

- to hold persons in custody without charge for periods longer than those provided for under the criminal law.

With these two exceptions, the rights of all Canadians, including those arrested and detained under the Act, remained unimpaired. Due process, as you say in this country, was observed. Charges had to be laid in accordance with normal procedures, trial to be by jury in the established criminal courts. The right to representation by counsel in trials under long-established rules of evidence and jurisprudence was unimpaired.

The Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act later adopted by Parliament is limited in application to the F.L.Q. crisis. It reduces the periods during which persons can be detained without charge and expires on April 1, 1971, unless specifically continued in force by Parliament.

This then, is how the Canadian Government met the threat to peace and order in Canada. As you know, the release of James Cross was secured. Pierre Laporte was murdered. Those charged with the crime are now being tried in court. I am satisfied, and every evidence indicates the vast majority of Canadians is satisfied, that the Government acted with courage, determination, skill and humanity.

I would now like to deal very briefly with three common misapprehensions about what happened that have been given wide circulation.

The first of these is that troops of the Canadian Armed Forces were deployed under the War Measures Act and were used to enforce its provisions. Not so, the troops, most of them French-speaking, were deployed, at the request of the Government of Quebec, as part of their normal function in support of the civil authority before the Act was invoked and under the normal law of the land. Support of the civil authority, when requested, is a recognized duty of the armed forces in every country I know, including your own. Their duties were confined to the protection of prominent individuals, public buildings and essential installations. There was no single incident of a soldier harming a civilian. And, to the best of my knowledge, not even an unpleasant incident between troops and civilians. The fact that our troops have specific instruction, training and experience in peacekeeping operations, which necessarily involve close but non-aggressive contact with civilian populations, is a source of strength and re-assurance in circumstances like these. Any notion that Quebec was under military occupation is nonsense.