

specific reference to Cuba (1). A detailed description of the safe-conduct arrangements was broadcast repeatedly on the 17th, before the death of Mr. Laporte. Even after the death of Mr. Laporte, Quebec sources promptly confirmed that the safe conduct was still available to the kidnappers of Mr. Cross. The object was to make sure not only that the kidnappers would know that this had been formally offered by the authorities but that they would also be aware of all the mechanics of it, so they could assess the fairness of the proposal and know exactly how to proceed.

There is no doubt that the kidnappers received all this information immediately. They knew that the arrangements had been organized around the co-operation of the Cuban Government. The Quebec and Canadian authorities early decided that it was essential not simply to make a vague offer of safe conduct but to be very concrete and even dramatic — to hold out to the kidnappers something which they could clearly visualize. The device of consular immunity was deliberately designed to provide for a kind of neutral ground. The site of Expo 67 had been chosen for the temporary extension of the Cuban Consulate to assure these people also that they would be coming to a wide-open space, an area that was familiar to them. The arrangements for clearing and protecting the site were made known. The fact that aircraft were standing by was publicized for several weeks. It was clear to all that everything was ready if only the kidnappers would come forward.

In the end, as you know, the kidnappers did not give themselves up voluntarily. They were discovered by the police. The safe conduct was offered to them in order to avoid a shoot-out and to ensure that Mr. Cross would not be injured.

It was stated clearly, right from the start, that the kidnappers could keep their weapons and their hostages — in other words, maintaining their own bargaining power all the way until they were in the hands of the Cuban representatives. A further guarantee was that the hostages would not be turned over by them directly to the Canadian authorities. They themselves would not surrender to the Canadian authorities but to the Cuban authorities. The hostages would not be released until the kidnappers had reached Cuba.

Was there a contingency plan for what would happen to the hostages if the kidnappers did not make it? Were they told what would happen to Mr. Cross if they didn't reach Cuba?

In other words, if they had been seized by the Canadian authorities, or something like that?

Their principal guarantee was that any such development would have caused an international scandal of major proportions. The Canadian Government, in effect, was deliberately putting itself in a situation where any double-

(1) Commenting on the offer on October 16, Prime Minister Trudeau said: "By offering the kidnappers safe exit from Canada we removed from them any possible motivation for murdering their hostages."