

# RCMP COMMISSIONER SAYS HE IS "INTERESTED" IN ACTIVITIES ON CANADIAN CAMPUSES BECAUSE COMMUNISTS ARE ALSO INTERESTED

## Official R.C.M.P. policy announced

OTTAWA — (CUP) — The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are interested in activities on Canadian campuses because the communists are also interested says RCMP Commissioner C. W. Harvison.

In a Canadian University Press interview the RCMP's top man outlined the force's policy toward university investigation and some of the problems and considerations in maintaining internal security against communism.

"The communists themselves point to what they hope to achieve on the university campus," Harvison said. "In one of their publications one is able to read that the university is 'the training ground for bourgeois leadership,' and 'offers a unique opportunity for valuable Party work, here is the centre and source of the bourgeois apology for capitalism'."

"From the same publication we have 'secondly we must recognize that since students are only at universities for three or four years and since the period of campus work each year is not more than six months, the problem of developing leadership is always acute'."

"While there are some who say this statement refers to open political activity, those of us who know the way communists work, are satisfied it means communist work in its entirety, and this includes their underground movement," Harvison said.

In December, 1962, the Young Communist League of Canada, the party's youth arm, led by the son of a well-known communist, published a pamphlet containing the following:

"We (the League) fit in right where the action is taking place: in the high schools and universities; in debates taking place at youth clubs, the disarmament groups and the public actions that go on."

The same pamphlet says, "It would be a mistake, however, to refuse to understand the possibilities that exist among students. We should have a good look at how we do work among students. Not only in the nuclear disarmament groups they are in, but also social science groups, current events clubs, etc."

"Even the high schools are targets for communist activities, as is seen from their own literature," Harvison said.

"It doesn't matter where they can influence action. It is important that they lay the ground work today for communist leadership of tomorrow."

### UNIVERSITY STUDENTS USEFUL TO COMMUNISTS

"University students are naturally curious. At this age one finds a great deal of idealism and a strong sense of social morality. There are certain abuses in our system which the student may think communism will cure, if he gets only one side of the picture," the commissioner said.

Is a university-trained man more useful to the communists than the non-university man? Emphatically yes, says Harvison.

Information communists want can come only from those who have training and access to the information, he said. "It is obvious that those with access have attained the position to be able to get information, on the basis of their knowledge and training."

This type of person almost invariably has a university degree. A CUP check of the Royal Commission Report on Espionage, published in 1946, shows 10 of the 16 Canadians identified as Soviet agents in the Couzenk case, were specifically listed as having university degrees.

Among the spies were the three army and two RCAF officers, one naval officer, the head of a section at the Bank of Canada, two scientists at the national research council, two university scientists, four civil servants and the assistant registrar at the U. K. High Commission office.

"With such a high proportion of university graduates involved in such instances, it is obvious the communist effort to recruit scientists and government leaders while they are students, has been at least partially successful," Harvison said.

"Another aspect of university interest on the part of the RCMP is where it is known or suspected that foreign intelligence officers are attempting to recruit students to work for Russia.

"This is a subject into which I cannot go in detail, but this sort of thing is not unknown in Canada and must receive serious attention by us," Harvison said.

### INVESTIGATION METHODS

The commissioner outlined some aspects of RCMP investigation.

"The politics of an individual, per se, are of no interest to us and we certainly are not interested in a man's religion," he said.

"We are interested in all types of personal behavior, political or not, which would indicate that he is, or is not, a person who can be properly employed by a government under sensitive circumstances.

"Once all possible enquiries have been made, the matter is reported to headquarters in Ottawa. The information on an individual is analyzed by men with up to 30 and more years experience in this field", the commissioner said.

"This results in a factual and evaluated report being sent to the department of government concerned. It is the responsibility of that department to decide whether, on the facts presented, a person is suited to the type of employment involved.

"Indeed, the RCMP has refused to accept any more responsibility in this area. It is felt that the decision as to whether an individual should be employed or not is one for the civilian head of a government branch, and in this way the rights of the individual can be protected and not always seen in the light of the police point of view.

"In the university community, enquiries we make into a student's background are often directed at professors.

"We think there are no more responsible persons than university professors and it would be a sad day when the security program of this country could not rely on their support," the commissioner said.

"It should be clearly understood that we are not dealing with an ordinary political party in the Communist Party of Canada (CPC), but with a party of an International Communist Movement, directed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

"Its objective has remained unchanged from that laid down by Lenin—namely the overthrow of the free enterprise system and the establishment of communism throughout the world.

"The Canadian party slavishly follows communist theory and practice laid down in Moscow. This

has been a feature of the party since it was established in Canada in 1921, under the guidance, even at that time, of foreign communists.

"The link between the Canadian party and the Society Union can easily be shown.

"Prominent Canadian communists have regular meetings with counterparts in Russia, and attend communist conferences which lay down international policy.

"Indeed, Tim Buck and Leslie Morris have both been to Russia, within the past year and Tim Buck has been to Peking since then.

"Other links are:

- the Canadian part follows, in detail, on a national basis, the views held by the CPSU on an international basis—advocation of peace, nuclear disarmament, anti-monopoly capitalism, anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism, among other things, but always from the Soviet point of view.

- Norman Freid, a Canadian communist, serves on the editorial board for the communist theoretical publication, *The World Marxist Review*, and lives at the publication's permanent headquarters in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

- Another Canadian, John Weir, represents the *Canadian Tribune* in Moscow. Still another Canadian, Bert Whyte, represents the same paper in Peking.

