



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

No: 9  
No.: 9

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: FEBRUARY 7, 1980

## EXPULSION OF CANADIAN DEFENCE ATTACHÉ IN MOSCOW

### CANADIAN RESPONSE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, announced today that in response to the Soviet expulsion of Colonel Harold Gold, the Canadian Defence Attaché in Moscow, the Canadian Government has reduced the official Soviet establishment in Canada by one position and has asked that one official from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa be withdrawn. Accordingly, Mr. V. F. Trofimov, a member of the commercial section, will be leaving Canada within a period of two weeks.

Flora MacDonald said the Canadian Government's action should not be construed as indicating that Mr. Trofimov was engaged in activities incompatible with his status in this country. The measures have been adopted solely in retaliation for the unwarranted expulsion of Colonel Gold and in keeping with the warning that was conveyed to the Soviet Ambassador by her on January 21 when discussing a further Canadian response to any Soviet retaliation for the expulsions announced on that date.

Flora MacDonald reiterated that Colonel Gold's expulsion could only have been made in direct retaliation for the withdrawal of the three Soviet officials whose expulsion she announced on January 21. At that time it was emphasized that the officials concerned had clearly engaged in activities incompatible with their status in Canada. This was not the case for Colonel Gold, whose activities were fully in accord with his position as Canadian Defence Attaché in Moscow. Therefore the Canadian Government regards his expulsion as completely unjustified.