

and have been handed in to the German Embassy for visas. However, during the last week the situation has become much more serious. On the one hand the Soviet authorities demand that the matter shall be settled at once, so that all those who have received passports shall leave Moscow in the course of the next few days. If they are not allowed to emigrate they must return home because they will not be allowed to remain in Moscow. On the other hand the Canadian authorities demand definite information regarding the health and financial condition of every single emigrant family before permission to enter Canada is given. As of course it will be quite impossible in these circumstances to arrange this matter in the short time prescribed by the Soviet Authorities, there is reason to fear that the majority of these unhappy people will be forced to return to Siberia where their position will be much more difficult than before since they have parted with all their worldly goods. Some hundreds have been given visas for Germany and it is not believed that the German Government will be able to give the other thousands permission to enter Germany before it is clear that they would be able to emigrate. In Germany there is already a great deal of unemployment and difficult labour conditions.

If in the near future the colonists are forced to return to Siberia, as is threatened, it is now too late to do anything. But I presume that the Canadian Government should be made acquainted with the facts as mentioned in this report. Now that diplomatic relations between the British Empire and the Soviet Union will presumably be resumed in the near future, there will of course be nothing to prevent a representative of the Canadian Government coming here with authority to give visas, whilst at the same time the necessary preparations can be made amongst the Mennonites in Canada for the reception of these emigrants. In the case of the colonists who have returned to Siberia, or who are still there, emigration would perhaps most easily take place over Vladivostock to a Canadian port on the west coast.

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
au secrétaire aux Dominions*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary*

TELEGRAM 13

Ottawa, January 23, 1930

SECRET. Reference your telegram of 21st December, Secret, Circular B.211. The Canadian Government would appreciate particulars as to application of such Treaties with Soviet Union as are of general application or apply to individual Dominions.