Soviet Ambassador Alexandr Yakovlev scrubbed a press conference which was to be held February 10 at the National Press Building to hear noted Soviet cosmonaut Georgi Beregovi talk about the U.S.S.R.'s space program. "The news conference was cancelled because of the new situation that has developed", said an embassy spokesman.

There's no grass growing under the feet of the administrators at 10 The Driveway. The name of expelled Soviet spy Igor Vartanyan was removed from the apartment building's tenants list even before the Soviet's wife had been informed she was to leave the country with her husband. The building manager who removed the name from the registry was asked why the rush. "Why not", he said. "They haven't left yet, but the apartment is as good as vacant."

The Russian-speaking wife of the expelled diplomat sat seven floors above, in her plush one-bedroom apartment with a woman friend, waiting for the return of her husband, unaware that she had been ordered to leave the country along with him.

At the airport, she was quoted as saying, "I'm happy to be leaving, I want to be home with my sons in Moscow."

After a brief stop at the Charlotte Street embassy for final farewells, the cavalcade

— a convoy of five diplomatic vehicles carrying three Soviet diplomats, their families and belongings — headed east toward the Quebec border.

Before reaching the Queensway, the cars stopped and gassed up for the trip ahead. In what was perhaps a final acknowledgement of North American customs, a credit card was produced to pay for the gas.

Comment

Working toward the security of a nation is constant ongoing procedure. There are countless individuals behind the scenes that made this operation a success. They cannot, however, in the interests of security be mentioned here. They must, as is necessary, work in the shadow of anonymity, never receiving public acclaim for their valourous and unselfish deeds. The story that unfolded here could certainly not have met with the success it did without their nameless help, without their devotion and dedication to their country. Our thanks must go out to those who shall perforce remain faceless and nameless in the constant battle for freedom against tyranny. Perhaps by publishing this story, we will, in some small way, show the appreciation of a grateful nation.

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