

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No.32

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1953

Following are the texts of Notes that have been exchanged between the Polish Legation in Ottawa and the Department of External Affairs:

Ottawa, April 17, 1953

The Legation of the People's Republic of Poland presents its compliments to the Canadian Department of External Affairs and, under instructions from its Government, has the honour to communicate the following:

On April 10, 11 and 12, 1953, there took place in Ottawa a meeting of an organization called the Polish Veterans' Association. It is a matter of public knowledge that this organization is only a cloak for a gang of traitors to the Polish nation, conducting a vast campaign of espionage and diversion against the Polish State. This organization is run by notorious political adventurers with Anders and Sosnkowski at their head. Their activity is characterized by plots and provocations in the international arena.

On April 9 of this year, that is on the eve of the opening of the meeting referred to, the Charge d'Affaires of the Polish Republic drew to the attention of Mr. L.D. Wilgress, Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, the provocative and aggressive character of the demonstration, and protested against the open participation in it of the official representatives of the Canadian Government.

In spite of this, members of the Canadian Government, Mr. Walter Harris, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and Mr. Hughes Lapointe, Minister of Veterans' Affairs, as well as General Charles Foulkes, Chairman of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff Committee, took part in this demonstration whose purpose was to cause trouble between Canada and Poland. It should be noted, moreover, that Mr. Walter Harris attended the meeting as representative of the Prime Minister of Canada.

The official support given by the Canadian Government to this anti-Polish demonstration had immediate effects: on the night of April 12 to 13, 1953, unruly elements removed from the Legation building a plate bearing the emblem of the Polish State.

The Polish Government holds the Canadian Government responsible for creating the circumstances in which criminal elements, encouraged by the attitude of the