

nipeg and joined the negotiating team at approximately 10:00 p.m. Contact with Archer continued throughout the night; he had not changed his earlier demands and, at various times, threatened he would harm his hostages if a communication link was not established with his wife, forthwith.

Mr. Hersch Wolsch, the lawyer contacted by the Winnipeg radio station, had arrived by this time and was allowed to talk to his client over the phone after consulting with the authorities. On Tuesday, January 24th, Wolsch again talked to Archer and answered questions about his predicament.

Archer was still primarily concerned about his wife's condition. She was lying in the Brandon General Hospital 30 miles away and we felt that any news about a worsening condition would probably trigger him into doing something even more drastic. We agreed that in the best interests of everyone concerned, especially the hostages, no news should be released to him about his wife's condition unless it was through one of the negotiators.

Negotiations continued throughout Tuesday night and Wednesday. Eventually a land-line telephone was set up between Dr. Scherz's residence and the RCMP command post so that constant communication could be maintained between the two points. At 10:40 p.m. Archer told S/Sgt. McDonald he was prepared to release one hostage, and at 11:20 p.m. Dr. Scherz walked unaided from his house. He was immediately taken to Virden Hospital for a checkup and reunion with his son and daughter.

By January 26th at 5:00 a.m., both Archer and the negotiating team had had very little sleep during the seventy-two hours since the drama had begun. Members of the Force on perimeter duty at Oak Lake were working 12-hour shifts, with approximately 30 members

per shift. They carried out varied duties but most of them were involved with maintaining roadblocks, which must have strained their emotions to the breaking point. They had lost a comrade in the line of duty and some pent-up emotions were undoubtedly released in the initial stages of trying to locate the culprits. But they were suddenly pulled away to perform duties not conducive to releasing their feelings. Furthermore, members on site were being assisted by personnel from Brandon Sub-Division headquarters and Winnipeg headquarters, and manpower shortages in those areas were beginning to show.

At about 9:30 p.m. of January 26th, after consulting his lawyer, Archer began bargaining with me over his method of surrender. He wanted to see his wife at the hospital and, among the conditions of his surrender, was the proposal that all outstanding charges in Ontario and B.C. be dropped, and also that he and his wife be given competent legal counsel for any ensuing trials. A one-hour visit with his wife at the Brandon General Hospital immediately following his surrender was also agreed to, as well as a guarantee of personal safety when he came out of the house. These agreements between Mr. Archer's lawyer and the commander of the negotiating team were then relayed to the Attorney-General of Manitoba, Mr. G. Mercier. He was requested also to make arrangements with the Attorneys General of Ontario and B.C. to drop the charges if they agreed with the proposal. At 12:30 a.m., January 27th, C/Supt. Buchanan, the C.I.B. Officer in Winnipeg, advised the site commander, Supt. J. R. Corley, that the Attorneys General of Manitoba, Ontario and B.C. had accepted the terms.

I contacted Archer and advised him that his terms of surrender had been accepted by all concerned, and the