

*Communist Activities in Canada*

appear in *Vestnik*. Read *Vapus* and you will find the same things. All this is emanating from some central point. All of it is emanating from some guiding office.

Each of these publications is supplied with clippings, with photographs and with feature articles from their own countries. The diplomatic representatives of these countries here in Ottawa send out mats for the press, photographs and feature articles. And these papers, with no visible means of support, receive telegrams, thousands of words long, direct from Moscow.

It is wonderful how easy it is for some people to publish newspapers at this time, despite the high cost of newsprint and of expensive wire services. And then also, as part of that general activity, some of these diplomatic agencies here in Ottawa distribute propaganda films sent over here from communist countries. These are being used under guidance of these papers which, in the languages of the homelands of many of these people, tell them where they can see these pictures.

Lots of people who hate communism will go to see pictures of the Danube, pictures of Vienna, pictures of Roumania and of Poland and of Czechoslovakia, and of all the countries which they still love, and love dearly—and perhaps love even more because of the terrible conditions there today. These pictures are used to spread communist ideas in the minds of youth.

Over the week end children are brought together and these propaganda pictures—clever, dangerous, and opposed to everything we believe in—are used to attract the minds of youth to this doctrine. These activities extend into every field. We know the false fronts that are developing. Everybody believes in peace. Every decent human being wants peace. Therefore we have peace councils. I see by this afternoon's paper that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is to be visited on Thursday. I do not know that he has given an appointment; I hope he has not, and I do not believe he has.

However, the Ottawa *Evening Citizen* carries the head: Ban the Bomb Delegation Will See Pearson Thursday; Dr. J. G. Endicott With Petitioners Coming to Ottawa. The first paragraph of the article reads:

A ban-the-bomb delegation is expected to call on the Hon. Lester B. Pearson, external affairs minister, on Thursday, at noon. This information comes from Mrs. Edith Holtom, 5 Hawthorne Avenue, who is active in Ottawa in the Canadian Peace Congress. Mrs. Holtom stated that the interview with Mr. Pearson had been arranged through Prime Minister St. Laurent.

I feel sure that that is a great surprise to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), as it would be to any of us.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** No, it is not. I received a letter from the secretary of this league some time ago asking for an appointment with the cabinet, and asking that I arrange with Mr. Speaker to make the railway committee room available for a presentation of their petition or representations.

I wrote back stating that it was not the practice of the government to assist in publicizing movements of that kind; and that I would not attempt to arrange with Mr. Speaker for the railway committee room or any other room; that if this league had any representations they wished to submit to anybody, of course we could not refuse to hear those representations; that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) would be prepared to receive them if they presented those views before the date of his departure for a real peace conference in London; that if it did not suit them to do that before his departure the acting secretary would receive their petition or representations but that their impression upon the government would not be added to by the numbers of persons attempting to compose the delegation.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, of course it was only a moment ago that I saw the article in this evening's edition of the *Ottawa Citizen*. But I will say I had thought that this probably was an inaccurate report; because I do think that in these troubled days the government of Canada—and every member of the government of Canada—has more important tasks to perform than to waste his or their time on communist fronts of this kind. After all, no one today is in any doubt about the so-called Canadian peace congress. I think it is the duty of the government, as the Prime Minister has indicated, through the appropriate ministers or officials, to meet every delegation which has some proper purpose to serve by coming here, whether or not one expects that they will have some necessary representations to make; but I think that we are contributing to the public importance of these bodies when these people are received at all.

We have too many of such organizations. We have the national federation of labour youth, the national committee of L.P.P. students, the association of united Ukrainian Canadians, the federation of Russian Canadians, the league for democratic rights. We have all sorts of organizations of that kind with innocent names. But to the extent that any member of the government indicates that