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MR. MARTIN'S EUROPEAN TOUR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, returned to Canada recently after an official visit from November 4 to 16, to Poland, the U.S.S.R. and Italy. In his report to the House of Commons on November 17, in which he made special reference to discussions on Vietnam, Mr. Martin said: "Let me make it quite clear that I took with me to Warsaw and Moscow no simple, magic formula to bring about an end to the war.... I put forward Canadian views repeatedly in great detail and I explained forcefully, on the basis of our very intimate knowledge of the United States and its policies and on the basis of our abiding friendship for that country, why certain over-simplified suggestions which have been put forward from time to time for ending the war were not the most realistic way of moving towards a settlement...."

The following is a partial text of Mr. Martin's report:

...In both Poland and in the Soviet Union, I was cordially received. Their leaders listened to the Canadian views which I presented. We made progress on a number of bilateral matters. On some major international issues there was evidence of common interest. I should not, however, want to hide the fact that there is still a considerable distance between us in many important areas.

In all three countries my most extensive discussions were with the foreign ministers, but I also had the opportunity to meet and talk with many other leaders. In Poland I talked with Prime Minister Cyranciewicz and President Ochab. In the U.S.S.R., I talked with President Podgorny, Prime Minister

Kosygin, the First Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Polyansky and General Secretary Brezhnev. Finally, in Italy I was able to exchange views with President Saragat, Prime Minister Moro and Deputy Prime Minister Nenni.

POLAND

The Polish Government is desirous of setting the long-outstanding matter of the claims of certain Canadians arising out of post-war nationalization, and we expect to enter in the very near future into detailed negotiations to that end.

U.S.S.R.

We have agreed with the Soviet Union to enter into early negotiations for conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on cultural, scientific and technical exchanges, in order to ensure better reciprocity and to raise further the level of mutually beneficial exchanges between the two countries. We have also agreed on the opening of a Soviet consulate-general in Montreal to deal with the growing flow of trade and persons both ways. It was agreed that Canada has the right to open a comparable office in the U.S.S.R. whenever it wishes.

It is true, as news reports stated, that Mr. Gromyko raised with me the questions of the extradition of alleged "war criminals" and the so-called "anti-Soviet campaign" in Canada. I explained to him the Canadian law on the former subject, law designed to protect the individual against arbitrary action. On the latter, I made it clear that there was not and had not, as suggested, been any "anti-Soviet campaign"