
Canada

Will Quebec be a new Northern Ireland?

by Irene Beaudry

A confrontation is looming over Quebec's opposition to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's constitution that may rapidly erupt into civil war.

Trudeau has succeeded in crushing all opposition to his constitutional package in nine of Canada's ten provinces, making Quebec the lone dissenting voice. On Dec. 2 the Canadian House of Commons voted in favor of "repatriating" the constitution from Britain without Quebec's consent; the Senate is expected to do the same.

Now from within Quebec Premier René Levesque's own Parti Québécois (PQ), a Socialist International fifth column has emerged to destroy the republican faction behind Levesque and his program for industrializing Quebec.

Agents surface

At the Parti Québécois's bi-annual party convention Dec. 4-6, delegates voted overwhelmingly to reject Levesque's policy of negotiating an economic association with Canada as a condition for sovereignty, in favor of an independent Quebec.

The adopted resolution incorporates the concept sponsored by Canadian financier Walter Gordon and the Trudeau government for a North American Common Market, under which Canada—and hence Britain—would dominate the raw materials of the United States and Mexico. The inclusion of the proposal exposes those PQ delegates as being nothing other than agents of Her Majesty the Queen.

The resolution states that the PQ "as a sovereign party does not have to promote the idea of association with Canada which is already inscribed in the economic and political reality of the countries of North America, which are already moving more and more rapidly toward total abolition of their tariff barrier."

Levesque warned his party that such calls for inde-

pendence would lead to "bloodshed similar to what occurred between France and Germany in 1887, 1914, and 1934. . . . We are confronted with the worst economic crisis in the last fifty years," said Levesque, "We have to focus our efforts on economic building."

Levesque's own program for Quebec's economic development is politically linked to the 1978-1980 alliance of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and former French President Giscard d'Estaing. In overturning that program, the Parti Québécois is aligning itself with the kind of terrorist and fascist policies of the new Socialist Mitterrand government in France, which has also drawn France closer to Great Britain.

The political climate meanwhile between the provinces' English and French speaking communities is being heated up by the same Trudeau forces to fuel traditional hostilities between English and French, Protestant and Catholic.

The trade unions of Quebec, which are historically dominated by the Jesuit order, have banded together with the "nationalist" Saint Jean Baptist Society to form a "National Alliance Against Federal Aggression." From the English side, an equally rabid group of Jacobins has formed the Coalition of English Speaking Quebecers, calling upon anglophones and other ethnic minorities in Quebec to become "militant" and "mobilize their troops" in order to protect their rights.

Addressing over 300 people at a Canadian Club luncheon, Alex K. Paterson, chairman of the Positive Action Committee, declared: "English people in Quebec aren't interested in presenting briefs anymore. . . . If we don't intervene now—and forcefully—we will be steam-rolled."

Trudeau the winner

The battlelines have thus been drawn for a bloody re-creation of the 1970 October Crisis in Quebec during which the terrorist FLQ kidnapped the British High Trade Commissioner and murdered Quebec Labor Minister Pierre Laporte. The result then: Trudeau enacted the War Measures Act and took over Quebec's provincial powers by emergency decree.

Levesque's opposition to Trudeau's constitution now is based correctly on safeguarding provincial rights over natural resources and education, but unless he moves toward formulating a truly republican constitution *for Canada* along lines proposed by Lyndon LaRouche, Quebec will not escape a bloodbath.

At a previous press conference Trudeau vowed to stay in office for as long as it took to destroy the Parti Québécois. And at the party convention, Levesque said he would resign as president of the party while retaining his position as Premier, prompting sources in Quebec to moot the possibility of Levesque forming his own party as a flank to isolate those forces pushing for civil war.