

Lawyer Reveals Letter to Client Seized by RCMP

Ottawa, March 8 (CP).—A. W. Beament, K.C., counsel for one of the persons detained at Rockcliffe RCMP barracks in connection with the espionage investigation, tonight issued a statement protesting that he was prevented from getting instruction from his client as to how to handle the case.

He also released the text of a letter to his client which he said had been impounded by counsel for the Royal Commission. Assistant Commissioner Royal Gagnon of the RCMP had told him the letter would not be delivered.

Text of the letter, from which names were deleted by Mr. Beament, follows:

"As you have been informed by your wife, she has been consulting me with regard to your detention and a number of matters incidental thereto. As, no doubt, this letter will be censored, if you are permitted to receive it at all, I do not feel that I can discuss my views with you in it. I have, of course, been able to discuss them fully with Mrs. —

"The question of applying for a writ of habeas corpus is always to the forefront of any consideration of your case. Would you be good enough to let me know whether, providing your wife agrees and so instructs me, you are willing that I should take proceedings by way of habeas corpus or any related proceedings which appear advisable?"

"Goes Beyond Necessity"

Mr. Beament declared in his statement to the press: "It seems to me that a refusal to permit the detained person to delegate his wife to instruct counsel on his behalf goes far beyond any legitimate necessity."

The barrister said that reports attributed to officials had appeared

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in the press indicating that if the persons detained felt that they had any rights they should take the matter to the courts.

Mr. Beament said he had written to F. P. Varcoe, Deputy Justice Minister, pointing out the gist of the reports. He said he told Mr. Varcoe:

"I desire to point out that the request contained in my letter was simply that Mr. — should authorize me to act on the instructions of his wife. It is, I think you will agree, obviously impossible to act without instructions. I think you will agree also that my letter contained no matter which, by the greatest stretch of the imagination could be taken to be objectionable or prejudicial to the interest of the public.

"The effect, therefore, of the refusal of the authorities to deliver this letter and thus to prevent my client from giving me any instructions is simply a further denial of the most elementary right to justice."

He said he had not yet received an explanation.

"Although," his statement continued, "I did not in so many words ask for one, I should have thought the form of my complaint was such as to call for an explanation if it were possible to give one."

Gouzenkos Have New Baby

Top R.C.M.P. officials said they had no idea of the whereabouts of Igor Gouzenko, key witness in Canada-Soviet spy ring probe, who is being kept hidden with his family for fear Russian agents may make attempts on their lives.

"What is more, we don't want to know where they are," these authorities said, adding that they "had an idea," however, that the Gouzenkos were being kept under cover in the Ottawa district.

A child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gouzenko, it was learned today.

Disclosure of the birth came from Mrs. Fernande Joubarne, dark-eyed secretary to Crown Prosecutor Raoul Mercier and the person who put the former Soviet Embassy cipher clerk and his wife in touch with Canadian Government officials and thus touched off the far-reaching inquiry.

M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. Leader, told the party's national council today the Government's action in holding the suspects incommunicado would be raised in Parliament by C.C.F. members "at the earliest opportunity."

Mrs. Emma Woikin, former cipher clerk in the External Affairs Department, who pleaded guilty to charges under the Official Secrets Act last Monday, will be represented when she appears in court again next week by J. Erichsen-Brown, former Toronto barrister, who recently came to Ottawa to establish a practice.

At Montreal, Hon. Lucien Gendron, K.C., said he has been asked to act as counsel to Capt. David Gordon Lunan, but as he is not a member of the Ontario Bar he was not certain whether he would be permitted to plead before the court concerned in Ottawa.

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