

GOVERNMENT



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The Department of External Affairs announced today that on September 11 it learned that Miss Ruth Comfort, daughter of Charles F. Comfort of Toronto, had been detained by the United States Immigration authorities when debarking on that day from the S.S. "VOLENDAM" at New York. Miss Comfort was in transit to her home in Toronto. She was a member of a party of Canadian students, who this summer attended a seminar in Holland, organized under the auspices of the International Students Service. Miss Comfort was released from detention on the morning of September 12.

As soon as the Department of External Affairs learned of Miss Comfort's detention, it made preliminary enquiries through the Canadian Consulate General in New York. As a result of these enquiries, the Canadian Ambassador in Washington was instructed to make a formal request through the United States Department of State for a statement from the United States Immigration authorities, acknowledging that Miss Comfort should not have been detained, that the mistake was regretted and that no derogatory information concerning her was in the possession of the United States Immigration authorities.

The representations of the Canadian Ambassador were made on September 22. On September 24, the United States Department of State handed to the Counsellor of the Canadian Embassy at Washington a memorandum, by which the United States Immigration Service acknowledged that Miss Comfort had been detained as the result of a most regrettable and unfortunate mistake and that there was no information in the files of the United States Immigration Service which would render her inadmissible should she apply for entry into the United States in the future.