

same route and returned to Moscow direct by air. Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Watson were treated by the Soviet ship's doctor en route to Japan and by a doctor in Tokyo for injuries sustained during the train incident.

The Canadian Ambassador to the Soviet Union lodged a strong protest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow against this unwarranted violation of Watson's diplomatic status and elementary rules of courtesy. The Ministry refused to accept the protest, declared Lt.-Col. Watson persona non grata and demanded his recall. The Ministry repeated the claim that the Attaché took photos of a military airfield and alleged that he did not identify himself to the Soviet officials and that his notebook constituted "evidence" of intent to carry out illegal activities.

These charges are untrue. As noted above, the films in both cameras seized were blank and unexposed at the time of seizure. As regards identity, the Attaché repeatedly proclaimed his identity and status to the intruders and produced documents of identity. In any event, since the Soviet authorities had authorized the journey and the compartment was in a car reserved for use by foreign travellers, train officials could have been in no doubt of the status and identity of the Watsons and the McDowalls. As regards travel notes, their possession is not "evidence" of illegal activities. The right and power of Soviet authorities to deny facilities for access to or observation of whatever they desire to protect is not questioned. Equally the Soviet authorities cannot question the use by travellers of normal facilities for observation from a Soviet train, travel on which has been authorized by the Soviet authorities themselves.

In view of all the circumstances it can only be concluded that the Soviet individuals concerned were attempting to frame an incident against the Attaché. In this connection, it may be relevant that in complaining about the events of May 11, Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated an earlier unfounded charge, vigorously denied at the time, that the Attaché had photographed a military installation in Leningrad on April 8, 1968.