

employees of departments and agencies of the dominion government and from an employee of the office of the high commissioner for the United Kingdom in Canada. The evidence reveals that these operations were carried on by certain members of the staff of the Soviet embassy at Ottawa under direct instructions from Moscow. The person directly in charge of these operations was Colonel Zabotin, military attaché of the embassy, who had as his active assistants in this work Lieutenant-Colonel Motinov, chief assistant military attaché, Lieutenant-Colonel Rogov, assistant military attaché air, Major Sokolov, of the staff of the commercial counsellor of the embassy, Lieutenant Angelov, one of the secretaries of the military attaché as well as other members of the staff of the military attaché, all of whom, as well as the agents whom they employed in the pursuance of their activities, were, in the interests of secrecy, known by under-cover names.

In the next paragraph will be found the following:

We have had before us a former employee of the Russian embassy at Ottawa, Igor Gouzenko, the cipher clerk of the military attaché, who has described this organization and its functioning, and who has produced original documents, the authenticity of which we accept.

I need scarcely say that these paragraphs describe as serious a situation as has existed in Canada at any time. If the house has had to wait some little time for the information which I intend to give it this evening, it is because the government have been only too conscious of how serious this situation is and how far-reaching its repercussions may be.

Perhaps I cannot better take the house into my confidence than to begin with an account of how I personally became informed of this situation and how the government became aware of it. Hon. members perhaps recall that when the first session of this house opened on the 6th of September last we met in the morning to choose a Speaker and the proceedings were to begin at eleven o'clock. Hon. members may have noticed that at that time the house was kept waiting, for a few minutes at least, before I found it possible to come in. What had happened was this—I was informed that morning by the under-secretary of state for external affairs that a young man from the Russian embassy had been to the office of the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) asking to see the Minister of Justice. He said that he had most important information to impart to the government, that it disclosed a situation which threatened very seriously conditions in Canada, that it was an extremely serious situation and that he wished to warn the Canadian people with respect to it. He said that he had in his possession documents which would make wholly clear what he was saying and he wished these documents to be in the possession of the government. He said that he had

taken these documents from the vaults of the Russian embassy and also from among papers which he had collected over a short time with a view of making the disclosure which he now wanted to make.

I was asked what should be done in these circumstances. I replied that I thought this was a case where we could not be too careful or too cautious; that this man represented that he had come from the Russian embassy; that we could not say whether the documents he had in his possession were fabrications or not; that we did not know what his own state of mind might be, or how responsible he was; that we knew nothing of the circumstances which had caused him to leave the embassy and come to the government and that I thought he should be told to go back to the embassy with the papers he had in his possession.

He had been anxious to see the Minister of Justice. He had not seen the Minister of Justice. He told his story to the secretary of the Minister of Justice, who gave a full account to the under-secretary of state for external affairs, and he gave me the particulars which I have just mentioned.

What I felt most important was to see that nothing should be done which would cause the Russian embassy to believe that Canada had the least suspicion of anything which was taking place there, or which could be regarded by them as unexpected in the circumstances.

This advice was given to the man who came, whose name has been given in the commission report—Igor Gouzenko. He was a cipher clerk in the Russian embassy. He had been in the embassy in Ottawa here for some two years, associated with the military attaché. Prior to those two years he had been for a couple of years in the secret service in the U.S.S.R. He had been trained particularly in ciphering and deciphering messages. That, he claimed, was how he had got possession of the documents to which I have referred.

Perhaps at this point I should indicate what I subsequently learned about Gouzenko's movements. Apparently he left the embassy around six-thirty in the evening of the day prior to the one at which he went to call at the office of the Minister of Justice. He left with the papers in his possession and went from the embassy to one of the newspaper offices in this city. It was to the *Journal* that he went and told his story to one of the persons whom he found in the office. He wanted to see the editor. The editor was not present; but, I am told, he gave a fairly full account of what he believed the people of Canada should know, what he wished to