CANADIAN PRESS WIRE SERVICE

ISSUE OF MAY 31, 1973

CARDING DATE May 7, 1973

PARIS, May 31. (Canadian Press).—France-Canada et France-Québec, deux associations qui œuvrent depuis neuf ans pour l'entente de leurs membres, les 12 et 13 mai, à Versailles et Meudon, mèr de Paris, lancera une déclaration de principe pour la résolution de leurs différends, en particulier pour le libre transit des biens et des services entre les deux pays.

La première déclaration a été faite par M. Jean-Pierre Brison, ambassadeur canadien auprès des Nations Unies. Elle a été reçue par le premier ministre français, M. Léon Blum, qui a annoncé qu'il était prêt à recevoir l'envoyé du Canada.

La semaine prochaine, les deux nations se réuniront à Paris pour discuter des problèmes économiques et commerciaux. Les deux pays ont promis de travailler ensemble pour le développement de leur économie et de leur culture.

Les délégués de la France-Canada et de la France-Québec se sont réunis à l'ambassade du Canada à Paris pour discuter des problèmes économiques et politiques. Les deux nations ont promis de travailler ensemble pour le développement de leur économie et de leur culture.

Le président de la France-Canada, M. Pierre Béaudoin, a exprimé sa satisfaction quant à la nouvelle collaboration entre les deux pays. Il a ajouté que la France-Canada continuera à œuvrer pour le développement de la coopération économique et culturelle entre la France et le Canada.

Le président de la France-Québec, M. Jean-Louis Martin, a confirmé que les deux associations continueront à œuvrer pour le développement de la coopération économique et culturelle entre la France et le Canada.

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EXTRACT

TO BE PLACED ON:  

FILE NO: [REDACTED]  

NAME: LEVESQUE, Rene

ADDRESS:

STATISTICS:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE REPORT DATE: 12-4-73 P.2

ON FILE NO: [REDACTED] WHICH IS RETAINED IN

NO. 3 SECTION OF SECURITY RECORDS BRANCH.

[Signature]

12-4-73

11
Camille Laurin
vice-président

Rene Lévesque
président

TO: DGD
À: DGS

CLIPPINGS – DÉCOUPURES

004/74 Mars 1973

Fer 73

Reviewed
APR 10 1973
SECURITY SERVICE
RECORDS

APR 9 1973
001954
SECRET

WARNING

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discussed over the telephone.

SECRET

ROUTINE MTL 2  27-2-73

OTT 3 OPS CARDING DATE

G-1201 OBJET: RENE LEVESQUE

INFORMATION

1. RENE LEVESQUE AVAIT DEMENAGE SON BUREAU PERSONNEL AU 400 EST,
   SHERBROOKE, SUITE 106, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, TEL: 273-0471.

SECTION G SS MIL

SECURITY SERVICE RECORDS

001955

MAR 6 1973

Reviewed by

[Signature]
INFORMATION

Conseil National du Parti Québécois, tenu à l'école Carillon située au 1360, rue Laurier à Longueuil, la fin de semaine du 2 et 3 DEC 72. Ce congres était présidé par Pierre MAROIS

une atmosphère de mécontentement général régnait parmi les délégués de cette assemblée, particulièrement ceux des comtés de Laval et de Ste-Marie (I). On reproche à la direction du parti de ne pas avoir soutenu suffisamment les syndicats lors de la dernière crise syndicale. N. Robert BURNS a répondu à ces accusations en affirmant que le Parti Québécois est un parti pour les travailleurs mais qu'il n'est toutefois pas à la solde des centrales syndicales.

3. [différents documents recueillis lors de ce congrès. Vous trouverez ci-joint le "Procès Verbal" de l'assemblée du Conseil National du Parti Québécois, tenu les 23 et 24 SEP 72 à l'école secondaire St-François de Sherbrooke (Annexe 1). Il est à noter qu'à la page #2 de cette annexe, on y fait mention de la récente tournée européenne de René LEVESQUE. On souligne que LEVESQUE était accompagné de Bernard LANDA et que ceux-ci ont grandement été aidés par François DOARO lors de leur périple européen. A l'item #6, soit de la page 9 à 20 de cette même annexe, il est fait mention du comité protocole du Parti Québécois, de ses structures et des participants. Aux deux dernières pages de l'annexe on y retrouve la liste de tous les délégués du Conseil National du 23 et 24 SEP 72. Ci-joint également, le "Projet de Divisions Régionales" que le P.Q. se propose d'adopter dans un avenir rapproché (Annexe 2), ainsi que "l'Ordre du Jour" du congrès national du P.Q. qui sera tenu les 23, 24 et 25 FEV 73, au centre sportif de Laval (Annexe 3).
COMMENTS OF THE INVESTIGATOR

5. Vu la trop grande quantité de noms contenus dans les annexes, il n'y a eu aucune mise en fiches au niveau divisionnaire.

Gend.

Section "G".

