

aimed at separation from Poland though, like all national movements, they aspired to union as well as to independence. He objected to the Canadian Ukrainian Nationalists undertaking to speak on behalf of 50,000,000 Ukrainians, at least 30,000,000 of whom must be citizens of the U.S.S.R., who had fought very bravely in resisting the Nazi invasion and who were completely loyal Soviet citizens. He pressed his point about the anti-Soviet articles in Canadian-Ukrainian papers, stigmatizing them as pro-Fascist. I said that undoubtedly there were some elements in the Ukrainian Nationalist Movement which could be so described, but the great bulk of the Canadian Ukrainians were not in any sense pro-Fascist. We would be much happier if they would look at the world through Canadian eyes and think of themselves solely as Canadian citizens, but the process of assimilation took time. There was no doubt that many Ukrainian Canadians had cherished hopes for the formation of a separate Ukrainian state.

I explained that we were very reluctant as a democracy to use the censorship powers taken under the Defence of Canada Regulations unless the successful conduct of the war required it. As a matter of policy, the Government did not invoke the censorship to suppress editorial opinion however critical it was, even of the Canadian Government. It would be difficult to apply a different censorship rule to criticisms of Allied Governments. Such criticisms, though often irritating, were not really important and the use of the censorship to suppress them might well do much more damage to the general interest than could the offending articles themselves.

1538.

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*Mémorandum du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Prime Minister*

[Ottawa,] May 25, 1943

There has been of course a great deal of press comment on the dissolution of the Communist International, but as far as I can see no responsible political leader has himself made a direct comment on this development.<sup>49</sup>

If you feel you have to say something, you might say that it appears to be a sensible move which has been welcomed everywhere except in the Axis countries.

It is I think important not to refer to the decision as one taken by Stalin or by the Soviet Government. The latter has endeavoured for years, and without much success, to convince the rest of the world that the Comintern was entirely separate from the Soviet Government. Out of deference to Russian susceptibilities this fiction might well be preserved in any references to its dissolution.

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

<sup>49</sup> Note marginale:<sup>49</sup> Marginal note:  
Churchill has. K[ING]