



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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DIPLOMAT DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson has announced that the Department of External Affairs has today requested of the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that arrangements be made for the departure from Canada within 72 hours of Ho Xuan Dich, Second Secretary at the Vietnamese Embassy. Based on information provided by the RCMP Security Service, the Canadian Government has concluded that Mr. Ho, who has been identified as an intelligence officer, has engaged in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status, and he has, therefore, been declared persona non grata.

The Ambassador has been informed that the Canadian Government is aware that Mr. Ho has been interfering in the affairs of the Vietnamese community in Canada by attempting to apply pressure designed to influence the ideology and loyalties of landed immigrants and Vietnamese residents in Canada. Such action can only be considered an infringement both of the liberties of Canadians and Canadian residents of whatever origin to express political opinions, and of their freedom to engage in group activities without external political influences and pressures. Included in the pressures brought to bear by Mr. Ho has been the threat to retaliate against relatives still in Vietnam of Vietnamese residents in Canada. It has been made clear to the Vietnamese Ambassador that Canada will not tolerate interference by a foreign power in the exercise of individual rights of people resident in Canada.