

REGINA (Sask.)  
LEADER-POST

Circ. e. 40,771

Front  
Page

Edit   
Page

Other  
Page

Date: OCT 8 1952

## The case of Ambassador Kennan

Despite Russian fulminations, the real reason the Soviet Union has asked for the recall of U.S. Ambassador George F. Kennan, is that Mr. Kennan knows too much about the Russians for their peace of mind, and they intend to make sure that he will gain no more first-hand knowledge of their activities.

The charges on which the U.S.S.R. have based their request for his recall, will fool nobody. Mr. Kennan told reporters that restrictions on foreigners in Moscow reminded him of those imposed on Americans in Berlin after the outbreak of the Second World War. There was no news in this. Every American ambassador has said the same thing. In his book "My Three Years in Moscow," Lt.-Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, U.S. ambassador to the U.S.S.R. from 1946 to 1949, wrote:

But our greatest complaint against the Soviet government's treatment of us stemmed not from our physical discomfort, but from the restrictions placed upon our freedom as individual human beings.

The Russians require the Moscow foreign colony to live what amounts to a ghetto existence, as isolated as the Kremlin and the men in it, from the stream of life in the Soviet capital. The Soviet government saw to it that the strictest kind of segregation was enforced between the foreigners and Soviet citizens with very few exceptions. We were completely cut off from the great bulk of the Russian people by constant police surveillance, by propaganda and by the fear of punishment.

For his remarks, Mr. Kennan was charged with having violated the elementary rules obligatory for diplomats. The Russian government, through its newspaper Pravda, then in what the Russians seem to feel is perfectly diplomatic language, called Mr. Kennan "an ecstatic liar," "a slanderer," and similar diplomatic names.

The truth is, the Russians have not been happy to have Mr. Kennan sitting in their midst for the past 10 months, because Mr. Kennan possibly knows as much about the Russians and the Russian mind as any American. General Bedell Smith describes Mr. Kennan in his book, as follows:

A career officer of wide experience and an outstanding Russian specialist, he was the first member of Ambassador Bullitt's staff to arrive in Moscow after we re-established relations with the Soviet Union in 1933. He spoke Russian perfectly, and was actually more cultured in Russian than are most Russians. Knowing at first hand and largely through personal experience all the details of Soviet-American relations, and learned in Soviet political history and ideology, he was the best possible tutor a newly arrived chief of mission could have.

Mr. Kennan is generally accepted as being the author of the "containment" plan against Russian imperialism. This plan has been largely effective, and the Russians hold no love for Mr. Kennan on that score. Since becoming ambassador, his penetrating reports to Washington, particularly on the "hate America" campaign, have undoubtedly worried the Russians.

Despite all restrictions placed on foreigners in Moscow, Mr. Kennan, with his deep knowledge of Russia and Russian problems, would be a dangerous man, from the Soviet point of view, to have around.

So they have trumped up charges to have him removed. But in so doing, they have tipped their hand. If the Russians really want to work for a peaceful settlement of east-west problems, they could find no better man than Mr. Kennan to work through. Their request for his removal is a clear indication of what Soviet intentions really are.