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

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

SECRET

[Ottawa], November 23, 1948

DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN CHINA AND EVACUATION
OF CANADIANS FROM CHINA

Since my report to you on November 16th the military situation north of Nanking appears to have been stabilized, at least temporarily. The Nationalist Forces are reported to have successfully resisted the Communist attacks about Hsuechow, with consequent improvement in morale. The temporary nature of the situation, however, should be emphasized as there are large bodies of both Communist and Nationalist troops on the move in the Central China plain. It seems almost certain that the southward thrust of the Communist Forces will be resumed in strength. Consequently the threat to the Nanking-Shanghai area still remains.

The Canadian Ambassador has reported that he is not at all optimistic about the ability of the Chiang Kai-Shek Government to maintain itself in Nanking for any appreciable length of time. This view is shared by informed Commonwealth and United States authorities.

The wives and children of the Canadian Embassy staff and the female personnel have left Nanking; those in Shanghai are remaining for the present. Full warning has been given to all Canadians in the area to depart. The Ambassador has been asked for a report showing numbers of Canadians who have left, who are leaving, or who intend to stay.

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Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet

Extract from Cabinet Conclusions

TOP SECRET

[Ottawa], December 1, 1948

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SITUATION IN CHINA; EVACUATION OF CANADIANS

32. *The Minister of National Defence as Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs* reported that the situation in China was deteriorating rapidly.

It had now been found possible to charter an aircraft to evacuate Canadians from the danger area. For this purpose it would be necessary to guarantee payment of some \$42,000 in U.S. funds. Passengers would, of course, undertake to repay the costs of their own transportation. In the circumstances it would not be necessary to maintain an R.C.A.F. plane in a full state of readiness.