P.J.: Annexes 1, 2, 3.
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EXTRACT

TO BE PLACED ON: __________________________

FILE NO: [Redacted]

NAME: LEVESQUE, Rene

ADDRESS:

STATISTICS:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE REPORT DATE: 9-11-72 P.2

ON FILE NO: [Redacted] WHICH IS RETAINED IN

NO. 3 SECTION OF SECURITY RECORDS BRANCH.

[Stamp: Security Service Records 11 Jan 9 1973]

[Signature: Review 5/1/73]
EXTRACT

TO BE PLACED ON: 

FILE NO: 

NAME: LEVESQUE, Rene (Mr.)

ADDRESS: 

STATISTICS: 

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE REPORT DATE: 18-10-72

ON FILE NO: WHICH IS RETAINED IN

NO. 3 SECTION OF SECURITY RECORDS BRANCH.

S.I.

Address 

21-11-72

Reviewed 

DEC. 6 1972

SECURITY SERVICE RECORDS

NOV 24 1972
Army admits secret labor file
SECRET

D.D.G. - OTTAWA
(Att'n: Foreign Liaison Branch)

Re: René LEVESQUE

The attached news clipping, by [redacted] is from the 2.8.72 issue of the "Jura Libre," the official organ of the "Rassemblement Jurassien."

2.
29.3.72.

This is further to your request of

V.R. Dahl
Visa Control Officer
BERNE

[Signature]

[Stamp: SECURITY SERVICE RECORDS]

[Stamp: SEP 6 1972]

001985
Socialistes et Question jurassienne
Security Service "D" Branch
Radio and Television
Monitoring Program

The following tape is being forwarded to your Branch as I feel it might be of interest to you.

FIVE NIGHTS A WEEK AT THIS TIME – July 7, 1972

David BAZE reports from Paris on the effect René LEVESQUE had while on tour in France and discusses who the supporters of Quebec independence are in the French government and industries.

AFTER COMPLETION, PLEASE RETURN TAPE TO:

M.I. MURCHISON
Room B 506

(Miss) M.I. MURCHISON

Reviewed

SECURITY SERVICE RECORD

001997
FIVE NIGHTS A WEEK CBC RADIO #1

FIVE NIGHTS RENE LEVESQUE IN FRANCE

What impact did Parti Québécois leader René LEVESQUE have on his recent tour of France?

Who are the supporters of Quebec independence in French government and industry?

Report by David BAZE in Paris

His reaction has been mostly something that is becoming to be taken for granted in other words, Quebec will be something different.

René LEVESQUE leader of the Parti Québécois summing up his recent two (2) week visit to France. He considers it a big success. Most of the French people he met liked him.

When people feel that they are different or not entirely satisfied, there is no strength on earth which quest them and in the case of Quebec, I imagine I believe that this feeling exists which has struck us. It was a realistic factor of Mr. LEVESQUE's attitude.

René LEVESQUE, you say you are overwhelmed by the amount of support your Parti Québécois has here in France. Exactly who are the people who support your ideas?

I think we found them practically in all fields. The first and foremost in the political field because they are the ones that follow political things more closely.

What did you set out to do in coming here?

It's basically that we want understanding, because we think it is possible. I am not a prophet but we are professionals. In
70 we called for 25% of the vote, we got 24. This time we know we have 35 and we are on our way to maybe a majority or at least a minority government. This means that inside of two (2) years ti could be very important that as many let's say strategic people outside as possible understand or have a good understanding of what we stand for and the kind of orientation we are presumably going to take.

Among the many representatives of the political parties you met here, who are the most receptive to your ideas?

Well I would say the government people first because they are closer to the file I guess and also because they are tied to the first revelation in France of the Quebec case which I think was tied to the De Gaulle years.

You had lunch with Admiral Phillip De Gaulle, son of late General De Gaulle.

This was the case of let's say memories and also finding out who stands in De Gaulle's town issues because he is considered, he's been talked about quite a bit, he is considered the inheritor of the legend and of the name which is a incredible name to bear but we found a very modest man and a very loyal son.

René LEVESQUE, you say the Parti Québécois has many discreet supporters in official circles in France. You met people in the foreign ministry in the offices of the French Prime Minister and in the office of the French President. Do you claim the support of these people?
Yes, without it's look if no mystery and I think that anyone who has lived in Paris knows it's a very complicated scene and for 14 years they had a rather stable government with most people remaining close to power. So over those 14 years especially during the last 8 or 10 years, there is sort of a Quebec lobby which has been building and is now rather strong and in many strategic places they are discreet because they have other things to do and the Quebec file let's say for them in many cases is a question I think of true and simple and dedicated mission to some sort of french cultural outlook which joins with our own aim especially for the future.

The Quebec Lobby had its vogue in the days of General De Gaulle but its influence on the french foreign policy is not apparent nowadays. Quebec does not seem to be a priority for President POMPIDOU who is playing his political cards on this continent trying to build what he describes as a confederation of Europe. Nevertheless many Gaullists remained dedicated to all of the late General De Gaulle's ideas and had set up political clubs to defend them. One such club is known as "Nouvelle Frontière", led by a former junior cabinet minister Jean CHARBONELLE who endorsed the Parti Québécois programme. The organization secretary, Jean Louis BOURLANGE describes LEVESQUE as a realist.

