

Questions

places beyond a radius of 50 kilometres from Moscow, and most localities within that area. The list of places includes the Soviet Socialist republics of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Finno-Karelia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenia, Uzbekia, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Kazakstan, and most of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, including Kiev and Minsk, the capitals of the two latter republics, which are, it will be recalled, members of the United Nations.

Some areas still remain accessible to foreign diplomats on condition that advance information about the proposed journey is given to the Soviet foreign ministry. Since the Soviet order was issued some members of the staff of the Canadian embassy in Moscow have been permitted to travel to Yaroslavl and Rybinsk, Kuibishev and Stalingrad.

This seems to be the only formal restriction placed by the Soviet authorities on our diplomats in Moscow but many Soviet administrative requirements, which are unobjectionable in principle, are applied in a restrictive and hampering fashion.

There are also restrictions placed on Soviet citizens in their dealings with all foreigners, including diplomats, such as the decree of December 18, 1947, regulating the relations between Soviet officials and foreigners.

Finally the hostile attitude of the Soviet government and the Soviet press has had the effect of convincing the citizens of the U.S.S.R., with few exceptions, that association with foreigners is dangerous, and hence the usual contacts of diplomats with ordinary people, and even Soviet officials, are greatly restricted.

RESTRICTIONS ON CANADIANS WITH DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Mr. Adamson:

1. How many Canadians are at the present time employed with diplomatic status in each of the following countries: (a) Hungary; (b) Bulgaria; (c) Albania; (d) Roumania; (e) Czechoslovakia; (f) Poland; (g) Yugoslavia?
2. What restrictions are placed on them?

Mr. Pearson:

1. (a) Nil; (b) nil; (c) nil; (d) nil; (e) three; (f) three (g) three.
2. No formal restrictions are placed on our diplomats in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. But the same considerations mentioned with regard to the U.S.S.R. also apply in varying degrees to Czechoslovakia and Poland. It is not so much a question of carefully spelled out restrictions on our diplomats, as a general campaign by the governments of Poland and Czechoslovakia among their peoples to make it unhealthy for them to

[Mr. Pearson.]

associate with foreigners. For example, the expulsion by the Czechoslovak government of two non-diplomatic members of the air attaché's staff in Prague was apparently motivated by a desire to get rid of two foreigners who had built up over two years a small circle of Czech friends.

So far our diplomats have escaped the more drastic treatment which has been recently meted out to some other representatives of the western powers in the satellite countries, but there has been pressure on our locally-employed staff in Czechoslovakia. One Czech clerk at the Canadian legation in Prague failed to report for work one day. All that has been learned of him since then was that he had been "detained by the police" and that he was in the local prison where political offenders are usually held. Another Czech clerk was refused a permit to continue working at the legation.

The cumulative effect is, of course, to isolate the western diplomatic missions from contact with the peoples of the countries where they are stationed, and to restrict very considerably the normal functioning of a diplomatic mission.

CANADIAN TRADE OR CULTURAL AGENCIES IN CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Mr. Adamson:

Are there any Canadian trade or cultural organizations operating in any of the following countries: (a) U.S.S.R.; (b) Hungary; (c) Bulgaria; (d) Albania; (e) Czechoslovakia; (f) Poland; (g) Yugoslavia?

Mr. Pearson: Canada maintains diplomatic missions in the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. These missions have, among their other duties, the task of trying to develop trade and cultural relations in so far as this is possible in existing conditions with the countries where they are located. Canada does not maintain any missions in Hungary, Bulgaria and Albania.

PRAIRIE FARM REHABILITATION—SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA—FLOOD PREVENTION AND RECLAMATION

Mr. Wright:

1. Have any surveys been made by P.F.R.A. along the Saskatchewan or Carrot rivers in northeastern Saskatchewan or northwestern Manitoba, with a view to preventing flooding or reclaiming flooded land in these areas?
2. If so, what reports or recommendations to the government were made, as a result of these surveys?
3. If not, will the government give consideration to having this work done?

Mr. McCubbin:

1. Yes, with a view to determining whether land can be reclaimed or flooding prevented.
2. Surveys not yet completed.
3. See answers to Nos. 1 and 2.