

The mouse finally roars

For the last 40 years Canada has been a spy's theme park: A charming, cushy assignment for Soviet KGB or GRU agents and their helpers from the other East Bloc nations. It was a lovely, low-stress place from where all sorts of secrets about the U.S. and NATO could be stolen. Best of all, the amiable and rather meek Canadians would rarely cause any trouble.

Last week, without any warning, the rules of the game suddenly changed. Nine Soviet "diplomats" were kicked out and another eight told never to come back. The Soviets roared back at Canada in fury and retaliated by expelling two Canadian diplomats — one, Evelyn Puxley, I recently had met in Moscow. Now Canada has expelled two more Russians. What's going on?

I suspect that it took a woman, the indomitable Maggie Thatcher, to finally teach our over-feminized politicians to act like men.

During Pierre Trudeau's years — and most of Brian Mulroney's era — the East Bloc was allowed to expand its embassies here. Between 60% and 70% of all such embassy personnel are intelligence agents. The percentage is even higher for East Bloc "journalists," "trade officials," and delegates to international organizations.

These are the "legals," who operate under the safety of diplomatic cover. The number of deep-cover, "illegal," communist agents is far greater. They are run by the key man in the Soviet Embassy, the "resident" — who reports directly back to the KGB's Moscow Centre. "Legals" are used to recruit and channel information to the teams of Soviet "illegals" who have burrowed their way into our government, security forces, the military, media, academia and even the business world.

The RCMP and later the CSIS have been painfully



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aware of such penetration, which has been so deep and pervasive that there are those who claim it may have included a Canadian prime minister.

For years, the CIA and FBI have given us ample data on Soviet and East Bloc penetration of Canada. In most cases, no action was taken. Why? First, and foremost, because politicians were frightened half to death of angering the Kremlin. Moscow buys a lot of Canadian wheat. Arrest Soviet spies, and the angry Soviets might go and buy wheat elsewhere, leaving Ottawa to face the pitchforks of irate farmers. "Trade depends on good relations," the Soviets are fond of saying.

Second, because the artful Soviet diplomats have been patiently trying for years to wean Canada away from its western allies. Many Canadian politicians have responded with childlike rapture to Soviet attention, flattery and promises of wonders to come. And others, like the always dependable fellow-travellers of the NDP, have pushed for more "understanding" and that favorite, "bridge-building."

Better to close one's eyes than spoil such rich fantasies by catching the KGB going through our drawers.

Until last week, that is. Brian Mulroney has finally allowed the RCMP and CSIS to do their jobs. Another

'Enough!'

example, I believe, that he and Joe Clark are maturing in their jobs and have clearly learned that leadership means using power — power and the word "no."

Margaret Thatcher, who has literally brought her nation back from the dead, has shown them the way. She booted out more than 100 Soviet agents and set back Soviet intelligence operations in the UK by many years. The Soviets responded by huffing, puffing, and then treating England with new-found respect. Mikhail Gorbachev's first visit to the West was to the same Britain that had kicked out all his spies.

Expect pretty much the same thing to happen here. There will probably be threats from Moscow over wheat and grumbles about how Ottawa has ruined chances for "peace in the Arctic." The Russians are already claiming that anti-Soviet circles in Canada cooked up the whole affair. Maybe all those third secretaries really were only here to promote Tchaikovsky.

But the Soviets are hard-headed realists and will respect Canada for reacting to intolerable abuses of our sovereignty. Nor will the crackdown on Soviet spies hurt Canada's international image. After looking for decades like a utopia created by *Ms* magazine, Canada has reminded the world that it is, deep down, the same nation whose soldiers, in two world wars, became synonymous with toughness and courage.

There is also more work to be done. Cuban intelligence is outrageously active here — particularly in Montreal. So is the Yugoslav secret police. High time to send these agents packing and cut down the size of East Bloc embassies. Time also to tell Gorbachev that if he really wants better relations, then he'd better get those reds out from under our beds.