



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**CANADA ON CZECH QUESTION:** Following is complete text of the statement made by General A. G. L. McNaughton, the Canadian Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, New York, in the Security Council on Wednesday, March 31, on the Czech question:-

The representative of Chile, in the view of the Canadian delegation, has performed a valuable service in bringing this matter to the notice of the Security Council. It is proper that the very grave charges contained in his letters of 12th March and 16th March should be most carefully examined in the Council. If it were established that the coup in Czechoslovakia, by the Communist minority, was in fact as alleged in this letter "effectuated successfully only because of official participation of representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the threat of the use of military force of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which were held in readiness on the northeast boundaries of Czechoslovakia", then clearly a serious violation of the Charter would have occurred.

Such a violation is of direct and immediate concern to every member of the United Nations, and any member State, therefore, is abundantly justified in requesting the Security Council to examine the allegations which have been made and to endeavour to establish the facts in the case, what did happen in Czechoslovakia in the month of February? From the discussion which

has taken place in the Council to date I must confess that we have not added substantially to the specific information already available to the members as a result of newspaper despatches which were sent out from Prague at the time. A number of pertinent questions have been asked in the Council but no satisfactory answers have so far been given. Instead, we have heard counter charges and reference to the motives of those who have been trying to establish the facts in the case.

What are the facts? That is what the Council should endeavour to establish. The Council should not of course prejudge the case. The assertions regarding the events in Czechoslovakia have been made and, if they are true, must be a matter of the greatest concern to those who cherish the Democratic way of life. It is, therefore, our first responsibility to know whether, in fact, these assertions are true or false. At the risk of going once again over some familiar ground I shall mention some of the salient features which have been brought out regarding the alleged events which took place in Czechoslovakia last February. The first step was the formation of a National Front Government in which the Communists held several of the key Ministries, which included not only the Office of the Prime Minister but also the Ministry of Information, which provided control over the radio and press; also the Ministry of the Interior, which gave them