

members of the Canadian delegation (one-third of the expenses of Provincial representatives to be defrayed by the Federal government).

SECTION D

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

237.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], January 20, 1949

RESPONSIBILITY OF I.R.O. FOR FINANCING TRANSPORT OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM
EUROPE TO PALESTINE

Introduction

1. I understand that Mr. Saul Hayes and other representatives of the Canadian Jewish Congress will be having an interview at three o'clock on Friday January 21, at which they will discuss the subject of financial assistance by I.R.O. to Jewish immigrants entering Palestine.

2. At the last Executive Committee meeting in Rome December 7-13, there was a serious divergence of views between the United States and the United Kingdom on this subject, the United States pressing to have I.R.O. assume financial responsibility for these immigrants. A special meeting was called for January 25 to deal with the matter.

Background

3. Very briefly, the background is as follows, Since May 18, 1948 the I.R.O., on the basis of an administrative decision, has refused to give financial assistance to the movement of immigrants into an area of hostilities such as Palestine. The Jewish Agency for Palestine and the American Joint Distribution Committee have moved large numbers of Jewish refugees into Palestine. In August the Director-General of I.R.O. announced that if the truce were followed by a genuine peace the I.R.O. would give favourable consideration to reimbursing the agencies for I.R.O. eligibles transported. The total of such eligibles moved between May 1 and September 30 is estimated at 44,395. The I.R.O. budget for 1948-1949 provided four million dollars for financing mass immigration movements to Palestine.

Present Position

4. The Canadian representative, Mr. J. Déry, is chairman of the Executive Committee. At the last meeting he worked, though unsuccessfully, to find some solution acceptable to both British and Americans. On January 12 we cabled him instruc-