



Canada and the Cold War: The Gouzenko Affair

Handout 5.5

Group Questions to Guide Students' Research

Group 1: "Use of Arbitrary Power", *Winnipeg Free Press*, March 11, 1945

1. To what arbitrary powers does the editorial refer?
2. Describe the general point of view of the editorial.
3. What alternatives does the writer offer to remedy the situation?
4. What do you think?

Group 2: "The Communist Threat to Canada", pamphlet produced by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, 1947, P. 3-7

1. Summarize the purpose of the document.
2. List the evidence offered by the Chamber of Commerce suggesting that there was a major Soviet threat to Canada.
3. What analogy does the author use to illustrate Canada's situation? Is it a good analogy? Explain.
4. What do you think?

Group 3: "What's Behind the Spy Hysteria? The Answer", interview with Tim Buck

Note: Tim Buck was the leader of the Canadian Communist Party (CPC) from 1929 to 1969. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1943.

1. According to Tim Buck, what were the real reasons for the arrests?
2. How did he compare the treatment of the Soviet Union by the Canadian government to treatment of the United States and Britain? Was this a valid argument?
3. What solutions did Buck offer to defuse anti-Soviet sentiment in Canada?
4. What do you think?



Group 4: “House of Commons Speech ...”, George Drew, 1949, p. 5-7

Note: 1949 was a federal election year. Drew gave this speech in February and the federal election took place in June.

1. Gouzenko’s disclosures in September of 1945 resulted in a long debate in Canada over the threat of communism in Canada. According to George Drew, how were most Canadian intellectuals interpreting communism in Canada in those first years after Gouzenko’s defection?
2. In what sector of Canadian society did Drew see the greatest threat of communism? What evidence did the Opposition leader cite?
3. What evidence of a possible revolution in Canada does Drew present? Do you agree with him? Comment.
4. To what extent were the concerns raised by George Drew’s speech more political than real? What do you think?