

Soviet spies expelled

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, announced to the House of Commons on February 9 that, on his instructions, the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs had requested the Ambassador of the Soviet Union to "withdraw" 11 Soviet nationals from Canada for trying to penetrate the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Security Service. Two other Soviet nationals who were involved had already departed Canada and would not be allowed to return.

Nine of the persons named to leave Canada were employees of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, one was an official of the Soviet Trade Office, also in Ottawa and one was a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal.

Mr. Jamieson said that early last year, two Soviet intelligence officers approached a member of the RCMP and offered him an unlimited amount of money to spy for them. To discover the reason for the approach, the RCMP member (authorized by the RCMP) met with the principal Soviet agent, Igor P. Vartanian, First Secretary responsible for sports and cultural affairs, Soviet Embassy, Ottawa. He subsequently met with Mr. Vartanian seven times. The 12 other Soviet nationals were involved in various support functions, including transportation, counter-surveillance and observation activities.

Useless information

"The RCMP member was instructed by the agent to obtain information on such subjects as the methods the RCMP Security Service employed against Soviet intelligence services in Canada, character assessments of RCMP personnel and details regarding RCMP counter-espionage cases," explained Mr. Jamieson. "The RCMP member in return," he went on, "provided the Soviets with carefully screened non-sensitive information or completely fabricated material." The fact that the RCMP member was paid \$30,500 for information of no consequence was an indication of the importance the Soviet intelligence service attached to this operation, said Mr. Jamieson.

"The important point for the House to note," he emphasized, "is that this case has involved no compromise of Canada's security."

The External Affairs minister said the Canadian Government regretted that activities of this kind should take place when there were efforts under way to reduce the level of international tensions by overcoming mistrust and increasing confidence.

"Activities such as those I have disclosed to the House are contrary to that objective and represent a serious setback in our bilateral relations," stated Mr. Jamieson. "This incident and the action we have had to take today will inevitably place strains on our relations with the Soviet Union. Nevertheless the Canadian Government continues to attach importance to Canadian-Soviet relations and hopes the Soviet Government does likewise."

Canadian triumph at World Cup downhill race

Canadian skiers placed first and second in the World Cup downhill race in Chamonix, France on February 11. Ken Read of Calgary, Alberta finished the 3,563-metre Mont Blanc course in two minutes, 08.11 seconds, just sixteen-hundredths of a second faster than Dave Murray of Abbotsford, British Columbia.

It was the biggest Canadian victory in any race since the World Cup series began in 1967 and was Read's second World Cup win (his first was in December 1975 at Val d'Isère, France).

Crediting their good fortune to aggressive training and a change of skis (from No. 2, favoured by many of the World Cup participants, to No. 5, which run better in cold weather), Read called the victory "an incredible finish to the European tour".

Plans for summer jobs

Minister of Employment and Immigration, Bud Cullen, recently announced a \$96.2-million interdepartmental program for students which will create an estimated 60,000 summer jobs in addition to placing more than 250,000 young Canadians in positions in private industry.

Previously known as the Student Summer Employment and Activities Program, it will become the Canada Summer Youth Employment Program. Ten federal departments, overseen by the Employment and

Immigration Commission, will offer employment opportunities in various fields such as tourism in Canada's national parks; wildlife and fish resource management; human biology; health care organization and public legal education.

As in past years, the Employment and Immigration Commission will be operating about 300 special Canada manpower centres for students to help place students in both private and public sector jobs. Last year officers from the centres made over 125,000 visits to employers to encourage them to hire students.

"Despite this major program, we are still relying on the private sector to provide the largest number of summer jobs for students," Mr. Cullen said. "Organizations like the chambers of commerce and boards of trade have been very helpful in the past by encouraging their members to hire students through our employment centres.

"But it is also important that students work hard at finding their own jobs. They must be flexible enough in accepting the kind of jobs available to them."

More refugees accepted

Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen announced recently that, starting last month, Canada would accept 50 families of Vietnamese "small boat" refugees each month from Southeast Asian countries.

The Minister recalled that last August Canada had agreed to accept 450 "small boat" refugees, in addition to the 6,700 Indochinese refugees admitted since the special movement from Southeast Asia began in May 1975. Most of the 450 have now been selected. The new undertaking to accept 50 families a month will be reviewed periodically in the light of circumstances affecting this movement of refugees from Vietnam.

Jacques Couture, Quebec's Immigration Minister, has already agreed to participate in the selection and settlement in Quebec of 30 per cent of these refugees. Since May 1975, about 70 per cent of the Vietnamese refugees admitted to Canada, many of whom speak French, have chosen to settle there.

Mr. Cullen stressed that, given current economic conditions in Canada, a particular effort would be made to select those refugees who were in a position to settle quickly and successfully in this country.