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*Note de la Direction européenne
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from European Division
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

SECRET

[Ottawa], October 23, 1948

I attach a memorandum, dated October 23rd, which deals with reciprocity of privileges between Canada and the Soviet Union and its satellites.† The memorandum is divided into four sections, on

Reciprocity in the realm of publicity

Reciprocity in the realm of travel

Factors involved in a decrease in the status or size of our missions in Eastern Europe or in a withdrawal of representatives altogether

Conclusions and ultimate factors involved in all three of the above problems.

2. I regret that the memorandum is so long, but on a subject as important and complex as this, it was felt that you might wish to have all the facts.

3. A meeting was held on October 20th to discuss these problems. Mr. Measures, Mr. Rae, Mr. George, Mr. Erichsen-Brown, Mr. Mayrand and Mr. Wallis were present. The views expressed have been incorporated into the memorandum. Economic, Consular, and Legal Divisions have also contributed information on the questions for which they are responsible.

4. The memorandum attempts merely to give the factors involved in each alternative course of action with respect to each of the three problems. At the meeting, however, views were expressed on the merits of the alternatives.

5. With regard to publicity, it was felt that we should not try to circulate an information bulletin in the U.S.S.R. at the present time. We could take on publicity work in Yugoslavia and Poland, and probably in Czechoslovakia, *provided* the necessary staff (a responsible officer and translators) were made available. The Eastern European states, however, would be likely to make it difficult for us to give publicity to any political material. If we were to find that our bulletins were restricted to mere domestic news, we would have to decide whether to continue our publicity under those limitations, or discontinue it and ban the Communist bulletins in Canada. In the case of the U.S.S.R., we could decide to ban their propaganda by presenting them with publicity demands which they would refuse to accept and then retaliate by banning their bulletins. The Legal view was that we could find ways and means of putting the ban into effect. It was felt that we might get the benefit of the experience of the United Kingdom and United States, and also ask our missions in the Soviet Union and its satellites for their comments.

6. With regard to travel, it was felt that the Soviet restrictions do not prevent the Embassy from performing the work which it has performed in the past, since the Embassy's troubles stem from the totalitarian nature of the Soviet system in general, rather than from any particular restrictions. A ban on Soviet travel here would not seriously impede the Soviet Embassy, but it would, of course, be annoying. It