

a great deal of confusion resulting. The fact, Mr. Speaker, is that the only information which Canadian authorities had on which they could possibly warn our American friends about Mr. White's alleged espionage came from the F.B.I.

We have never secured any information, never been able to secure any information, on this matter from Mr. Gouzenko or any other source. I should explain that following the normal practice governing such cases the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in the winter of 1945-46, informed security authorities in Ottawa that, as a result of information which the F.B.I. had obtained, it appeared that Mr. White might in fact be a Soviet agent. Advance advice in such circumstances would allow Canadian security authorities to be on the alert for any evidence of a corroborative nature which they might find here, and none was found.

Now, the initiative taken from Ottawa in this matter was apparently merely designed to make absolutely certain that the F.B.I. were aware that the White about whom they had been making inquiries - the inquiries referred to a moment ago - was in fact the same person whose name was before the United States Senate for confirmation as the United States member of the executive board of directors of the International Monetary Fund.

The source of this information, this reminder, because that is all it was, and upon which Mr. Hoover appears to have based his letter, was a personal telegram from a security official, not of the Canadian Government, but who was stationed in Ottawa to maintain liaison with the Canadian security authorities on behalf of the security services of a friendly third power.

MR. HOOVER'S REPORT

It would have in fact been somewhat surprising if this information had been sent by a source high in the Canadian Government, because in the report of Mr. Hoover of the F.B.I., which I have mentioned, he stated that this Canadian source on the one hand stated that Canadian delegates to the International Monetary Fund might nominate and support Mr. White for the office of President - he must have meant Executive Director of the Fund - while on the other hand he said the source had passed on Canadian warnings about White's unfitness on loyalty grounds to hold the post.

While this information, then, did not come from any source in the Canadian Government, this non-Canadian source did tell the F.B.I. that his message concerning this matter had the blessing of one or two R.C.M.P. security officials with whom it was discussed.

We have done everything possible, Mr. Speaker, to secure the facts on this matter, which include sending a request, to which there has been no reply as yet, to Washington, for the identity of the Canadian source referred to. This we hoped would have provided a

quick and easy way of solving the problem. To the best of our knowledge this security liaison officer in Ottawa - not a Canadian - is the source referred to in Mr. Hoover's letter as an official high in the service of the Canadian Government. And I should add that this informal message, coming as it did from Ottawa with considerable urgency, might well have been passed on to Mr. Hoover as a Canadian communication, although in fact it was not such.

I should also say for the record that, contrary to statements referred to in Mr. Hoover's letter, at no time did the Canadian Government contemplate instructing the Canadian Government delegation to support, much less nominate, Mr. White for any post in the International Monetary Fund, or in any other organization.

It seems clear that in the stress and tension of the moment - and it was a tense and difficult time in Ottawa for security officials - the author of this telegram must have misunderstood the details of information which he had received from some quarter regarding the prospective appointment in the International Monetary Fund. I find it easy to understand and sympathize with that mistake.

The House may remember the circumstances under which such matters were being dealt at that particular time. Mr. Gouzenko was being examined in secret in Ottawa, and a distinct but equally important case was being investigated in equal secrecy in Washington with telegrams and messages about both cases being exchanged between those responsible for security.

SECURITY OFFICER

It seems clear that the errors in Mr. Hoover's letter concerning the alleged attitude of the Canadian Government toward the appointment of Mr. White to a high office in the International Monetary Fund or the International Bank were based upon mistakes originally made in Ottawa in this message from an allied security officer. I must also make it quite clear that this was not a communication in any sense from one Government to another. During the war the closest personal working relations developed between the officials of allied countries and it was quite common for responsible persons to communicate informally with each other within their general terms of reference.

The message sent from Ottawa was such a communication, a perfectly proper one, even though inaccurate in one policy point.

Setting the record straight in such detail on this matter has seemed to be necessary to correct the misleading impression caused by uninformed speculations about some alleged high Canadian governmental source apparently being in a position at that time to warn the United States Government, on the basis of Canadian intelligence, against some supposed intention of his own Government regarding Mr. White.