

[PIÈCE JOINTE 1/ENCLOSURE 1]

Note du chef de la Direction européenne
Memorandum by Head, European Division

SECRET

[Ottawa], February 28, 1950

NOTES ON FUNCTIONS OF CANADIAN POSTS IN
 POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

It is evident that a concerted drive, probably part of a general Russian strategy, is under way in the satellite countries to make it difficult and even impossible for diplomatic missions from countries regarded as enemies, to function. This drive manifests itself in the arrest and false accusation of personnel of all ranks: in the linking of western diplomats, e.g., Mr. Heath,⁵ to the 'crimes' fastened on the victims of political purges, thereby giving Communist governments grounds for blackening their reputation as diplomatic representatives: in the tightening of visa control, even for diplomats: in the intimidation of satellite nationals so as to discourage their having anything to do with westerners, their consuls, their newspapers, their radio, etc.

2. At the same time some journalists, business men, private travellers, correspondents from the west are either denied entry to or are driven out of these countries.

3. The net result is a growing atmosphere of fear, suspicion, frustration, and isolation in which the westerner simply has no place. He becomes in short an enemy alien.

4. The question therefore arises: has this atmosphere developed to a point at which the maintenance of our diplomatic missions no longer warrants its present cost to the public purse?

5. The political and diplomatic value of these posts resides in:

(a) The retention of one more connection between the countries and the western world. It can be assumed that Russia is trying to break all such connection;

(b) A point through which Canadian interests can be safeguarded (e.g. the legal and financial claims of Canadian citizens; the handling of the immigration of relatives of Canadians);

(c) Reports can be made on matters of direct and indirect interest to Canadians, and the Canadian Government; as e.g. the proceedings of Trade Union and other conferences: comments (usually insulting) on Canadian people and events: conditions inside the country such as resistance movements, religious persecution, economic developments: the evolution of Russian policy and strategy in the cold war: the form and effect of CBC broadcasts;

⁵ Donald R. Heath, ministre de l'ambassade des États-Unis en Bulgarie. Il a été déclaré *persona non grata* le 19 janvier 1950 pour cause d'espionnage après la condamnation et l'exécution de l'ancien vice-premier ministre de Bulgarie, Traicho Kostov.

Donald R. Heath, Minister, United States Embassy in Bulgaria. Declared *persona non grata* January 19, 1950 for espionage in connection with the conviction and execution of Traicho Kostov, former Deputy Premier of Bulgaria.