

# IN THE WORLD

## IN SHORT

### Irish couple not to be hanged

Dublin, Ireland. A husband and wife sentenced to death for murdering a policeman were saved from the gallows Dec. 9 by the Irish Republic's Supreme Court.

Noel Murray, 26, and Marie Murray, 27, were condemned last June to hang for the murder of an off-duty police officer who was shot after a Dublin bank robbery.

The five judges found Noel guilty of non-capital murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment. A three-two decision ordered a retrial for Marie on the original capital murder charge.

—Reuter

### Italians consider abortion

Rome. Two parliamentary committees have approved the text of an abortion reform bill which would legalize abortion on non-medical grounds for the first time in Roman Catholic Italy.

The Christian Democrats, the largest party, and the Radicals, the smallest, both opposed the draft.

Debate is scheduled for Dec. 13 when the two dissenting parties are expected to put forward many amendments—the Radicals to make abortion even easier to obtain and the ruling Christian Democrats to make it more difficult.

—Reuter

### U.S. harasses Iranian paper

Once-secret State Department cables indicate the U.S. has been working unsuccessfully with the Shah of Iran to close down an American newspaper highly critical of the shah.

The newspaper, the *Iran Free Press*, is published by Nasser Afshar, an American citizen who emigrated from Iran.

Columnist Jack Anderson has released confidential department messages between Washington and U.S. Ambassador Richard Helms in Tehran that reveal American officials regarded the *Press* as a "scurrilous publication" and that they had launched an extensive background check of the paper and of Afshar personally.

—Zodiac News Service

### Vietnamese resettled

Moscow. More than 600,000 Vietnamese who were unemployed in Saigon when the city fell to Communist-led forces last year have resettled in other provinces, Pravda reported Dec. 7.

The Soviet party daily said work and housing were being found for them in farming areas where land formerly allowed to go to waste was being cultivated.

Two Pravda correspondents who visited Vietnam reported changes in Ho Chi Minh city included disappearance of street market, which once teemed with speculators and traders in stolen goods.

—Reuter

# Deportation for Philip Agee?

*CIA-inspired deportation move may disrupt British Labor party—intentionally, sources say.*

By Rodney Larson

Los Angeles. British Home Secretary Merlyn Rees' decision to deport former CIA officer Philip Agee is causing serious problems for the Labor party.

Indications are the CIA intended precisely that. This conclusion is taking hold among close associates of Agee and others.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Rees said the notices of intention to deport Agee and American journalist Mark Hosenball were based on information that Agee "had maintained regular contacts harmful to the security of the United Kingdom with foreign intelligence officers, had been and continued to be involved in disseminating information harmful to the security of the United Kingdom and had aided and counseled others in obtaining information for public action which could be harmful to the security of the United Kingdom."

None of these charges is true, Agee told *In These Times* last week. But the issues Rees has raised will cause serious embarrassment and will disrupt the Labor party's precarious 1-vote margin in Commons.

Since Rees filed his notice, Agee has collected more than 150 signatures on a petition from members of Parliament asking for reconsideration of the decision. Most are from Laborites (particularly left-wingers who voted for Michael Foot against Prime Minister James Callaghan last April), but some are from Liberals and even some Conservatives.

►"In a terrific way."

In the *In These Times* interview, Agee said:

"The Labor party has responded in a terrific way. Just this afternoon, for example, the national executive committee, which is the highest body of the Labor party, voted to send a delegation of protest to the home secretary and to ask him to reconsider the decision. There are M.P.'s who are refusing to vote for the government because of this. Other M.P.s are even going to vote against the government, so they say.

"The Labor candidate for Cambridge, in a by-election now going on, just yesterday retracted his invitation to the home secretary, who is expelling me, to go and speak in behalf of his campaign.

"In some trade unions there is already a move afoot to go on partial strikes in protest, to send delegations and telegrams and to join the general campaign to try and get reconsideration."

This is all dangerous for a government that maintains its position by a 1-vote majority. The National Council on Civil Liberties, immigrant groups from the West Indies and the National Union of Journalists have already joined formally the effort to have the deportation stopped. Two weeks ago, a large number of M.P.'s, some labor officials and a large crowd participated in meetings at Westminster to help plan a strategy to challenge the government's decision.

If the government were planning a quick, quiet deportation for Hosenball and Agee, it has miscalculated. Prominent Laborites in Commons do not believe Rees' charges.

After Rees had issued his press statements, Labor M.P. Judith Hart raised the issue with the speaker.

►"The real reasons."

When Rees was asked to appear she said, "Perhaps now we can find out the real reasons why this action has been taken. I'm very concerned about the way the whole business has been handled."



Philip Agee: Back out into the cold?

Rees merely repeated points made in press statements and in letters to Agee and Hosenball, causing speculation that American pressure, the forthcoming negotiations over the \$3.9 billion loan that Britain needs from the International Monetary Fund and the trip made to Britain by U.S. Treasury Secretary William S. Simon were responsible for the orders.

The government learned Nov. 24 just how tough terms will be for Britain's urgently needed IMF credit and observers say this could cause a major political storm between the government and Labor's left wing.

