

LA RÉVOLUTION TRANQUILLE

It has often been remarked that one significant way in which Canada differs from the United States is that it has never had a revolution.

It has never had a violent one (though it had a couple of boisterous rebellions), but it has had a unique and successful quiet one.

It began in Quebec in 1960 when Jean Lesage and the

province's Liberal Party succeeded Premier Maurice Duplessis and the Union Nationale. It continued for eventful decades and changed Quebec's cultural, social, economic, political and religious structures.

In 1976 Premier René Lévesque and his Parti Québécois took the revolution a further step by promising a referendum on independence. It was held in May 1980 when the voters considered the Quebec government's

proposal that it negotiate an agreement that would give the province "exclusive power to make its laws, levy its taxes and establish relations abroad—in other words, sovereignty—and at the same time to maintain with Canada an economic association. . . ."

Fifty-eight per cent voted "No." Quebec remains both essentially Canadian and Canada's most independent-minded province.

Photo: Government of Quebec.



May/Mai 1983

CANADA
TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

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Victoria Day
Fête de Victoria

Memorial Day