

# Civil liberties man says Quebec separation unlikely

OTTAWA (CUP) — Quebec will not be allowed to separate by legal means. This is clear following the recurrent crisis of the last two months.

Bringing in the troops was "the rehearsal for the big day," according to Daniel Latouche who is currently touring Canada to raise money for the Civil Liberties

Committee in Quebec and to inform people outside Quebec of how dangerous the situation is.

It's the opposition in Quebec today, he said, but it could be "the Maritimes or Vancouver tomorrow."

"Vancouver's local dictator, Tom Campbell, is just the type to use something like the WMA to

clean up opposition there."

"Don't get caught in the middle of the night like we did. It won't take the murder of a minister in Roberts or Bennett's government."

Elucidating the situation in Quebec, Latouche said that "the army had nothing to do with the FLQ. The army has not prevented the killing of Laporte not helped in finding Cross."

The army was called in because of the "strong possibility of a coalition government." In the early days of the crisis, Bourassa was seriously considering inviting three members of the independentist Parti Quebecois to join the cabinet. But by the calling in of the army, Trudeau and his gang of federalists made it impossible for the PQ to join the Liberals.

Another reason for the occupation of Montreal was the Prime Minister's fear of the rising importance of "popular groups."

Over the last two years, politics have begun to be redefined. Citizens Committees, and FRAP, a regrouping of these committees which ran as an opposition party in the recent Montreal municipal election, have gained wide sympathy. Here again, the fear the army brought with it as it swept into the streets of Montreal served to freeze out FRAP. Marchand's remark about FRAP being an FLQ front, was the crowning touch.

Trudeau and his English and French henchmen successfully dammed up the sentiment for independence and socialism."

Accompanying Latouche is Ronald Lanthier, a staffer from the student magazine Quartier Latin, one of the few non-establishment publications still printing — but just barely.

Although the government has not physically closed down their operations, it has put pressure on advertisers not to advertise in the magazine, a task which has not been too difficult.

And, just for safety's sake, the police have arrested the paper's two graphic artists.

Lanthier, who is also appealing for funds for the beleaguered paper, said Quartier Latin wants to establish a fund for a "REZO", a free information service.

Helping the magazine survive

the difficult months ahead would be but one program. In addition, REZO wants to start a type of Liberation News Service for Quebec, and help groups outside Montreal set up media projects.

Latouche stresses the need for proper paths of communication to counteract the misleading information in the commercial press. He said one of the reasons he was travelling across the country was to find out to what degree the image painted in the mass media about the anti-Quebecois, pro-WMA sentiment is accurate, and to see how great the potential support for the struggle in Quebec is.

He said the army was pleased to occupy Quebec and test out the efficiency of its forces. The army has extensive experience in civil wars in the Congo, Cyprus.

"We tend to see the army as good guys helping the U.N. But we have to debunk this image," Latouche said. This is not the first time it has been used to put down popular movements. The army was called into quell the Winnipeg General Strike, the Sorel strike, and during the conscription crisis.

Quebecois now have to face the dilemma that even if they reject

the methods of the FLQ, it is obvious that they will never triumph through electoralism, said the McGill university professor and former executive in the Quebec wide student union UGEQ.

## Canada briefs

### Air Canada cancels Cuban flights

OTTAWA (CUP) — Air Canada cancelled five charter flights to Cuba sometime in October because of the unhealthy political climate in Canada, particularly in Quebec. Both Air Canada and Unitours, the company who organized the charters, mutually agreed to cancel the flights indefinitely. "The negotiations were not quite complete when the trouble broke out in Montreal," said H. Riepelle, a spokesman for Air Canada. "Because of the political climate in the country it would be unhealthy to charter flights to Cuba," he said. "You couldn't take the chance that there might be revolutionaries aboard." If things get back to normal, Riepelle said he expects the flights will be continued. Meanwhile, the only way one can get to Cuba from Canada is by taking a freighter off the East coast.

### Quebec will screen civil servants

QUEBEC CITY (CUP) — The Quebec government will start screening all civil servants working near Liberal Prime Minister Robert Bourassa following the arrest last month of a receptionist in his Montreal office. Jocelyne Despatie, 21, was charged last week with seditious conspiracy and with being or professing to be a member of the Front de Liberation du Quebec. The screening was ordered by Quebec Justice Minister Jerome Choquette Tuesday (Nov. 17) to filter out any members of the FLQ who held government positions. "We have been lax in the past, but now we'll have to be more severe and strict in screening our personnel," he said. By the time Choquette made the announcement of the screening, Montreal police had questioned more than 15,000 people and searched nearly 4,000 empty buildings without turning up any clues concerning the whereabouts of abducted diplomat James Cross.

### Politicians to decide phone tapings

OTTAWA (CUP) — Power to decide who's telephone will be tapped by police will be taken away from the judicial structures and handed over to politicians within the next few months. Disclosure of the impending action came from justice minister John Turner during debate in the House of Commons on the anti-terrorist bill. The move, which will be included in a bill scheduled for introduction during the current session, will give the federal justice minister and provincial attorneys-general the power to approve wiretaps, rather than the courts which now make the decisions. Last year, the Commons justice committee recommended that authority to grant warrants should rest with the courts. A vocal minority wanted the power to rest with the politicians.

Civil liberties associations have sided with the majority of the Commons committee in asking that the power rest with the judiciary.



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