

Canada's response to Polish situation

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan announced February 23 that in view of the repression of civil liberties in Poland and continuing contravention of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Canadian government has decided to take the following measures to demonstrate its concern to the Polish and Soviet authorities:

- the program of Canadian-Polish academic exchanges is being suspended;
- in reciprocity for the restrictions on the movements of Canadian diplomats in Warsaw, Canada is placing restrictions on representatives of the Polish government in Canada;
- with other like-minded countries, Canada will support initiatives within international organizations such as the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to promote respect for the basic rights of the Polish people; and
- Canada will continue to make known its concerns over the situation in Poland to Polish and Soviet authorities.

Concerning economic measures, Canada, in support of the general alliance position, has decided:

- to extend no new commercial credits for goods other than food to Poland for the time being;
- to support a delay in holding negotiations on rescheduling repayments of Poland's official debts due in 1982; and
- to restrict scheduled traffic of Polish Airlines to the present frequency of two flights a week.

The Canadian government views the continued interruption of communications with its embassy in Warsaw, through normal means, as being in contravention of obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations to facilitate operations of diplomatic missions. Although commercial telex service has resumed, the Canadian government again calls for the immediate restoration of normal leased circuit communications with the embassy.

Further measures

Canada believes the Soviet government must be made aware of the concern it shares with other members of the alliance over the Soviet attitude towards developments in Poland. The government has therefore decided to implement the following measures with respect to the Soviet Union:

- proposals for high level official contacts will be reviewed to determine whether, in the present political climate, they should proceed;
- anticipated negotiations on a program of general exchanges in the areas of science, education and culture will be postponed. The government has also decided to delay the proposed meeting of the Mixed Economic Commission; and
- Aeroflot will be limited to its present traffic frequency of two flights a week.

The government regrets having to implement these measures which parallel in general terms those being introduced by Canada's western allies. Canada will continue to encourage an atmosphere in which the Polish people are allowed to solve their own problems. The measures adopted by the Canadian government reflect Canada's concern that the political and moral commitments freely made by Poland and the Soviet Union under the Helsinki Final Act to other states participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe are not being observed. Under the Helsinki Final Act, the participating states accepted review by one another of the degree and extent of their fulfilment of internationally recognized standards of behaviour. Canada's action here is consistent with this understanding.

At the same time, Canada will continue to assist the Polish people in those ways that offer promise of encouraging a return to renewal and reform within their country. Canada will also supply credit to permit Poland to continue to purchase grain under the terms of the present long-term grain agreement. While Canada is already one of Poland's largest official creditors, the government considers that the supply of food for use by the Polish people is essential at this time.

In addition, Canada has contributed \$500,000 to an international appeal launched by the Red Cross to provide medical supplies, food and clothing to the Polish people and has contributed \$100,000 to support relief efforts of the Canadian Polish Congress. Further contributions of this kind are anticipated.

Concerning refugees, Canada's record is exemplary. The government will continue to support initiatives to resettle additional refugees in Canada as part of an international effort to respond to this problem.

Canada again calls upon the Polish leadership for an act of national reconciliation to allow its people to pursue their own destiny and to permit Poland

once again to take its place as a respected member of the international community.

The Canadian government urges the Polish government to live up to its declared intention to re-establish civil liberties and calls upon the Polish authorities to end the state of martial law, to release those arrested, and to restore immediately a dialogue with the Church and Solidarity.

Terminology link with France

Canada recently installed a terminal in the cultural centre of the Canadian embassy in Paris that will allow information and terminology exchanges between the Canadian government's translation bureau in Ottawa and national and international translation agencies in Europe.



Mr. Fox (right) and Mr. Chevènement talk at inauguration of system.

The first permanent transatlantic connection with the Canadian terminology bank was inaugurated in Paris by Canadian Communications Minister Francis Fox. French Minister of Communications Georges Fillioud and French Minister of State for Research and Technology Jean-Pierre Chevènement also attended the opening ceremony along with Canada's Ambassador to France Michel Dupuy.

The Canadian government has developed a computerized bank of terminological data that will provide scientific and other information to the French-speaking world.

The terminological link was a cooperative project of the Canadian Secretary of State, the Department of Communications and the Department of External Affairs. The project is a follow-up to the recent tenth session of the Canada-France joint cultural commission held in Ottawa in December.