

10 August 1972

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Dr. R. Martineau

I have just received my Special Passport with visa. It arrived twenty hours before my scheduled departure.

Since this has happened to me several times in the past I hope you will excuse me for making a strong protest about the way in which Special Passports are being handled. I find that it just adds to the nervous strain involved in getting ready for an extended trip when one isn't sure whether the passport will or will not arrive in time. Am I to understand that whoever is responsible for the techniques of issuing Special Passports is distrusting senior public servants in this country. I cannot help remembering in this connection the story told to me by a Russian colleague who was given his permission to travel to a scientific meeting two hours before departure time. Are we aiming for this kind of system?

I cannot see any reason why the Special Passport cannot be handed to me at least one week before leaving and why I cannot retain my personal passport until such time as I receive the Special Passport. The Special Passport has been available all the time at the Department of External Affairs and it is surely only a question of taking it out of a cubby-hole and putting my personal passport into it. It is quite impossible for me to see why it should take four weeks to make this little exchange.

I shall no longer travel on a Special Passport unless on the next occasion I am given assurance that the passport will be delivered at least one week before my departure and unless I need to give up my own passport no more than one week before receiving the Special Passport.

I do hope that this matter can be taken up

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at a fairly high level because I am not the only one who has complained about the attitude of some office in the government that does not trust its senior public servants.

GH:mpt

G. Herzberg

c.c. Dr. D.W.R. McKinley