By  
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- Frank and Libby Park are the Canadian party's new envoys in Havana, Cuba.

Tom Jaka, a young Canadian, is an executive member of the Communist-dominated World Federation of Democratic Youth. Pearl Wedrow, another Canadian communist from Vancouver, is in the secretariat of the World Federation of Trades Unions.

"No one need be disillusioned as to the purpose of the Canadian Communist Party," Harvison said. "It takes its direction from Lenin who wrote:

'the bourgeois parliaments which constitute one of the most important instruments of the bourgeois state machinery, cannot be won over by the proletariat any more than the bourgeois order in general. The task of the proletariat in destroying the entire machinery of the bourgeois state, including all parliamentary institutions.'

"Whatever use the communists make of the democratic system," commissioner Harvison said, "it is for the purpose of destroying that same system and substituting one which is completely totalitarian and which we see today in Russia and other communist-dominated countries. What they want to set up is the Soviet Socialist Republic of Canada."

"Under these circumstances it is very clear to me that such an organization is subversive in intent. Its aim is clearly the destruction of our present political system for the purpose of setting up a one-party government, by whatever

means possible," Harvison stated.

"Because they know there is little hope of becoming the government of Canada through normal parliamentary means, Canadian communists have found it necessary to infiltrate organizations that can be used by them to influence opinion.

"They are fully aware that there is a great mistrust of communists in this country, hence they have adopted the 'united front' tactic. This simply means they will go along with any organization which they think will serve their purpose.

"They may do this with known communist support or they will do it by infiltrating unknown communists who will pursue communist interest within the organization.

### 3500 MEMBERS

There are about 3,500 card-carrying communist party members in Canada today. But these are not our main source of concern," Harvison said.

"A very important segment of the party is not card-carrying as this would make it known to the public. This group forms what the communist themselves term their 'underground movement'. These people are able, because of this anonymity, to get into organizations and influence opinion.

"A self-proclaimed communist in the university does not worry us too much. One is on guard against any statements they make, as their politics are well known. However these 'underground' agents who are not known as communists can do the damage. People are not on guard and may be taken in by such a man, whose communist leanings color all his actions.

"These underground members are to be found in all phases of society, but more often than not, at the professional level. They are important to the party because it is only through such members they are able to penetrate the more important spheres of influence."

In a book, *Paradoxes of Freedom*, a noted American expert on communism, Sydney Hook said "Their chief task is to infiltrate into key sensitive and influential posts in government, trade unions, co-operatives and peace movements, in order to do the bidding of the Kremlin on appropriate occasions."

"In Canada we are not sure of the exact number of these underground members, therefore an accurate estimate of true communist strength is difficult," Harvison said.

Does a country of the relative unimportance of Canada really need a security force to guard against communist infiltration and espionage? Yes, says Harvison.

"Canada is a partner in collective defence pacts, such as NATO. In such arrangements, defence secrets of all countries are pooled and each member has access to all of them. Hence, a security leak in Canada could disclose the secret defence plans of every other member of the alliance," the commissioner said.

"This is one of the main reasons for security checks on persons being considered for government jobs."

### THE RIGHT WING

The RCMP are as concerned with the far right as well as the far left, commissioner said.

"There have been signs of a form of Nazism raising its head in Canada and it is our job as a security force to keep abreast of this as well as communists.

"There is an extreme right wing in this country which is so anti-communist that it becomes a danger in itself. Members see communists at every turn in the road. There is no room in their minds for the radical or for the honest, dissenting opinion.

"Under these circumstances, people are indiscriminately labelled communists. A dissenting view, which happens to be consistent with the official communists line at the time, does not make a man a communist.

"Canadians must try to understand the purpose of communism. The communists have written libraries of their plans, yet there is apparently still some doubt in some places as to what they really intend for the world.

"It has often been said that had we read *Mein Kampf*, with any seriousness, we would have known what Hitler intended for the world. The communists have written plenty and there's no doubt of their intentions.

"It is necessary for the citizen to be alert to communist intentions. This, with a knowledge of how communists work, will indicate to him whether or not a person is consistently working for communism. If this takes place over a long period of time, it might then, and only then, be safe for him to arrive at a conclusion. The security service would like the public to feel free to come forward with any information which they think is, or can be, subversive in nature," the commissioner said.

Commissioner Harvison commented on recent criticism of the role of the RCMP on Canadian campuses.

"It is the job of the RCMP to know where subversion is, and attack espionage wherever it is found. If we think it is found on the university campuses, we have to go there," he said.

"Some of the criticism comes from people who have a genuine interest in political freedom and who feel enquiries by the RCMP infringe on this freedom.

"Some of the criticism arises from the fact that the communist party itself is very interested in promoting anti anti-communist feelings.

"Indeed, the International Communist Conference in Prague last summer was key-noted by a speech on how to fight anti-communism from William Kashtan, a very prominent Canadian Communist, in fact, a member of the national committee.

"It was only a short time after his return that we began to see increased criticism aimed at the RCMP.

"The force has more than 40 years experience in combatting communism. It is conscious of its responsibilities in a country which prides itself on the democratic process.

"We are ever conscious of a person's rights to express a dissenting opinion without being considered disloyal. We are conscious of the rights of the radical.

"We are also conscious of the dangers of the conspirator who is attempting to destroy our system under the guise of something which he is not.

"I would suggest, however, that it is only those who have made a careful study of this problem, such as the various security services, that can differentiate between the radical or dissenter and the conspirator," commissioner Harvison concluded.