

tested this illegal crossing of the border by the members of the Canadian Military Mission and expressed its conviction that measures would be taken by the Canadian authorities to prevent a recurrence of such actions in the future. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also informed the Embassy that, taking into consideration the Embassy's request, the Soviet authorities had given permission for Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon to leave for Poland.

3. After the release of these officers on November 23rd and their return to Berlin, a committee of senior officers of the Department was formed to investigate the circumstances surrounding this episode. On February 4th, on instructions from the Department, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Canadian Embassy in Moscow delivered a note to the Soviet Foreign Ministry in reply to the Ministry's note of November 23rd. The text of this note is attached. In presenting the note to the Soviet Foreign Ministry, the Chargé d'Affaires added orally that it was the intention of the Canadian Government to arrange for the transfer of Mr. Weld and Captain Clabon from the Canadian Military Mission in Berlin as soon as suitable replacements were available. He also stated that, although the Canadian Government appreciated that it had been informed without delay of the detention, and that the two telegrams from the detained officers had been delivered to the Embassy, the Canadian Government would have wished that the Soviet Government could have responded to the Embassy's requests for telephone communication and visiting facilities. It was stated in reply that the absence of telephone communication and the wilderness of the country made it difficult to meet the Embassy's requests.

4. It is a matter of good fortune that the episode was not developed by the Soviet Government as an attempt at espionage. The Soviet Government has always treated foreigners with suspicion, but lately even the most minor incident has been magnified and distorted into a pretext to accuse foreigners of unauthorized activities and to discredit them in the eyes of the Soviet people. It is hardly necessary, therefore, to impress upon the members of Canadian Missions the necessity of exercising extreme care and circumspection if they are travelling in Eastern Europe. While officers are usually aware of the special conditions which exist in Eastern Europe, it may not at times be realized that the smallest incident may have very wide repercussions and cause considerable embarrassment to the Canadian Government.

5. A member of a Canadian Mission should therefore not travel to any country of Eastern Europe in which there is a Canadian Mission without first, through his own Head of Mission, informing that Mission and securing its approval of his itinerary and other arrangements, and he should adhere strictly to his itinerary. These rules apply to the Soviet Zone of Germany, to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the U.S.S.R. He should not travel in the Soviet Zone of Austria, to Bulgaria, Roumania or Hungary without first securing the permission of his Head of Mission and of this Department.

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ESCOTT REID
for the Secretary of State
for External Affairs