

*Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet**Extract from Cabinet Conclusions*

SECRET

[Ottawa], October 31, 1956

Present

The Prime Minister (Mr. St-Laurent) in the Chair,
 The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin),
 The Minister of Labour (Mr. Gregg),
 The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson),
 The Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson),
 The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Winters),
 The Minister of Veterans Affairs and Postmaster General (Mr. Lapointe),
 The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Campney),
 The Leader of the Government in the Senate and Solicitor General (Senator Macdonald),
 The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Pickersgill),
 The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Lesage),
 The Minister of Transport (Mr. Marler),
 The Secretary of State (Mr. Pinard).
 The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Bryce),
 The Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Martin).

HUNGARY; SERVICE OF CANADIANS IN HUNGARIAN FORCES;
 FOREIGN ENLISTMENT ACT

1. *The Secretary of State for External Affairs* said there had been a number of requests from persons of Hungarian extraction for information on the possibility of going to Hungary to fight against the Russians. Under the Foreign Enlistment Act, passed in 1937, it was an offence for a Canadian to enlist in the forces of a foreign state at war with a friendly nation. It was not an offence to take part in a civil conflict in another country unless an order in council were passed under that statute, specifically prohibiting it. The minister had said no such order had been passed in regard to this Hungarian war nor was one contemplated. Legally, therefore, Canadians could go to Hungary to join the Hungarian liberation forces. Of course, persons with Hungarian citizenship might have difficulty returning to Canada, and even people of Hungarian origin with Canadian citizenship might also find it difficult to travel without a passport.

The number of requests would probably slacken off as the Russians withdrew from Hungary. Meanwhile, it was proposed to explain the legal situation and to mention that it was not proposed to pass the type of order referred to above.

2. *The Cabinet* noted the report of the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the legal position with regard to persons in Canada joining the liberation forces in Hungary.

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