the Greek Government requested the assistance of IRO.