

complained about life in the United States and the problems of day-to-day living in New York City (his home was actually a sumptuous estate on Long Island's North Shore). He was finding life in New York unbearable. Everything he ate was canned or packaged. Even apples. He simply wasn't able to find a decent, fresh, edible apple.

"Mr. Wallace, himself a Mid-Western farmer and not inclined to take this aspersion lightly, replied: 'Well, you may not like our packaging of food, but people in the United States at least have a wider choice of food than in the Soviet Union.' He went on: 'Furthermore, we have an extensive trade in food products between the United States and Canada. Here, if you don't like an American apple, you can often buy some alternative sort from Canada.'

"Turning to General McNaughton, Mr. Wallace continued: 'General, can you suggest some Canadian apples which Mr. Gromyko might find more acceptable at this time of year? What are some of your favourite varieties up in Canada that Mr. Gromyko might try?'

"Without hesitation, the General replied crisply: 'MacIntosh Reds and Northern Spies.'

"The conversation, with the shadow of Igor Gouzenko hovering overhead, dropped like a lump of lead.

"When the General gave his account of the dinner the next morning at the Canadian Mission, he seemed preoccupied. He appeared concerned that, although his Reds and Spies blooper was quite spontaneous, he might have offended Gromyko. He wondered whether he should write a note of apology.

"George Ignatieff, himself of Russian origin, suggested to the General that he might have underestimated Gromyko's sense of humour. Mr. Gromyko might well have had a good laugh and regaled his own colleagues back at the Soviet Mission with the story.

"This satisfied the General, for the time being. Then, when he learned that Ignatieff had mentioned the episode to Under-Secretary 'Mike' Pearson on the telephone and that Mr. Pearson had in turn mentioned it at a press conference, the General sternly admonished his principal adviser with: 'Ignatieff, I don't like humour.'

"However future psycho-historians may seek to explain General McNaughton's vagaries with the English language, MacIntosh Reds and Northern Spies have become legendary fruits in the department of External Affairs."