

TEXT OF NOTE DELIVERED TO THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
BY THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, CANADIAN EMBASSY, MOSCOW,
ON FEBRUARY 4TH, 1948

The Canadian Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. and in reply to Note No. 40/2E-Ka of November 23 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning Mr. J.M. Weld and Captain A.W. Clabon has the honour to inform the Soviet Government of the results of the investigation which the Canadian Government has made of the circumstances attending the detention by the Soviet authorities of Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon, members of the staff of the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin.

2. The investigation reveals that Lt.-Gen. Maurice Pope, the Chief of the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin, gave permission to Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon to be absent from Berlin for the week-end of November 8 to 11 in order that they might pay a personal and unofficial visit to Warsaw where they wished to call on their friends at the Canadian Legation. It was General Pope's understanding that they would go to Warsaw via Wroclaw (formerly Breslau) and return to Berlin by a route no less direct. Before leaving Berlin they secured visas from the Soviet and Polish authorities.

3. While in Warsaw, without advising General Pope, Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon decided to return to Berlin by a northern route via Allenstein, Danzig, and Stettin. On arriving in Allenstein they were informed that they could not proceed to Danzig by highway 133 (the direct route) as the bridges were out. They therefore decided to proceed north on main highway 128, in order to connect with the auto-bahn to Danzig, which, they thought, would enable them to reach Berlin in the shortest time.

4. Their decision to take this route resulted in their crossing into that part of East Prussia which is now administered as part of the Soviet Union.

5. The evidence does not establish that either Mr. Weld or Captain Clabon knowingly or wilfully violated the regulations of the U.S.S.R. or that either of them was aware that he was entering territory not covered by his visas. Nevertheless, it is established that these officers did in fact cross into territory administered as part of the Soviet Union. This crossing would have been avoided if Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon had exercised better judgment.

6. Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon have been suitably admonished and counselled for the future. Measures have also been taken to prevent the recurrence of such happenings.

7. The Canadian Government regrets greatly the inconvenience to the Soviet Government which was occasioned by Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon and desires to take advantage of this opportunity to express to the Soviet Government its appreciation of the despatch with which the Soviet Government completed its investigation and facilitated the return of these persons to Berlin.