

impart, and seemed very anxious that full publicity should be given to the statement which he was making. He claimed that his purpose was to let the Canadian people know of a situation about which he felt they should know. I understand that though his story seemed fantastic he was told—as he had documents with him—that he should go and see the mounted police, that if he had information of this kind they were the persons he should see.

He went back to his house that night. Next morning he came to the office of the Minister of Justice. Not seeing the Minister of Justice he then left for other parts. He had his wife and little child with him. During the course of the day—I need not relate all his movements—he visited the office of the crown prosecutor in the city and spoke there about his situation, again wishing to give publicity to the information that he had. During the afternoon he left his little child with a neighbour to be cared for, while he and his wife sought to meet others and discuss the situation with them. Then, at night, he went to his home, and when he was there he asked immediate neighbours, a gentleman and his wife, if they would be kind enough to look after his little child; that he was very fearful that something might happen to him that night, that he felt that by this time it would have been discovered that he had left the embassy and had taken with him certain papers which were of significance, and that he might expect to be killed in the course of the evening unless he got protection. The persons in whom he confided his situation took him into their apartment along with the little child and had them all stay in one of the rooms. Meantime the gentleman whose apartment it was, seeing the fear and the dread which he had, went to the city police and told them of the situation and asked that protection should be given to him. Arrangements were made with the police to be in the near vicinity lest there should be any incidents.

About midnight there was an incident. His apartment was entered by four persons—I believe he maintains that it was broken into. At any rate, the four persons who entered the apartment were from the Russian embassy or connected with it. The city police wanted to know from them just why they were there. They claimed immunity, being members of the embassy. No arrests were made. They were allowed to return to the embassy. In the meantime, Gouzenko had been safe, secreted as he was in the other apartment. Later in the evening another visit was made to his apartment, but nothing came of it and Gouzenko asked the city police if they

could put him in contact with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He said that he had information which he thought was of importance to Canada and, indeed, to his own country if it could be disclosed, and that he would like to give this information to the government through the police.

He was promised that he would be taken to the mounted police where he could tell his story. Later in the morning he was taken to the mounted police, and he gave a full statement, producing the documents that he had in his possession, and asked for protection for his life and the lives of his wife and little child. They were given protection by the police.

The documents were then very carefully studied together with other information he gave.

Let me repeat, from the outset I felt that the situation with which we were confronted was one that could not be viewed too circumspectly. I felt we must make sure what type of person Gouzenko was, and what the motive was that prompted his action. I have come to the conclusion, from the statement which he gave to the police, that his motives were just as he himself described them, a desire to expose a condition which he thought was intolerable and which was likely to work injury to our country and to his own country as well. To the police he made a very careful statement in which he said that he had been in Canada for a couple of years, had been immensely surprised when he came here to see the freedom of the people, the way in which democratic institutions worked in this country. He said that he had been very greatly impressed with the way in which general elections were conducted, the different political parties speaking freely in the open, having candidates who opposed one another and the like. It impressed him deeply in contrast with what he had seen in his own country. He said he felt that, having witnessed for two years what this country was doing to assist its ally with munitions, money and food, and in every other way, and at the same time affording to himself and to others every facility that could be extended in the way of freedom, he could not stand it very much longer, and he had made up his mind that, regardless of what the consequences might be, even if it were life itself, he owed it to the people of this country and to his own people to reveal the condition of affairs as he had come to know it at first hand. And having made up his mind in this way, he then began to gather some of the documents which he felt would be absolutely convincing in themselves if made public.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]