

Text of Czech Note of January 18, 1950

(This English translation was attached to the Czech note)

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 103.220/50-A-V-1.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Canadian Legation and begs to advise the following:

In the afternoon of the 17th of this month the employee of the Canadian Legation, W. Danko, abused of the temporary hospitality which the Ministry had intended to grant him until the 20th of this month, according to the Ministry's note No. 100.392/50-A/IV-1 of January 6, 1950. Danko arrived by car in front of the apartment house where he lives, Prague II, Nekazanka, accompanied by his wife and two unknown men. Together with them he attacked the Czechoslovak Security Organs who were guarding the apartment house and demanded that they should identify themselves. When they had done so the Czechoslovak Security Organs requested that Danko and the others should also identify themselves; Danko endangered them by the threat of shooting as he had his hand in his coat-pocket and in this way was clearly showing that he had a fire-arm. The Czechoslovak Security Organs did not answer the threat and did not insist on his identification, as they had recognized him and identified him anyway.

Moreover in the evening of the same day approximately at 9 p.m. four women and five men left Danko's apartment. Among them Danko and another member of the Canadian Legation, Mr. P. Vanier, were identified. The Czechoslovak Security Organs approached them and requested them to identify themselves. At that moment Vanier stepped towards one of the members of the Czechoslovak Security Organs, throw him violently onto the ground, tore up his coat and kicked him. Then Vanier asked one of his company to lend him a pistol, which the latter refused to do. From Vanier's behaviour it was quite clear that he intended to use the fire-arm against the Czechoslovak Security Organs.

The Security Organs as they had identified Vanier and as the other persons present had not actively participated in the attack, refrained from sharp action, so as not to be obliged to use fire-arms in the case of a deterioration of the incident. The company took advantage of this responsible conduct of the Czechoslovak Security Organs in order to enter the cars No. P-32184 belonging to Danko, No. P-32323 belonging to Vanier, and No. P-13454 belonging to the Canadian Legation, and drove away.

This unheard of behaviour on the part of employees of diplomatic missions represents a most serious abuse of the hospitality granted to these employees by the Czechoslovak Republic. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs protests most emphatically against such proceedings and the behaviour of the mentioned employees and demands:

1) That Mr. Vanier should leave the territory of the Czechoslovak Republic within 12 hours of the time of the delivery of this note.

2) That Mr. Danko, who according to the note No. 100.392/-50-A/IV-1 of January 6, 1950 was expelled from Czechoslovakia, should also leave the territory of the Czechoslovak Republic within 12 hours of the time of the delivery of this note, as in consideration of his behaviour, it is impossible to allow him to remain on Czechoslovak territory for the period which had been the intent of the above mentioned note.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself even of this opportunity to assure the Canadian Legation of its consideration.

Praha, January 18, 1950.