

GOVERNMENT



CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA, CANADA

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ON EXAMINATION OF THE TREASURES IT WAS FOUND THAT, WHILE THEY HAD SUFFERED NO SERIOUS DAMAGE, THEY WERE IN NEED OF EXPERT ATTENTION. IN ORDER TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE NECESSARY PRESERVATION, MR POLKOWSKI AND DR SZABLOWSKI AGREED THAT THE TWO TRUNKS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE BANK'S VAULTS AND RETURNED TO POLAND.

SUCCESSIVE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS AT ALL TIMES HAVE TAKEN THE VIEW THAT IN ADMITTING THE TREASURES TO CANADA, THEY ASSUMED NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. THE DIFFICULTY CONCERNING THEIR WITHDRAWAL WAS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF ESTABLISHING LEGAL TITLE, AND NOT ONE TO WHICH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WAS A PARTY.