

# Scott resigns under pressure over APEC affair

BY ALEX BUSTOS

OTTAWA (CUP) — With the much-anticipated resignation of Solicitor General Andy Scott, opposition members of parliament are wondering what took so long — and renewing their calls for an independent body to replace the APEC inquiry.

After nearly two months of intense political pressure, Scott bowed to the prevailing winds in Ottawa on Monday by announcing he was resigning as Canada's top cop.

His exit, however, didn't put an end to political heat over the APEC affair.

"Why did the Prime Minister not fire the solicitor general six weeks ago when it might have

meant something?" Reform Party Leader Preston Manning asked during question period Monday.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien replied by turning the tables on his political opponents.

"I did not fire the solicitor general," he said. "Because of the constant attack from the opposition he decided that it was too difficult for him to do all his work and he decided to offer me his resignation."

The government's explanation didn't wash with student leaders.

"People don't resign over nothing," said Elizabeth Carlyle, national chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students. "This is a *de facto* admission of guilt [by Scott]."

In his letter of resignation to Chretien, Scott said allegations he had prejudged the APEC inquiry had made his situation as solicitor general "untenable".

But Scott once again denied

**"Because of the constant attack from the opposition he decided that it was too difficult for him to do all his work."**

he had tainted the RCMP Public Complaints Commission hearings into the actions of officers at last year's APEC conference in Vancouver.

"The fact is that I have never, and never would have, prejudged

the outcome of the commission's inquiry nor interfered with its process," the former minister said.

Calls for Scott's resignation surfaced last month when New Democratic Party MP Dick Proctor said he overheard him discuss the APEC inquiry with a seatmate on an Oct. 1 flight from Ottawa to Fredericton.

According to Proctor, Scott said a police officer named Hughie — assumed to be RCMP Staff Sgt. Hugh Stewart — would be found guilty of using excessive force against student protesters at the APEC conference.

Opposition MPs said the alleged comments proved Scott had prejudged the inquiry — a charge the government has steadfastly denied for the last month and a half.

But last week the Liberal line was weakened when New Brunswick lawyer Frederick Toole, Scott's seatmate on the infamous flight, filed an affidavit confirming Proctor's record of the conversation.

Conservative Party MP Peter MacKay said Scott's resignation didn't lift the cloud of suspicion hanging over the troubled APEC hearings.

"The [APEC] commission itself is still being challenged by the RCMP," MacKay said outside the House. "They're saying they don't have confidence in the panel."

Earlier this month allegations surfaced that inquiry chair Gerald Morin had prejudged the hearings by telling a friend the police overreacted during the meeting of 18 Pacific Rim leaders.

Explore the BURTON Snowboard Website and enter to WIN a BURTON SNOWBOARD, the Explore New Music Sampler and 13 other COOL CD's from Cutting Edge artists!

Goto [www.burton.com](http://www.burton.com) and surf through the site to find the answer to the following question:

**If snowboarder Rahm Klampert could choose one band to play drums with, which band would it be?**

Email your answer with your name, age, telephone number, email address and school you attend to:

**[explore@sonymusic.com](mailto:explore@sonymusic.com)**

and you will be automatically entered to win this great prize package! Contest closes at midnight-Sunday, December 6th. No purchase necessary to enter! All entries become the property of Sony Music Canada. For full contest details, email [explore@sonymusic.com](mailto:explore@sonymusic.com).

**EXPLORE NEW MUSIC SAMPLER**  
THE AFGHAN WHISPS ANOKI THE GETAWAY PEOPLE JERRY CANTRELL BIC RUNGA DAG  
BENHARD BUTLER FLICK RASPUTINA D GENERATION ADAM COHEN THE JULIE BAND ZEBRAHEAD

**EXPLORE  
NEW MUSIC  
SAMPLER IN  
STORES NOW  
AND CHEAP AS  
HELL!**

**Burton**  
SNOWBOARDS

## 20 years ago this week

### Quebec students strike over tuition

MONTREAL — Over 100,000 students at 31 post-secondary schools across Quebec went on strike and occupied their administrations' offices to protest the provincial loan and bursary system.

After Concordia University reversed its decision to strike, the only anglophone school to join the protest was Champlain College in Lennoxville.

As part of their demands students were asking for free tuition.

Student representatives were also discussing sit-ins at politicians' offices.

### Ganja group tried to clog courts

GUELPH — Telling people who were charged with possession of marijuana not to enter a plea was the latest tactic of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

The group, known as NORML, was fighting to decriminalize pot.

They were asking people charged with possession to appeal the validity of the law twice before entering pleas.

They said they hoped it would create a backlog in the courts.

### College said Bank of Montreal supported apartheid

MONTREAL — A Quebec college pulled their accounts from the Bank of Montreal because of the bank's financial support of apartheid in South Africa.

The bank lost approximately \$100,000 as a result of the withdrawal. The Dawson College Board of Governors vote was almost unanimous, and was part of a campaign by community and student groups to protest racist oppression in South Africa.

The Bank of Montreal was involved with South Africa for several years, including a loan to a state-owned electrical company. The money, lent with British and American banks, enabled the government to channel state funds into its military budget.

But the bank defended its policy, saying the money helped black South Africans.

"It is not morally defensible to stop lending to South Africa," said bank chairperson Fred MacNeill.

In 1977 the National Union of Students initiated a campaign to get all student associations to pull their accounts from all banks that deal with the South African

### Punk band changed name back despite public pressure

OTTAWA — The Battered Wives, a punk rock group attacked for exploiting violence against women, decided against changing their name.

After protests from university women's groups, the band changed their name to The Wives. But they said they were going back to the original name because their fans thought they were copping-out by changing it.

The band said its name reflects that their music wasn't accepted by either punk or mainstream musicians.

The band stopped touring because their drummer quit.

### International student kicked out of Canada for late visa

LETHBRIDGE — An international student from Iran was forced out of Canada by immigration authorities for renewing his student visa two weeks late.

University of Lethbridge student Keyvan Peryow was unable to get money to satisfy visa requirements.

Peryow's brother said the political situation in Iran had delayed his parent's sending him the \$3,500 required to be kept in a Canadian bank account each year.

Immigration officers and peace officers were seen on campus trying to verify Peryow had actually left the country.

