

Canadian Government, were able with impunity to desecrate the emblem of the Polish State.

The Polish Government demands that an immediate inquiry be held and that the offenders be punished for this crime.

At the same time, the Polish Government demands that the Canadian Government should cease the practice of supporting elements hostile to Poland in view of the fact that such a practice is contrary to the principles that form the basis of international relations.

The Legation expects to be informed without delay of the results of the inquiry and of the punishment of the offenders.

Ottawa, May 1, 1953.

The Department of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Legation of the People's Republic of Poland, and has the honour to refer to the Legation's Note of April 17, 1953, concerning a Convention of Polish veterans resident in Canada which took place in Ottawa on April 10, 11 and 12. The Legation's Note also informs the Department of External Affairs that on the night of April 12, 13 a plaque bearing the coat of arms of Poland was removed from the Legation building.

The Department of External Affairs regrets the theft of the coat of arms from the Legation building, and the police authorities were at once notified and requested to take every step to identify those responsible and to recover the missing property. The Department of External Affairs was glad to learn subsequently from the police that the plaque had been recovered undamaged and had been returned to the Legation, and it is understood that the Legation requested that the police investigation should be terminated.

With respect to the remainder of the Legation's Note, the Department of External Affairs cannot accept the suggestion that it was in any way improper for Canadian Ministers or Government officials to address a convention of war veterans in Canada who happen to be of Polish origin. Those who attended the convention are residents of this country and most of them are Canadian citizens or have applied, under our law, to become citizens. Moreover, as representatives of the valiant Polish Army, with which Canadian troops fought side by side in our common struggle against oppression during the last war, these veterans are honoured in Canada as comrades-in-arms.

The Department of External Affairs rejects the suggestions that the Government of Canada is in any way responsible for the circumstances in which the theft of Legation property took place, and that the attendance of Canadian Ministers at the convention in question could be construed as support for the enemies of Poland.

(Signed) L. D. Wilgress.