

*Communist Activities in Canada*

This man Klaus Fuchs was sent to Canada in May or June of 1940 as an internee picked up in the United Kingdom during that period of fear and panic when all German suspects or people who might even be suspected later were collected, put in internment camps, and later sent by the United Kingdom authorities, with the consent of the Canadian government, to this country for safekeeping. This particular internee remained in Canada for six months during 1940. He was returned by Canada to the United Kingdom at the request of the government of that country, and has not been in Canada since.

During the hearings of the royal commission on espionage, which has been referred to so often in this debate, some evidence came to light, from a notebook of one of those suspected of spying, a suspect who was later accused and acquitted. This particular notebook had some 600 items in it. Four hundred, I think, were names or addresses. Of those there were 150 names of persons resident in Canada, 163 of persons resident in the United States and five of persons resident in the United Kingdom. The names of those resident in the United Kingdom were turned over to United Kingdom authorities with all the evidence available in connection with this matter, including all the evidence we had at our command about the person who owned the notebook in which his name appeared.

The names of United States residents were similarly turned over to United States security authorities. The Canadian authorities naturally looked after and took the necessary steps to investigate the Canadian names in that notebook. I suggest that the responsibility of the Canadian government was discharged, and very effectively discharged, in sending those United Kingdom names to the United Kingdom government. And I hope that with these facts in the possession of the house there will be no further suggestion that the Canadian government was derelict in its duty in this regard in any single respect.

The leader of the opposition also made reference this afternoon to the Colombo conference and asked me whether I could throw any light on the discussions of that conference in so far as they affected communism, and whether possibly it was as a result of that discussion that action has been taken recently in Australia, has been proposed I believe in South Africa, and has also been taken in India to outlaw communism. He has asked whether that action springs from some discussion at the Colombo conference. Well, we did discuss communism at Colombo. I have already reported briefly

[Mr. Pearson.]

upon that aspect of our discussion. It was generally agreed at that conference that the real menace to the peace of the world today is Soviet imperialism, using communism as the spearhead of its aggressive adventures.

The leader of the Indian delegation—and India was cited as a country which has taken somewhat drastic action against communists within their borders—emphasized more than once that it was not communism as an economic social doctrine which was so great a menace as it was Soviet imperialism. I do not think I can give the hon. member any assurance that our discussion at Colombo resulted in any action that has been taken since that time. The Indian action, as a matter of fact, was taken some time before the Colombo conference.

Reference was made this afternoon to the activities of what is called, I believe, the Canadian peace congress, to its president, Mr. Endicott, and to a delegation from that movement which is coming to Ottawa later in this week. I think I have made myself pretty clear as to what I think about this movement, and as to what I think about its leader, who has recently been visiting Moscow.

The delegation which is coming to Ottawa to present the peace petition—I believe that is what they call it—will, as the Prime Minister indicated this afternoon, be received for the purpose of accepting that petition. The Prime Minister indicated that possibly I might receive this delegation. I have telegraphed to them that I hope to be able to see them on Thursday at twelve o'clock; but as I have to attend an important meeting of a committee of the cabinet in the morning, I might not be available, in which case the under-secretary will receive them in my stead. That telegram, I may say, was sent before the beginning of the discussion this afternoon. Personally, I still hope I may be able to see this delegation, because I rather look forward to telling them what I think of their movement and what I think of the activities of their president in Moscow.

My own views in regard to this whole matter have been expressed outside the house, more particularly in a speech I delivered before the Rotary Club of Montreal some time ago, a speech to which reference has been made by more than one speaker this afternoon. So that there may be no misunderstanding as to what I did say, and so that no part of what I said can be taken out of its context, I should like to read into the record one or two paragraphs from that speech,