

radical element from outside Kanesatake and that the issues of lifting the barricades and of local land claims had been overtaken by the wider question of Mohawk sovereignty in Canada. In its evidence, the Municipality also stated: "On the evening of May 2, the federal negotiator informed the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor that the government was willing to purchase land to be used for the golf course expansion. Figures were even mentioned for the transaction. The Municipality of Oka stated that this transaction would be subject to an overall settlement of all the contentious issues associated with removal of the barricades. This exchange was not reflected in a letter from the federal negotiator to the Municipality, except at the end of July, when the context was very different, three months later and after July 11." (Issue 55:52)

Over the month of May, the Longhouse sought a meeting with the federal Minister of Indian Affairs. In the meantime, the Municipality contacted members of the provincial cabinet. The Municipality stated that on May 7th, it requested the assistance of the Sûreté du Québec from the Quebec Minister of Public Security, the Honourable Sam Elkas. The Municipality felt this request did not receive the attention it deserved. A meeting with Quebec Native Affairs Minister, the Honourable John Ciaccia, purportedly resulted in a statement by the Minister that he had the approval of the mayor for the sale of the lands of Mr. Rousseau and other municipal lands to the federal government. The Municipality denied such approval was given. The Municipality of Oka said that by May 14th, there were armed warriors present and the barricades were still in place because of government inertia. The Municipality adopted a resolution authorizing the purchase of Mr. Rousseau's land for the golf course expansion, and authorizing the signing of the lease with the Oka Golf Club. At this time it was also decided not to sell any land to the federal government.

However, on June 5, 1990, the Municipality adopted a resolution proposing a moratorium on construction of the golf course and the resumption of negotiations on condition that the barricades were lifted. The Municipality says this proposal was communicated to the Mohawks at the barricades but was refused.

Curtis Nelson of the Longhouse suggested that following a June 21st meeting between the Honourable Tom Siddon and Mohawk representatives, in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, there was a general sense of anger and disillusionment among all Longhouse members. However, disagreement arose over what action to take next. Curtis Nelson testified: "We attended the June 21 meeting in the East Block where the Minister informed the Band Council that the most they could hope to achieve would be fee simple title and limited jurisdiction under existing self-government policy. When it became obvious that there would be no discussion on the barricades, we delivered our statement and left." (Issue No. 53:55) Mr. Nelson also stated that at approximately this time, the Municipality was preparing an application for injunction. A previous seven day injunction had expired. Nelson said the Longhouse learned the federal mediator was quoted in an affidavit as saying that his efforts at mediation were in vain.