U.S. leaders have never been sanguine about Labor's ability to impose "austerity" cuts, especially in welfare and unemployment benefits, that they want as a loan precondition.

Because of this, some believe Rees may have fallen for a skillful ploy on the CIA's part.

"There is a new CIA chief of station over here," Agee pointed out, "named Edward Proctor, who is a former deputy director of intelligence—a very high-ranking man in the CIA. When the new home secretary came into office [in September] he didn't have a very good feel for the job before he signed these orders."

Agee has always been careful not to involve himself in matters affecting British security services. He and his supporters state unequivocally that the charges are false.

►"Without particulars."

"I am going to have to defend myself against them without any of the particulars involved," he said.

"I will have to lay out very clearly every single contact I have had with any foreigners here or members of a foreign mission. There have not been many. I have never known about British operations, even when I was in the CIA. I have done nothing recently that I haven't been doing since I came to Britain four years ago."

They think Rees has relied on false information for the charges. The Home Office has a regular liaison arrangement with the CIA and there is a strong possibility of some background scheming by the latter.

Although Agee and Hosenball do not have a statutory right to appeal the deportation order per se they do have an administrative right to make representations to an "advisory panel" chaired by Sir Bilton. Rees does not have to accept recommendations by this panel, but it does give Agee time and an opportunity to make his case and garner more support.

If Agee were to lose there he still has a statutory right to appeal the country of destination, which would allow another

opportunity for Agee (and Hosenball) to make a case to the public. The BBC and the newspapers are treating the issue as a major controversy, so this will not be difficult.

A deep undercurrent of concern already exists in England over CIA influence in British affairs.

In 1975, 34 members of Commons (all Labor) signed a motion in Parliament protesting the presence of a large CIA station in London that was using the U.S. State Department for cover.

In 1973 there were charges that the station chief, a top CIA official named Cord Meyer Jr., had been assigned to Britain with the unions and British leftists as his major target. This was related to U.S. charges that the 1972 miners' union strike, and some others, had crippled the energy and industrial policies of the Conservative government then in power.

Meyer was not just the ordinary station chief. He was formerly head of the CIA's International Organizations Division and an architect of the CIA's world programs in labor, political, student and journalistic groups.

►Braden's quote.

Fears of CIA influence in internal affairs were raised again when, in 1975, there was a nationwide referendum on British entry into the European Common Market. The *London Sunday Times* and others carried stories quoting Tom Braden, a former CIA official, to the effect that the Common Market had always been a CIA priority and that CIA influence and money had been used to promote this since the 1940s. Braden worked in the same operations as Meyer in the CIA.

The current case has raised all these issues again and in a way that will guarantee the utmost disruption. Agee said the deportation idea did not come from regular Labor party cabinet officers.

"I think it's been through the CIA people and the American embassy here, and possibly in Washington at that level, on the British security services and some top-level government politicians," he told *In These Times*.

Agee and Hosenball are not without friends. Agee said they "are linking up with various groups in Europe and with people in the U.S. and in Canada."

The address of the Agee/Hosenball Defense Committee is 186 Kings Cross Road, London.

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# New Quebec rulers cautious on separation

By George Szanto

Montreal, Que. Though the political transformation here following the Parti Quebecois' recent victory is complex, a number of its parts are clear.

The PQ won the election all right—70 seats of 110; the previous Liberal government held 102 seats.

But the Pequistes (PQ members) played down all talk of separatism, making the Liberals attacking separatism look like unhappy drunks beating a dead horse. Claude Morin, the PQ strategy planner, was the prime mover in the decision to separate election issues from the independence question. As a result, the PQ won primarily on local issues, centered around six years of real and imagined Liberal failures.

Separation is to be carefully discussed and debated before a referendum of whatever kind. Any referendum is at least two years in the future, if one is to come at all.

There are good reasons for hesitancy on the part of Morin and party leader Rene Levesque. The PQ received 41 percent of the vote. Of this, only a quarter, 11 percent of all Quebec voters, said in a poll before the election that they wished Quebec to become a separate state.

Plans are certainly being made to move Quebec toward a referendum situation. Yet there is little separatist rhetoric coming from the party: This week Levesque and the other provincial premiers will be bargaining with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau mainly about finance-sharing.

## ► May be progressive.

The new Quebec government may be progressive: Though a few extremists have been elected, there is little likelihood it will be radical. For the most part its membership comes from service professions—social work, union organizing, journalism, teaching (30 of the 70 are or have been teachers), criminology, economics, hospital service and law. Lawyers in the Liberal administration practiced primarily business and criminal law. The preponderance of PQ lawyers have represented the trade unions or been law teachers. Less than 10 percent of the new government has been associated with business, as compared to 55 percent of the Liberal government.

The age range of the Pequiste government is 26 to 56. Thirty-three members are in their twenties and thirties. The average age, pulled up by the 54-year-old Levesque, is under 50. And one of the younger, Jean Alfred, Haitian-born, who represents Papineau (a district across the river from Ottawa), is the first black to sit in the Quebec National Assembly.

