

(iii) In order to ensure the fullest use of these Missions, if they are retained, there is called for in the Heads of Mission and officer staff rather special qualifications peculiar to the task, notably

- (a) a thorough understanding of Communism;
- (b) an analytical approach;
- (c) if possible, some acquaintance with an Eastern European language.

(iv) Some consideration should be given to cooperating more closely and systematically in the collection and sharing of information with the representatives of our North Atlantic allies in those countries, notably the United Kingdom, United States of America and perhaps France. This can be done by the regular consultation with other diplomats with perhaps a greater exchange of working papers, despatches, etc. at the posts.

(v) Occasional visits within the curtain countries to compare notes would be technically valuable. At longer intervals it is perhaps equally desirable that officers from our curtain missions visit their Canadian colleagues in such centres as Paris, Brussels and Rome. This has the added advantage of serving as a morale builder.

T.W.L. MACDERMOT

[PIÈCE JOINTE 2/ENCLOSURE 2]

Note

Memorandum

SECRET

[Ottawa], February 28, 1950

USEFULNESS OF IRON-CURTAIN MISSIONS

In your notes on the question of our maintaining missions in Eastern Europe you laid considerable stress on the missions' importance as training centres. I am in full agreement. In fact I think that the unique training they provide is one of the chief justifications for their maintenance. This aspect of the missions' usefulness has perhaps tended to be overlooked; furthermore it is not easy to turn it into an effective argument in making a public case for keeping the missions. But even if the training aspect may never be one of our main weapons of defence against public criticism I think it should assume a more prominent role in our Departmental deliberations.

The main elements in the missions' usefulness as training centres seem to me to be:

(1) We are engaged in world-wide resistance to Communism and Soviet imperialism, a life and death struggle which could suddenly pass from the present so-called "cold" stage into "shooting war". Surely no effort should be spared to ensure that Canada possesses a cadre of specialists who know the enemy as well as he can be known in present circumstances. Present circumstances do permit us to send people behind the "Curtain" and, in spite of all the restrictions and frustrations experienced there, I am convinced that the most accomplished, profound and intuitive "book student" of Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism and Soviet imperialism will correct, enrich and deepen his understanding of his subject by a sojourn at a mission in a