

# APEC shouts awaken Chretien from slumber

BY ALEX BUSTOS

OTTAWA (CUP) — Prime Minister Jean Chretien is no longer making jokes about putting pepper on his plate.

And opposition parties who hammered the Liberals all last week over the security scandal at last November's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit are eager to rub salt in his wounds.

A growing paper trail is adding fire to allegations that the Prime Minister's Office instructed the RCMP to stop protesters from embarrassing then Indonesian president Suharto during the APEC summit in Vancouver.

One handwritten note by former Privy Council official Patricia Hassard stated the "PM will want to be personally involved" with security measures at the meeting of 17 Pacific Rim leaders.

When the House of Commons resumed sitting last week, opposition parties jumped on the documents to attack the Federal

Government.

"It is clear the Prime Minister and his staff made a decision to sacrifice the democratic rights of Canadians in order to create a comfort zone for a brutal foreign dictator," New Democratic Party leader Alexa McDonough told the House.

The government immediately brushed off the opposition attacks.

"I have seen many people in the departments speaking on behalf of their ministers or on behalf of the Prime Minister" without those ministers knowing about it, Chretien said.

Initially, the government refused to comment on the security scandal, saying the RCMP public complaints commission investigating police actions during APEC was studying the matter.

But with each passing day, new allegations arouse and the Liberals' "no comment" approach turned into a string of denials.

Wednesday of last week, Gail Sparrow, chief of the Musqueam Nation, told reporters she saw

Chretien shout orders to security personal during APEC.

Sparrow, who was present at the APEC retreat for foreign dignitaries, said conference officials told her Chretien was talking to security personnel and that there was concern about student protestors.

Reform Leader Preston Manning used the eye witness account to attack the government's integrity.

"An eye witness who was with the Prime Minister's guest claims that she saw him personally involved in directing security activities," Manning told the House last Thursday.

"Will the government now revise its position that the Prime Minister was never personally involved in police actions at the APEC summit?"

The government didn't even blink before denying the charges.

"The Prime Minister categorically denied the allegations of Mrs. Sparrow so I think that should end that aspect of this,"

Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray told the House.

The government then had to deal with NDP charges that crucial documents linking Chretien to APEC security were destroyed.

"How can the [RCMP public complaints] commission do its job and get at the truth if the Prime Minister is not to appear and if the [Prime Minister's Office] has destroyed crucial documents?" McDonough asked Thursday.

Gray again put up a wall of denial.

"The Leader of the NDP is

making an allegation which as far as I am aware is not founded on fact," he said.

The government's reply doesn't surprise Jaggi Singh, a former University of British Columbia Student who was arrested and jailed during APEC.

"It is clear from the very beginning that the response of the Federal Government has been very political, to think otherwise would be naive," said Singh. "So with the new revelations that are coming out they have to respond politically."

## PM's office should also produce APEC evidence, Reform says

BY ALEX BUSTOS

OTTAWA (CUP) — It's unjust that student protestors at last year's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vancouver are being asked to produce more documents than the federal government, opposition parties charged Monday.

The comments were made in reference to the RCMP public complaints commission that is investigating police actions during the meeting of 17 Pacific Rim Leaders last November.

Last week, RCMP lawyer George McIntosh demanded University of British Columbia law student Craig Jones release Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC)-related documents to the commission.

The Reform Party Monday described the request as an outrage.

"It has been demanded that protester Jones release between 800 and 1,200 documents to the public complaints commission including private correspondence even with his girlfriend," Reform member of parliament Jim Abbott said.

"By contrast, the Prime Minister's Office has released one thin binder. Are we to believe a 33-year-old student protester has more documentation on (APEC) than the Prime Minister?" he told the House Of Commons.

Solicitor General Andy Scott immediately sidestepped the question.

"The public complaints commission is the instrument that has been established by Parliament to get to the truth," Scott said. "I think most Canadians would appreciate allowing them the opportunity to find that truth, as that is ultimately what we are all after."

Jones, who was arrested and

jailed during the summit, says he'll comply with the document request — but says the RCMP already has access to the same evidence.

It can be found within the 17 binders of information supplied to those involved in the hearings, he said.

"If you listened to Mr. McIntosh on the radio last weekend, you'd realize he is well behind in his facts," Jones told Canadian University Press.

"I think I should bill him, frankly, for the amount of legal and factual research," said Jones, who estimates his research will shave 12 hours off McIntosh's preparation time.

Documents recently reported in the media suggest Prime Minister Chretien instructed the Mounties to stop student demonstrators from embarrassing then-Indonesian President Suharto at APEC.

Student protesters were eventually pepper sprayed, arrested and jailed at the summit.

The RCMP complaints commission hearings into those events have been called a whitewash by complainants and politicians alike.

Peter MacKay, Progressive Conservative House leader and justice critic, said Monday the Liberals are using the inquiry as a smoke screen. Earlier this month, he called on the federal justice committee to hold formal hearings on APEC. That motion is expected to be discussed at the committee's next meeting early next week.

In a related development Tuesday, Jones announced a lawsuit against Chretien and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, CBC Newsworld reports. Jones alleges the two officials conspired to violate the constitutional rights of protesters.

## AIDS apathy

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second year, was one of these students.

"I think it's a good cause," she said.

Troy Langille is not a student. He was far more definite about his reasons to walk against AIDS.

"I know so many people affected and infected. Everybody needs to do their part," he said.

But not everyone was disappointed with the walk's turnout.

Jane Allen, the program coordinator for the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, says she was satisfied with the outcome.


"The turnout was phenomenal given the weather. I was pleased with the cross-section of people at the walk. The event was heartwarming."

But Allen said the weather wasn't the only reason walk numbers dropped. "[People have] a false sense of security about this disease being manageable because of new treatments," she said.

This year in Halifax, over \$64,000 has been raised to fight AIDS. The money goes towards educational campaigns and health funds for people living with AIDS.


The AIDS coalition lights a candle for every AIDS related death in Nova Scotia. And Allen says these candles serve as constant reminders of what the AIDS walk is trying to prevent.

"There is a candle lit today. The horror and tragedy of this disease is still alive."




**THE ATTIC**

RHYTHM SEED



**THURSDAY, OCT. 1ST**  
**RHYTHM SEED**




**FRIDAY, OCT. 2ND**  
**HU NOO**


**MIR**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 3RD**  
**MIR with NATHAN'S FLAT**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 8TH**  
**WOODERSON**



**FRIDAY, OCT. 9TH**  
**BURNT BLACK with TENAC**



**SATURDAY, OCT. 10**  
**KNIFEY MOLOKO**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 16**  
**P.F. STATION**

**COVER CHARGES**  
\$2 THURSDAYS  
\$3 FRIDAYS  
\$5 SATURDAYS

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