

The Canadian party then withdrew again taking Danko with them. Later in the evening at about 10:30 p.m. the Air Attache returned to the Danko apartment bringing Danko and Vanier with him. There was at that time one uniformed policeman on the street but no one else in evidence.

A little later when the Air Attache descended from seeing Danko to his apartment on the fifth floor, he found a number of watchers, perhaps ten in all, tucked into various corners of the corridors. He then went to a nearby police station where he complained about this apparently hostile body of unidentified persons and asked for some police protection for Danko. The attitude of the police was uncooperative but they finally assured the Air Attache that some one would be immediately instructed to look into the matter.

However, by the next day, January 19, the number of un-uniformed watchers in Danko's apartment building had considerably increased.

Neither from their dress, words or actions did the individuals involved in these incidents appear to have any official authority. At no time was there any use or display of firearms. Neither of the Canadians ever carried arms.

During the forenoon of January 19 the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered to the Canadian Legation a note demanding that Danko and Vanier leave Czechoslovakia within 12 hours, on the ground that their behaviour represented an "abuse of hospitality".

So far as the Canadian staff in Prague is concerned, this incident was the climax of a series of steps taken by the Czech Government during the past few weeks. They were all aimed, without any well-founded reason, at embarrassing the normal routine and work of the Canadian Legation.

Last October, of two locally employed members of the Canadian Legation, themselves Czechs, one was suddenly arrested, the other denied permission to continue working with the Legation, both without good cause given.

Early in January Sergeant Danko was accused without a shadow of evidence of organizing espionage and of paying "considerable sums" for information. As was announced earlier, he was declared persona non grata and requested to leave Czechoslovakia "within a reasonable time".

This was followed by the incidents involving Sergeant Danko and Corporal Vanier recounted above. After reading the reports of the Canadian officials in Prague and hearing the account given by the two Canadian N.C.O.'s, the Canadian Government is convinced that the charges are false and that the interference with Danko and Vanier was deliberate.

On January 23 the Czech Charge d'Affaires in Ottawa was asked to call at the Department of External Affairs. Mr. Klima was then informed by the Under-Secretary that this interference with the Canadian staff in Prague was wholly unwarranted. He was requested to ascertain from his Government if it was their intention deliberately to embarrass the work of the Canadian Legation in Prague. No reply has been received to this inquiry.

In the circumstances, the Government approved yesterday the immediate despatch to the Czechoslovakian Charge d'Affaires in Ottawa of a note requiring that two members of the staff of the Legation leave Canada within seven days from the delivery of the note.

The two employees in question are Hugo Bohounek, clerk to the Commercial Attache, and Richard Bergmann, bookkeeper.