

U.S. allowed to appeal extradition ruling

OTTAWA (CUP) — Puerto Rican independentista student Humberto Pagan will be spending up to another year in Canada.

The Supreme Court of Canada decided today (Oct. 5) the United States should be allowed to appeal the decision on Pagan's extradition. The hearing of the case was held October 3. The appeal will be heard in the lower Federal Court sometime within the next year. The court is fully booked this year and most of next.

Pagan was arrested in Ottawa a year ago after he fled Puerto Rico where he is charged with killing San Juan riot chief, Juan Mercado during a riot at the University of Puerto Rico, March 11, 1971. He does not want to return to Puerto Rico because he fears for his life there.

During the past year, deportation proceedings went smoothly for the Americans who wish to bring Pagan to trial back in Puerto Rico, but the extradition hearing hit a snag. On June 27 Caledon County Court Judge A.E. Honeywell refused the American request to deport the student to Puerto Rico, setting a precedent in Canadian-American deportation relations. Pagan, who was kept in jail from the time of his arrest, was freed on \$3000 bail in early July.

The counsel for the US went to the Federal Court August 3, asking for an appeal on the grounds the case was of extraordinary importance.

The Federal Court refused to hear the appeal because it contradicted a 1955 Supreme Court ruling which prohibited a country seeking an extradition to appeal a case. The US then went to the Supreme Court Tuesday (Oct. 3) asking that it allow the appeal to be heard in the lower court.

Pagan was consulting with his lawyer, Bernard Mergler in Montreal today and was unavailable for comment.

However, a Pagan Defence Committee member in Ottawa said the decision to allow the appeal was based on one of three things. Either the court disagreed with the 1955 Supreme Court ruling, it agreed with the American counsel that the case is of extraordinary importance, or it felt the Federal Court's ruling on the

appeal was incorrect.

Another possible result of the Supreme Court decision, he said, is that the Americans may ask for a warrant to put Pagan back in jail. However, Judge Honeywell, who disallowed the first American extradition request, is the person who would have to sign the

warrant and reliable sources report he has already refused to do so.

The Pagan Defence Committee is expected to issue statements in the next few days on their future plans now that the appeal has been permitted.

On October 2, the day before the Supreme Court hearing, Pagan predicted

civil war would break out in his homeland in "two or three years."

He told a Toronto press conference that "US imperialism must be defeated by a revolutionary war of the people of Puerto Rico."

While 90 per cent of Puerto Rico's capital is American-owned, living conditions have not improved under American domination, he told reporters. The average salary of a Puerto Rican worker is only one-third to one-fourth that of an American worker.

In spite of US domination, Pagan said, the people have resisted and maintained their own identity. He cited the long history of protests and uprisings against colonial rule. Another example cited was the language situation on the island. Although the people have been educated in English for 52 years and English was declared the official language in 1969, less than half the population can speak it, he said.

While Puerto Rico is a US colony under direct rule, he added, the rest of Latin America, except Chile and Cuba, is held under the grip or neo-colonialism, or indirect rule.

Discussing social conditions in his country, Pagan said that more Puerto Ricans had been killed in Vietnam than any other Americans.

In a speech to about 150 people later Monday, Pagan said he came to speak of the Puerto Rican independence struggle, and "in the name of people all over the world who are willing to endanger their lives for freedom."

"I come in the name of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and all the countries of Latin America and Africa to make this accusation against imperialism," he continued.

The meeting, called to support Pagan in his deportation and extradition proceedings, unanimously passed a motion protesting "the government's policy of deporting anti-imperialists." This referred also to Rosie Douglas, a prominent member of the black community in Toronto, who faces extradition following trials arising from the Sir George Williams University computer burning in 1969.

Hockey tournament next week

The 1972 Intercollegiate Hockey Canada tournament to be played at Dalhousie, begins on Friday, November 3. The tourney, a three game knock-out affair, is being sponsored by the Big Brothers of Halifax-Dartmouth.

Teams involved are the Tigers, St. Marys, Memorial, Acadia and St. Francis Xavier.

Friday, November 3: "A" SMU vs Memorial at 5 p.m.

Friday, November 3: "B" Acadia vs Dal

at 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 4: St. F.X. vs "A" winner at 2 p.m. (game "C")

Sunday, November 5: "B" Winner vs "C" winner at 2 p.m.

All games will take place at the Dal Memorial Rink. Tickets will go on sale this week.

A free-wheeling exhibition game will be played on Tuesday (Oct. 31) between the Tigers and Dal Alumni at 6 p.m. in the Dal Rink.

Circulo Espagnol organizing

On Friday, October 20, an organizational meeting was held to set up the "Circulo Espagnol" or Spanish Club. Evenings of Spanish music and conversation, and cooking were proposed, as well as the possibility of putting on some Spanish theatre.

As a first activity the Circulo Espagnol presented two Chilean films, done by

students of the University of Chile about conditions in Chile just prior to Salvador Allende's election.

Watch for the Circulo Espagnol signs publicizing upcoming events and do come out! For more information, contact Debbie Henderson at 422-4288 or Peter Brinton at 454-7501 or visit the Spanish Club office on the fifth floor of the Killam.

There will be a public hearing on Thursday, November 3 to discuss the proposed Harbour Drive expressway at 8 pm at St. Patricks School (entrance off Maitland Street).

Everyone is urged to attend and make their views known to the mayor and aldermen on an issue which concerns all residents of the Halifax area.

WORDS FROM THE WISE ...

To the Gazette:

Here's something I'd like to share with you and your readers.

Want to do something new next time friends get together? Make beautiful music together. All you need is two people, a four foot string, a knife (or similarly shaped utensil), and an oven rack.

Place the string through the oven rack at any corner. While holding one end of the string in each hand, wind the ends two or three times around your pointer fingers. Now, lean forward until the oven rack is swinging freely, away from your body. Put your pointer fingers in your ears and have a friend strum the oven

rack with the knife.

Try variations. Have someone use his fingers to hold the oven rack in your ears, and you strum. Get stereo with two people sharing two strings and two oven racks.

Les Rose
Toronto, Ont.



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