

On October 29, 1953, the State Department passed on to the Canadian Embassy a request from the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee for an interview with Mr. Igor Gouzenko. The Committee was apparently under the impression that Mr. Gouzenko had evidence of Soviet espionage in the United States additional to that which he had given the Royal Commission in 1946. The Canadian Government consented to make arrangements for a confidential meeting, under Canadian auspices, at which any person designated by the United States Government could be present. The meeting took place in Canada on January 4; Chief Justice McRuer of the High Court of Ontario presided. The United States Government designated its ambassador, Mr. Douglas Stuart, and Senators William E. Jenner and Patrick A. McCarran. Canadian representatives were provided by the Department of External Affairs, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Attorney General of Canada. The evidence given by Mr. Gouzenko, which was not in fact materially different from what he had given in 1946, was transmitted to the United States Government on January 25, and tabled in the House of Commons on April 14.

The principal developments during the past year with respect to Canada—United States defence arrangements have been related to the measures adopted by the two governments to provide a comprehensive jointly-operated system for warning of the approach of hostile aircraft and for the control of interceptor aircraft. The system will consist of four main elements, namely: the main control and warning radar installations in the populated part of Canada (the jointly operated Pinetree network) and in the United States, which are now in operation; a warning line north of the settled areas of Canada (the Mid-Canada Line) being built by Canada; a warning line across the most northerly practicable part of North America (the Distant Early Warning Line), construction of which is to be the responsibility of the United States, although Canada will participate in the project; and portions of the complete warning and control system in Canada to be extended to seaward on both flanks of the continent by the United States.

2. Latin America

Two new missions, one in Haiti and the other in the Dominican Republic, were opened during the year, the Canadian Ambassador to Cuba being accredited as well to both these countries. There are now eleven Canadian diplomatic missions in Latin America.

Canada sent observers to a number of inter-American meetings of the technical agencies of the Organization of American States and of independent inter-American organizations. The tenth Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States, held at Caracas, Venezuela, in March, decided that the discussion of major economic problems would be deferred to a special meeting called by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council at Rio de Janeiro in November. Canada accepted an invitation extended by the President of the Council and by the Government of Brazil (as host country) to be represented at the conference by an observer. Mr. S. D. Pierce, Canadian Ambassador to Brazil, represented the Government at the conference, which opened on November 22 at Petropolis and concluded on December 2.