

I think that it is too late to consider the issue of a public statement emphasizing the voluntary nature of registration as Soviet citizens by persons in Canada. It appears that the registration has been completed in Montreal, Toronto, Fort William, Winnipeg and Edmonton, and it may have been completed already in the other two cities in which it was contemplated which are Windsor and Vancouver. When the statement was suggested, registration had been undertaken only in Toronto and was just beginning in other cities.

So far we have not received any complaints of substance about the conduct of the registration. Certain pro-Soviet elements in the Ukrainian community may have brought pressure to bear on their compatriots to register but there has been no allegation of improper conduct on the part of the Soviet officials conducting the registration. It is quite a normal practice for consular officers to establish registers of their nationals in the countries in which they are serving although this particular registration has the unusual feature that it applies only to persons who came to Canada as Poles but are now apparently in the eyes of both the Polish and the Soviet Governments without citizenship in either state unless they voluntarily choose to become Soviet citizens. The matter was discussed several times informally with the Soviet Embassy and this may have had some effect towards ensuring that the conduct of the registration officers was correct.

Unless, therefore, abuses come to light of which we are still unaware, my view is that we should let the matter rest.¹⁰⁰

[HUME WRONG]

1243.

DEA/N-1

Mémorandum du sous-secrétaire d'État associé aux Affaires extérieures
Memorandum by Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs

TOP SECRET

[Ottawa,] December 3, 1945

There was a discussion of the action to be taken in the Corby Case in the Prime Minister's Office this morning, attended by the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, Commissioner Wood¹⁰¹ and Messrs. Robertson and Wrong. The Soviet Ambassador has been urgently seeking an appointment with the Prime Minister before his departure for Moscow, now timed for tomorrow morning, and it had been arranged that the Ambassador should see the Prime Minister this afternoon.

At an earlier discussion on December 1st, the Prime Minister had expressed the view that he should send a message to Stalin via the Ambassador on the revelations made by Corby, requesting an ending of these Soviet activities in Canada. At that time it looked as though the United States investigation into

¹⁰⁰Note marginale:/Marginal note:

I agree. W. L. M. K[ing] 2-12-45.

¹⁰¹S. T. Wood, commissaire, Gendarmerie royale du Canada.

S. T. Wood, Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.