

purpose in Montreal, Toronto, Fort William, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver and Windsor. It is also possible for persons who have not yet registered to do so by writing to the Consular Division of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa before the end of the year.

2. The registration appears to have taken place without any difficulties having arisen and with very little comment having been made. The Foreign Language Press in Canada has paid scant attention to the registration, and the only comment made in those sections of the Foreign Language Press which are unfriendly to the Soviet Union has been a reminder that the registration is voluntary. There was at one time a suspicion that pressure was being brought to bear on some persons by means of the suggestion that failure to register might affect the security of relatives in Europe, but no specific evidence of activities of this nature has come to light.

3. I am enclosing for your information a copy of an extract from the *Toronto Star* of December 3rd¹ containing an interview with Mr. Pavlov of the Soviet Embassy. You will notice that Mr. Pavlov has emphasized in this interview the voluntary nature of the registration and has indicated that no one who does not wish to apply for Soviet citizenship need register. The possibility of issuing a statement of this nature was suggested to the Soviet Ambassador when he called at the Department on October 24th. Mr. Pavlov's interview has helped materially to dispel any misunderstanding which may have arisen out of the terms of the announcement originally made by the Soviet Embassy.

4. In the light of these circumstances it has been decided that no action need be taken or comment made by the Canadian authorities in regard to the registration of Soviet citizens in Canada. Efforts are being made, however, to secure additional information concerning one aspect of this question. The assumption had been made here that persons from the former Polish territories, who are now living abroad without having become naturalized citizens of another state and who have not registered as Soviet citizens will become for all practical purposes stateless individuals. This assumption is based on reports which have been received concerning the Polish-Soviet Treaty of July 6th, the text of which has not yet been made available. I understand that this Treaty provides that persons living in the territories concerned automatically become Soviet citizens unless they apply for Polish citizenship, and that persons from the territories living abroad also are required to opt for Polish citizenship if they wish to remain Poles. On the other hand, it has been reported that the Polish Government will continue to regard as Polish citizens persons from the areas concerned who are living abroad and who do not register as Soviet citizens. The action of the Soviet authorities in Canada in calling for registration on the part of any who wish to obtain Soviet citizenship is further evidence that the persons in question do not automatically become citizens of the U.S.S.R. Inquiries in regard to this apparent inconsistency between the Polish-Soviet Treaty on the one hand and the statements of Polish and Soviet authorities on the other have been made to the Canadian High Commissioner in London and to the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. I shall send you any further information which I receive in clarification of this question, and I