

**GOUZENKO TRANSCRIPT:** On tabling on April 13, copies of the transcript of the interview between Mr. Igor Gouzenko and representatives of the United States Government the Minister of Justice, Mr. Garson, made the following comments to the House of Commons:

"... It will not be surprising to Members of the House that the transcript of Mr. Gouzenko's evidence at this January 4 meeting discloses very little (if indeed there is any) information not already available to the public. Of course it does not disclose any information of a security type not previously known to the Canadian and United States security authorities.

"I should explain that the reason why the transcript was not made public previously in view of the considerable interest shown in this meeting, was that the whole object of this meeting was to provide an opportunity to representatives of the United States Government to interview Mr. Gouzenko on matters pertaining to the internal security of the United States. It was therefore not considered appropriate for Canada to make the transcript public unless so requested by the United States Government, as it has now done."

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT:** In his introduction to the Annual Report of the Department of External Affairs Mr. L.B. Pearson stated:

"The year just past has seen some heartening achievements in the long struggle for peace and security. On the other hand it has brought into focus a number of new problems demanding solution. Moreover our very successes, to the extent that they have induced a welcome reduction in tension, have of course made it all the more necessary for the free peoples of the world to be on their guard, lest relaxation give rise to disunity or to complacency..."

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**DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION ABROAD:** During 1953, embassies were opened in Bogota (April 7), Djakarta (June 2), and in Madrid (December 10), a high commissioner's office in Colombo (August 13), and consulates general at Los Angeles (May) and Seattle (September), according to the Department of External Affairs Annual Report.

In addition, the opening of embassies in Montevideo and Tokyo and of a legation in Vienna, which had been announced in 1952, formally took place in the early part of 1953. The consulate general in Caracas and the legation in Berne were raised to the status of embassies on January 15 and May 12 respectively.

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Three naval vessels worth \$4,249,816 were completed in 1952 as compared with two valued at only \$330,803 in 1951.

**OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** The fourth annual report of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, tabled in the House of Commons by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, forecasts some unprecedented developments for expanding Canada's telecommunication facilities, with emphasis placed upon new and more efficient engineering techniques.

One of the major undertakings, a joint effort with United Kingdom and U.S.A., will be the construction and installation of a trans-Atlantic telephone cable which will be "the most important of recent developments in the telecommunication field". Mr. Bowie, the Corporation's President and General Manager, said that the completion of this project, scheduled for the end of 1956, will result in the provision of overseas telephone service equal in quality and efficiency to that to which we are accustomed within Canada.

Mr. Bowie, in referring to the profit for the year amounting to \$25,000 and showing a reduction of \$20,000 for comparable revenues in 1952, mentioned the possibility of an adjustment in overseas telegraph tariffs. He said that "the increasing cost of telegraph operations makes it apparent that some adjustment in rates cannot be much longer deferred"

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**DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE.** The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Governments of Canada and the Dominican Republic have agreed to exchange diplomatic missions.

A Consulate General of the Dominican Republic was established in Montreal in 1914, and another Consulate General was opened in Ottawa in 1945. A non-resident Canadian Government Trade Commissioner was accredited to the Dominican Republic in 1921, and in 1952, a Canadian Government Trade Commissioner's Office was opened in Ciudad Trujillo.

Canadian relations with the Dominican Republic have become of increasing importance in recent years, and it is now intended to establish, before the end of 1954, an Embassy of Canada at Ciudad Trujillo, and an Embassy of the Dominican Republic at Ottawa.

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**CHIEF OF AIR STAFF:** The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal C. Roy Slemmon, took off on April 20 from Montreal on a three-week overseas tour, Air Force headquarters announced today.

A/M Slemmon will visit RCAF stations in England, France and Germany, have discussions with Air Ministry officials, and tour a number of British aviation firms.

In Paris, he will participate with other NATO commanders in a SHAPE exercise from April 26 to 30.

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A record 147,304,000 barrels of oil flowed through pipe-lines last year, 37% more than in 1952, 67% more than in 1951.