

1

PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Word has been received from the Canadian Charge d'Affaires in Prague that the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs has demanded that Sergeunt R. W. Danko and Corporal J, G. Vanier of the Staff of the Canadian Air Attache in Prague leave Czechoslovakia "within twelve hours". The Ministry has made certain charges against these two men without producing any supporting evidence, and has declared them to be persona non grata.

This incident is apparently part of deliberate policy in certain of the satellite countries where members of the staffs of Western diplomatic missions have been subjected to baseless accusations, followed by demands for their expulsion.

The Government has under active consideration the appropriate steps to be taken in the circumstances. Meanwhile, Sergeant Danko and Corporal Vanier have been recalled to Canada and have now left Czechoslovakia. Their personal reports will be made immediately they arrive.