

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

HOLD FOR RELEASE
TILL 12.00 NOON EST, APRIL 2, 1949.

NO. 20

April 2, 1949.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the United Kingdom Legations in Budapest, Bucharest and Sofia on April 2 presented to the Hungarian, Roumanian and Bulgarian Governments notes of protest concerning violations of clauses of the Peace Treaties with these countries which provide for the protection of human rights.

The Canadian Government is formally associated with the United Kingdom protests to Hungary and Roumania. After presenting the note in Bulgaria the United Kingdom representative informed the Bulgarian Government that the Canadian Government had requested that the Bulgarian Government be informed that the Canadian views were identical with those of the United Kingdom.

The relevant Article of the Treaty of Peace with Hungary is Article 2 which reads as follows:

"1. Hungary shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under Hungarian jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion and of public meeting.

"2. Hungary further undertakes that the laws in force in Hungary shall not, either in their content or in their application, discriminate or entail any discrimination between persons of Hungarian nationality on the ground of their race, sex, language or religion, whether in reference to their persons, property, business, professional or financial interests, status, political or civil rights or any other matter."

Article 3 of the Treaty of Peace with Roumania and Article 2 of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria are similar in content.

In its notes the United Kingdom Government states that as a party to the Treaty of Peace which entered into force on September 15, 1947, His Majesty's Government have kept a close watch on the actions of these three governments in relation to the provisions of those articles and have concluded with regret that the governments have deliberately and systematically denied to their people the exercise of the very rights and freedoms which they had pledged to secure under the Treaties.

Freedom of life and liberty, of political opinion, of expression and of religious worship is denied to those who are not of the same opinion as the governments.

/The.....

The United Kingdom Government mentions specifically the prejudice and improperly conducted trials of religious leaders in Hungary, the sentence to life imprisonment of Iuliu Maniu, President of the National Peasant Party in Roumania, the persecution of the Greek Catholic (Uniate) Church in Roumania and the trials of the fifteen protestant pastors in Bulgaria.

The United Kingdom Government states that it considers that the three governments have repeatedly violated and continue to violate the provisions of the Treaties of Peace relating to human rights. They accordingly call upon the three governments to adopt prompt remedial measures in respect of these violations.
