

(Continued from P. 1)

learned that there was some question of Vanier having torn the coat of one of the men during the incident of the previous evening.

The Canadian party then withdrew again taking Danko with them. Later in the evening at about 10:30 p.m. the Air Attaché returned to the Danko apartment bringing Danko and Vanier with him. There was at that time one uniformed policeman on the street but no one else in evidence.

A little later when the Air Attaché descended from seeing Danko to his apartment on the fifth floor, he found a number of watchers, perhaps ten in all, tucked into various corners of the corridors. He then went to a nearby police station where he complained about this apparently hostile body of unidentified persons and asked for some police protection for Danko. The attitude of the police was uncooperative but they finally assured the Air Attaché that some one would be immediately instructed to look into the matter.

However, by the next day, January 19, the number of un-uniformed watchers in Danko's apartment building had considerably increased.

Neither from their dress, words or actions did the individuals involved in these incidents appear to have any official authority. At no time was there any use or display of firearms. Neither of the Canadians ever carried arms.

During the forenoon of January 19 the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered to the Canadian Legation a note demanding that Danko and Vanier leave Czechoslovakia within 12 hours, on the ground that their behaviour represented an "abuse of hospitality".

So far as the Canadian staff in Prague is concerned, this incident was the climax of a series of steps taken by the Czech Government during the past few weeks. They were all aimed, without any well-founded reason at embarrassing the normal routine and work of the Canadian Legation.

Last October, of two locally employed members of the Canadian Legation, themselves Czechs, one was suddenly arrested, the other denied permission to continue working with the Legation, both without good cause given.

Early in January Sergeant Danko was accused without a shadow of evidence of organizing espionage and of paying "considerable sums" for information. As was announced earlier, he was declared persona non grata and requested to leave Czechoslovakia "within a reasonable time".

This was followed by the incidents involving Sergeant Danko and Corporal Vanier re-

counted above. After reading the reports of the Canadian officials in Prague and hearing the account given by the two Canadian N.C.O.'s, the Canadian Government is convinced that the charges are false and that the interference with Danko and Vanier was deliberate.

On January 23 the Czech Chargé d'Affaires in Ottawa was asked to call at the Department of External Affairs. Mr. Klima was then informed by the Under-Secretary that this interference with the Canadian staff in Prague was wholly unwarranted. He was requested to ascertain from his Government if it was their intention deliberately to embarrass the work of the Canadian Legation in Prague. No reply has been received to this inquiry.

In the circumstances, the Government approved yesterday the immediate despatch to the Czechoslovakian Chargé d'Affaires in Ottawa of a note requiring that two members of the staff of the Legation leave Canada within seven days from the delivery of the note.

The two employees in question are Hugo Bohounek, clerk to the Commercial Attaché, and Richard Bergmann, bookkeeper.

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF UN: The Interim Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations will hold its second meeting in the New Year on February 7, the first meeting having been held on January 16. The Canadian Delegation is composed as follows:-

Representatives: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson.

Alternates: Mr. L. Mayrand, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs; Mr. J.W. Holmes, Head of United Nations Division, Department of External Affairs; Mr. R.G. Riddell, Department of External Affairs; Mr. A.C. Smith, Principal Adviser, The Permanent Delegation of Canada to the United Nations.

Adviser: Mr. H.H. Carter, Adviser, The Permanent Delegation of Canada to the United Nations.

Due to his absence from the continent, it is unlikely that Mr. Pearson will be able to attend the Committee.

The Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Heeney, stated at a press conference on January 19 that one of the subjects to come up for discussion would be the matter of Soviet threats to the political independence and territorial integrity of China and to the peace of the Far East, an item put on the General Assembly's agenda by China and subsequently referred to the Interim Committee.