

It would have in fact been somewhat surprising if this information had been sent by a source high in the Canadian Government, because in the report of Mr. Hoover of the FBI, which I have mentioned, he stated that this Canadian source on the one hand stated that Canadian delegates to the International Monetary Fund might nominate and support Mr. White for the office of President—he must have meant Executive Director of the Fund—while on the other hand he said the source had passed on Canadian warnings about White's unfitness on loyalty grounds to hold the post.

While this information, then, did not come from any source in the Canadian Government, this non-Canadian source did tell the FBI that his message concerning this matter had the blessing of one or two RCMP security officials with whom it was discussed.

All Possible Done to Secure Facts

We have done everything possible . . . to secure the facts on this matter, which include sending a request, to which there has been no reply as yet, to Washington, for the identity of the Canadian source referred to. This we hoped would have provided a quick and easy way of solving the problem. To the best of our knowledge this security liaison officer in Ottawa—not a Canadian—is the source referred to in Mr. Hoover's letter as an official high in the service of the Canadian Government. And I should add that this informal message, coming as it did from Ottawa with considerable urgency, might well have been passed on to Mr. Hoover as a Canadian communication, although in fact it was not such.

I should also say for the record that, contrary to statements referred to in Mr. Hoover's letter, at no time did the Canadian Government contemplate instructing the Canadian Government delegation to support, much less nominate, Mr. White for any post in the International Monetary Fund, or in any other organization.

It seems clear that, in the stress and tension of the moment—and it was a tense and difficult time in Ottawa for

security officials, the author of this telegram must have misunderstood the details of information which he had received from some quarter regarding the prospective appointment in the International Monetary Fund. I find it easy to understand and sympathize with that mistake.

The House may remember the circumstances under which such matters were being dealt with at that particular time. Mr. Gouzenko was being examined in secret in Ottawa, and a distinct but equally important case was being investigated in equal secrecy in Washington, with telegrams and messages about both cases being exchanged between those responsible for security.

It seems clear that the errors in Mr. Hoover's letter concerning the alleged attitude of the Canadian Government toward the appointment of Mr. White to a high office in the International Monetary Fund or the International Bank were based upon mistakes originally made in Ottawa in this message from an allied security officer. I must also make it quite clear that this was not a communication in any sense from one government to another. During the war the closest personal working relations developed between the officials of allied countries and it was quite common for responsible persons to communicate informally with each other within their general terms of reference.

The message sent from Ottawa was such a communication, a perfectly proper one, even though inaccurate in one policy point.

Record Set Straight

Setting the record straight in such detail on this matter has seemed to be necessary to correct the misleading impression caused by uninformed speculations about some alleged high Canadian governmental source apparently being in a position at that time to warn the United States Government, on the basis of Canadian intelligence, against some supposed intention of his own government regarding Mr. White.

This statement . . . and the action which we have now been called to take,

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