



On being told that their store was an integral link in the spy caper, the owners of the M & R Food Centre in Old Chelsea, Que., Micheline and Ron Pigeon, were quite amused. "I never noticed anything peculiar," said Ron. "I'm fairly busy at 6 p.m. and I couldn't notice the cars parked outside. If it was later at night I would have been suspicious of a car parked outside more than 5 minutes with a guy sitting in it," he said, adding he probably would have called the police.

Soviet officials was timed to buff up the image of his government and the RCMP.

*"I'm sorry if this is going to give a good image to the RCMP and its efficiency... It's too bad it's happened at this time when we're in an election year... Maybe the Soviets are trying to help the government."*

The timing was not in the hands of the RCMP. The ripe moment was determined by the circumstances of the case. Only so much false information could be fed before suspicions were aroused. The RCMP does not have unlimited resources. After the net was full, the police had nothing to gain, and much to risk, by continuing the deception.

*"Uncovering the spy ring... was disturbing to the government,"* Trudeau said. *"But*

*we will continue to try to have good relations with the U.S.S.R."*

Although the two latest breakthroughs have clearly opened a significant crack in Soviet espionage operations in Canada, little hope is held out that the operation will be pulled back or discontinued.

*"They will probably continue spying and we will continue trying to prevent them",* Prime Minister Trudeau observed.

Soviet press officer, Igor Lobanov, said the charges of spying against the 13 were *"laughable accusations."* Asked why Canada would risk harming relations between the two countries if the charges were not true, he replied: *"It will make easier the life of the RCMP now. They will get good press coverage from now on."*