

Acts of Espionage

tively small amounts but over a considerable period of time. These sums of money were apparently intended to enable the persons concerned to cover the costs of acquiring the information sought by the Soviet Embassy officials. Thus, in the case of the Canadian who co-operated with the police from the beginning, the money he received from time to time was largely spent, with the knowledge of the police, on travel, accommodation, automobile maintenance and related expenditures associated with the tasks assigned to him, and an accounting was made to the police of these expenditures. In the case of the other Canadian the evidence points to a similar use of the sums received, and it is hoped that as the investigation of his case continues more exact information will become available as to amounts involved and the disposition of such sums as well as other information.

There was some implication in what was said in the House yesterday that the issuance of a press release by the Department of External Affairs on this case was unusual. Certainly the amount of information given in this release was unusual and is not customary, as I have said. It is true that a press release of any kind is not always issued. In some cases, indeed, no information of any kind is given.

In 1959 an attaché of the Soviet Embassy procured information from a Canadian citizen which led to his recall. No action was taken and no publicity was given to the case. In October, 1960 a secretary of the Czechoslovakian Embassy was declared *persona non grata* after being found to have been in contact with a Canadian citizen for intelligence purposes. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police at that time recommended publicity as a deterrent measure. The Government directed that no publicity should be given. In December, 1961 an attaché at the Soviet Embassy attempted to obtain classified information from a Canadian Government official over a period of 18 months. His recall was demanded and a press release was authorized in this case.

It will be clear then that procedure in these matters, both in regard to action taken and publicity given, varies with the circumstances, and I believe that in security matters this must be the case.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs dealt with this matter in general terms in answer to a question of June 13, 1963 in his tabled reply which appears at page 1333 of *Hansard* for June 19, 1963. He dealt with those cases which had been made public but indicated that there had been other cases to

[Mr. Pearson.]

which no publicity had been given. His reply went on:

In these matters it is not always in the public interest to provide information, and I am conscious that my predecessor faced these same difficulties when he decided on April 26, 1961, in response to a similar question—

—in the House of Commons—

—to decline to provide details about such cases.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I have gone as far as I can to give the House all of the information it is in the public interest to reveal at this stage. I believe, Mr. Speaker, I have gone into somewhat more detail than has been the case in similar incidents over the past 10 or 15 years. I feel, however, the importance of this case and the deterrent value of the information in question justifies this action.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): The Prime Minister has pointed out the difficulties in connection with the security operations of the Mounted Police or associated bodies, and with that I agree. He referred to the press release which, to say the least, was not very happily worded in view of the statement he has now made. In reference to the first civil servant to whom he alluded, the press release reads as follows:

In one instance, a Canadian civil servant was paid thousands of dollars to gather information and documentation in Canada, the purpose of which was to assist in the establishment of espionage activities in Canada and other countries, and to perform economic intelligence tasks, including the provision of detailed information—

Now, the Prime Minister says this person reported the first approach that was made to him. There is one question that necessarily arises at this point. Did he receive any of these thousands of dollars before he communicated for the first time with the police? This is of particular importance in judging his general attitude toward the action in which he participated.

In so far as the other person is concerned, the press release reads—I presume this is the man who is ill at the moment—

In another instance, a naturalized Canadian citizen was paid thousands of dollars to provide technical information in the electronics field related to the defence industry and to compromise other Canadians, including female employees of the government, with the object of securing their assistance in obtaining access to classified information. He was given specialized photographic training to assist him in these tasks.

Now, Sir, what appears in the press announcement reveals most clearly and definitely, and was so interpreted, that the U.S.S.R.