

## Paris diplomatic spat continues

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PARIS - The war of words between diplomats representing Ottawa and Quebec appears to be flaring up again in France after a decade of peace.

Michel Lucier, Quebec's representative in Paris, expressed disbelief yesterday that Ambassador Jacques Roy had complained about being shut out of a recent reception the Quebec delegation threw for Premier Lucien Bouchard.

Roy said last week, and again yesterday, that he was deeply hurt at not being invited to the party during Bouchard's September visit. The reception brought together "the circle of friends of Quebec," which stung Roy into complaining the

sovereignists didn't consider him to be enough of a Quebecer. Lucier denied Roy was ever snubbed.

"The ambassador asked for a personal meeting with the premier and got it," Lucier said. "He couldn't wish for a clearer show of the attention we pay him."

"But perhaps he would have preferred to see (Bouchard) among the 200 guests at the reception. Perhaps he preferred the party. I'll make note of that for the future."

Other federal diplomats were invited to the Bouchard reception, including Jean-Paul Hubert, ambassador to Belgium.

Roy made the complaint after his two-week tour of Quebec promoting Canadian unity prompted Bouchard to denounce him as a "political commando."