The 24-person cabinet includes an eight-minister priority committee, five members of which will have no day-to-day administrative duties and, therefore, according to Levesque, will be able to "devote all their time to establishment of priorities, to piloting major reforms and to the coordination of dossiers affecting more than one department."

Six of the eight priority committee ministers are from districts in the Montreal area, as are 15 of 24 cabinet members. Montreal is generally regarded as the center of the PQ's most progressive support.

The new government's ideology is culturally committed to francophone ethnic consciousness. Economically its platform is social democratic in nature.

The PQ takes as its favorite rhetorical model the social democracy of Sweden, rejecting out of hand all charges that it has state socialist intentions. As Industry and Commerce Minister Rodrigue Tremblay said several times in the past two weeks, the Pequiste government has no intention of expropriating private industries. Quite the opposite, he claims.

One of its highest priorities is to decrease Quebec's 10.1 percent unemployment level.



## ► "Not socialist."

To this end Tremblay's office hopes to provide an economic climate for small and medium domestic business stimulation and for foreign corporate investment as well.

"The Parti Quebecois is not a socialist government," Tremblay has said. "There will not be widespread nationalization of industries and things like that.... There will not be any economic or financial nonsense in Quebec."

Tremblay intends to establish Montreal's new Mirabel International Airport as a free-trade area, the first such in Canada. Raw materials could be imported duty-free. When they become finished products, they would have to be exported directly to foreign markets. As director of economic studies at the University of Montreal, Tremblay and his department studied such possibilities and found them to be highly feasible.

In short, the PQ government's intention is, at least for the moment, to run Quebec as a province among provinces within Canada.

It is the question of ethnic nationalism, linked closely with national independence, that has had the most extreme responses in the anglophone world. Balkan states and African nations may come into existence or change their borders, but North America is a thing of permanence: Great fears are raised here when this once-absolute tenet is thrown into doubt.

Levesque's government will not likely initiate a referendum on separation without reasonable certainty of winning with a comfortable majority. The debate over this will, as he has promised, be extensive and would, if one can take his government at its word, grow out of considerable research on the economic, social, political and legal implications of separatism.

Levesque has asked Trudeau to initiate similar research so that the prime minister could eventually defend federation

with specific information rather than with the rhetoric of scare tactics.

## ► "Incapable of understanding."

There are forceful reasons for Levesque's recent victory, just as there were strong reasons for the PQ's creation. As the *Montreal Star* noted, "the Pequistes believed English Canada was incapable of understanding the sensitivities and aspirations of French Canada." The desire of many French Canadians to be "maitre chez nous" is founded in a centuries-old resentment, a subtle version of anti-colonialism. Only the Pequiste form is recent.

Anglophone insensitivity, sometimes near to blindness, helps explain Quebec's recent ethnic militance. Less explicit but equally present is the sense that Canadian federalism, especially under Trudeau, has become increasingly centralized, arbitrary, expensive and bureaucratic. Analysts of varying political persuasions have suggested Quebec would have fewer reasons for going its own way if Canada were to return to a decreasingly centralized government of the sort envisaged, they claim, by the fathers of confederation.

Long before a referendum on some form of independence—not necessarily separatism, perhaps only greater autonomy—becomes a public debate issue, election implications will be felt nationally.

Over half the Liberal strength in the Ottawa House of Commons comes from Quebec and Trudeau, of Montreal, has support problems. Many who, two years ago, voted Liberal in Quebec went PQ in the provincial elections.

One recalls a moment three or four years ago when the prime minister said if Levesque ever came to power in Quebec, he, Trudeau, would return to the province to do battle for federalism on the provincial front. As a recent letter from Toronto to the *Star* noted, in Quebec the real excitement is Quebec government:

"The rest of us have had to put up with the dregs that went to Ottawa."

The election outcome is a result of movements for an increased cultural and economic humanism in Quebec. This humanism, striving toward the ideal of individual security, seems to be consistent with Quebec remaining an enclosed, predominantly French-speaking unit within the arbitrarily-bounded (though historically created) geographic nation of Canada.

## ► Reshuffling of priorities.

There will be considerable reshuffling of priorities, financial and ethnic, in Quebec. Certain anglophone Quebecers who have had inordinate control over the province's cultural and economic life will find themselves in a less-flexible position, and may indeed opt to leave Quebec. But the general economic fear implicit in middle-class anglophone reaction is unjustified.

In the near future there will be no socialism in Quebec, only greater control of corporate capitalism. Barring vast federal blunders, there is little chance of separation. But there will be increased potential for cultural autonomy.

Some increased economic autonomy too may be in the offing. With such autonomy, ever-fewer Quebec francophones would opt for even the minimal economic turmoil that might result from separation.

Nonetheless there are a few radical Pequistes who are urging total separation and soon. Their role relative to a modified or long-postponed referendum is not yet clear.

For some time to come, however, although more French will be spoken in traditional anglophone quarters and a certain amount of francophone autonomy over daily life may come into being, there will be little basic change in Quebec.

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