

## RCMP

# Spies on group

MONTREAL (CUP)—The Marxist-Leninist group "In Struggle" has accused the RCMP of holding its members hostage at a holiday camp while they were holding a meeting there September 29.

According to group secretary-general Charles Gagnon, the group was surrounded and photographed by 40-50 police officers, armed with rifles, cameras, and radio equipment.

Although the group has threatened to sue the RCMP, spokespersons for the force have refused to either confirm

or deny that RCMP officers took part in the operation.

The group had been holding a week-long study session in Katevale, 140 kilometers east of Montreal on the question of "organizing the working class and citizens' groups," said Gagnon.

Near the end of the conference, police arrived in unmarked cars and vans, blocked the road to the camp and spread out around the perimeter of the property, he said.

When the police refused to identify themselves, group members responded by stalk-

ing and photographing them.

Although the surveillance continued throughout the afternoon, no-one was arrested and police did not prevent anyone from leaving the camp.

When lawyers for "In Struggle" were called in, they were unable to identify the police or discover the purpose of the raid. The group said Quebec Justice Minister Marc-Andre Bedard failed to return the lawyers' calls.

A spokesperson for Bedard later said the operation was "considered normal" within the RCMP mandate for in-

vestigating security matters.

According to Gagnon, the operation was not the first time the police had tried to disrupt meetings of the group. He said the police had also convinced several landlords not to rent rooms to the group.

"To our eyes, this police operation is not only an act of provocation and intimidation on the part of the state police. It's a question of accepting this without saying anything," the group said.

The group is considering taking legal action against the police under both the Quebec Human Rights Act and the Canadian Bill of Rights.

As well, the group's lawyer said it was considering possible criminal charges and may also bring the incident to the attention of the Macdonald Commission on the RCMP.

# Amnesty International

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from AI's records that journalists and writers are particularly vulnerable to political imprisonment. In May 1976 A.I. listed 67 journalists and writers imprisoned in 17 countries throughout the world.

Much depends on AI's reputation for judicial fairness. Its judgments are neither wild nor sweeping. It works closely with bodies such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and shares broadly its analysis of the reasons for torture. Torture happens when the security forces become a law unto themselves, and above all when they are under pressure to produce results. Detention of political dissidents in mental hospitals in the Soviet Union does not happen because Russians are less human than anyone else. It has structural causes. The same pressure to "produce results" led to abuses by the British Army in Northern Ireland.

Amnesty International is not a religious organization. The AI symbol - a burning candle surrounded by strands of barbed wire—sums up an aspiration in which AI feels people of all beliefs, colour, ethnic origin or religion, can share.

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