

Order Paper Questions

11. Does the Canadian Government negotiate with the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic about the problem of dual citizenship and, if so (a) on what date did the negotiations start (b) what are the concrete results to date (c) on what date does the Government expect the negotiations to be concluded and in what form?

12. Is it now or was it the policy of the Security Service of the RCMP to keep track of Canadian residents' travel to Eastern European countries and, if so (a) on what date did the policy start (b) what countries of Eastern Europe are or were the subject of such policy?

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Department of External Affairs and the Solicitor General as follows:

1. This information is not available. Under the terms of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to which both Canada and Czechoslovakia are party, Czechoslovak consular officials are free to communicate with and to have consular access to individuals who are still deemed to be citizens of Czechoslovakia on matters which fall directly under their consular jurisdiction. This implies that in so doing, Czechoslovak consular officials are under no obligation to notify the Canadian Government of their legitimate contacts with Canadian-Czechoslovak dual citizens. At the same time, Canadian-Czechoslovak dual nationals are not obliged to notify the Canadian Government of their contacts with Czechoslovak consular officials. Therefore, unless the information is volunteered, which it usually is not, it is not possible for the Canadian Government to compile data on those Canadian Czechoslovak dual citizens who wish to comply with the Czechoslovak regulation.

2. See reply to part 1.

3. See reply to part 1.

4. See reply to part 1.

5. All Canadian citizens and residents are free to leave Canada at will, and no person is required to inform the Government of his destination on leaving the country. No data on the movements of departing persons are maintained. It is therefore not possible to know accurately how many Canadian residents of Czechoslovak or other origin visited Czechoslovakia in any given period. It should be noted, however, that a landed immigrant in Canada who has not been granted Canadian citizenship does not have the right to obtain or travel on a Canadian passport.

6. This information is not available because neither the Czechoslovak Government nor the individual being deprived of his citizenship has any obligation to inform the Canadian Government when such an event occurs. Although the Government is aware of a small number of such cases where the individual involved has advised the Department of External Affairs, no reliable estimate can be made as to the total number of persons affected by such decrees.

7. (a) Visitor visas issued to Czech nationals:

1975—figure not available

1976—3,757

1977—3,395

1978—3,027

1979—3,114

1980—3,312

1981—3,425

(b) Visitor entries to Canada:*

1975—4,046

1976—4,481

1977—3,864

1978—3,887

1979—4,007

1980—4,109

1981—4,597

*Visitor entries for the years 1975-1981 are higher than the number of visas issued because visas were not required for visitors entering Canada from the U.S.A. until 1978 and because persons entering Canada in transit do not require visas.

(c) (i) and (ii) There is no specific tabulation maintained of the number of persons of a given nationality who seek landed status after entering the country as visitors. Instead, landing statistics reflect only the total numbers of persons in a given nationality who were granted immigrant status in each calendar year. Landings of Czech nationals for the years 1975-1981 are as follows:

1975—161

1976—145

1977—136

1978—86

1979—89

1980—172

1981—1,078*

*The increase in landings in 1981 is a reflection of the Self-Exile Designated Class Regulations created in 1979 which enable larger numbers of East Europeans to qualify for immigrant status.

8. As noted in the reply to question 1, it is not possible for the Canadian Government to compile data on those Canadian-Czechoslovak citizens who choose to "regularize" their status vis-à-vis the Government of Czechoslovakia, and it therefore is not possible to determine the answer to this question.

9. The Government recognizes that some members of Canada's ethnic communities, particularly those who have relatives in Communist countries, may be vulnerable to pressure from representatives of their native countries. When such cases come to the attention of Canadian authorities, appropriate action is taken. However, to reveal specifics of such cases could jeopardize the security of these individuals and their families.

10. Yes, the Solicitor General made such a statement in the House of Commons on November 19, 1981. The Government considers, however, that to reveal the specifics of these cases