Generally speaking, in France we have often considered that the problem of independence in Quebec was a kind of very strange inquisitive thing and with Mr. LEVESQUE we have observed that it was quite a realistic attitude not at all (utopic) and I think that's what Mr. CHARBONELLE has meant when he has received Mr. LEVESQUE here in "Nouvelle Frontière". Mr. LEVESQUE seemed quite aware of the
economical and social problems of countries like Quebec and he has not at all adopted an attitude anti-canadian and anti-american. I think Mr. LEVESQUE is realistic because he considers it necessary for Quebec to link, to join political independence with a kind of common market, economical and commercial links with Canada and with the Unites States.

René LEVESQUE also got a sympathetic hearing outside Gaullôis Circle particularly on the french left which is long been sceptable about the merits of Quebec nationalism. His most important contact on the left was his two (2) meetings with the socialist leader François MITTERAND who is probably President POMPIDOU's most serious political rival. The socialists who favour federalism on the European level did not of course come out with the declaration supporting LEVESQUE but they described the meeting with him as positive. This was not the case with the biggest opposition party on the french left. The communists said they listened to LEVESQUE politely but prefer to take sides with their Canadian comrades. While the Parti Québécois leader made modest penetration on the french left, the fact is that his most enthusiastic support here is among traditional nationalists like the french Count Hubert De JORMANIE.

Let's say my reaction is the one of a nationalist and I only believe that it is simply ridiculous not to give Quebec its independence. Nowadays if you consider as Mr. LEVESQUE has stressed that two countries as similar as Norway and Sweeden would be united for centuries have indeed decided to separate in 1905 because they actually found that they were different and we could go on with
examples of the same kind, including the recent example of BIAFRA and NIGERIA, PAKESTAN and INDIA and so on.

Do you think the French people generally favour independence of Quebec?

I am not that sure. I think the main thing about it is that the French people or the mass of the population is not well informed at all and is much more interested in the problem of IRELAND which is closer to Europe. I think that except a few people who are sophisticated and who read papers, the big majority of the population does not favour it if not against it either because it does not know exactly what is at steak and what the problem is.

What would you think that FRANCE would do in the case that Quebec did become independent?

Do you think that Quebec would count on France for substantial aid in the case such aid was necessary?

Well actually I do not think that the present French government is ready to aid or assist Quebec and especially the independent independentist party to get what it wants but in the case Quebec should become independent I think that of course that it would be interested, if not please and would do it's best to assist them perhaps not on a very high financial scale because France is of course much more turned towards Europe and European unification but of course it would be basically speaking France would be rather satisfied especially on the linguistic plan it would mean that French would be positioned as an international language.
The argument that an independent Quebec would be good for French culture is a familiar one in Quebec. René LEVESQUE has made a good cross section of French businessmen, members of the PATRENDANT or the French equivalent of the Canadian manufacturers association. The French businessmen said they met the Parti Québécois leader at his request and want to avoid publicity but the PATRENDANT's director of international affairs Claude EVANS agreed to answer some questions.

It is true that there was an opportunity for a small group of French businessmen to talk with Mr. LEVESQUE no doubt to know what his conception is, of programme for his party and his policy would have to apply it. He had possibility to do it.

How do members of the PATRENDANT who listen to Mr. LEVESQUE explain his ideas? How do they feel about Mr. LEVESQUE's ideas?

I must say that they do not have any reason for making a judgment about that programme because they don't have all the data which would be necessary to have a good appreciation of that programme. What I can say is that it is a little striking for us who are making great efforts in order to go from national problems to European problems to see that in Quebec some of the faults of this party are to come from a continental, federal structure to emulate national structure but of course we were struck by the fact that he insisted very much on his will to keep all that could be maintained in the economic and commercial field in all that affects the working of business to keep all what the federal structure of
the Canadian government has brought to this country.

The French businessmen would not speak in public about their views and the possible effects of Quebec independence on investment. In private they described LEVESQUE as socialist which from them is a criticism. However even in this conservative milieu LEVESQUE's personal popularity has helped to remake the image of Quebec separatism.

Mr. LEVESQUE was well known to French businessmen who have relations with Canada and we already had opportunities to meet him several years ago in Paris so we knew that he was a very clever, very active and very convincing man and I may say that to dialogue with him is very interesting and very stimulating.

It is difficult to measure the effect of the LEVESQUE visit on public opinion in France. His public meetings were small and at least in Paris attended primarily by Quebecers. He got good coverage in the French press but didn't fill much newspaper space than the reviews of the National Ballet Company of Canada which passed through Paris about the same time. There was no editorial comment and the Gaulois paper the "Nation" didn't even interview him. However it is fit to say that among the people he met LEVESQUE had the same effect that he's had in Quebec. He has made the idea of Quebec independence more creditable.
SECRET

D.D.G. - OTTAWA

Re: René LEVESQUE

This refers to your memorandum of 7.7.72.

2. There has been no mis-interpretation here of Mr. LEVESQUE's political persuasions or purposes in his visit to Europe. He was discussed in the context of the separatist movement in Quebec insolar as it parallels that of separatism in Switzerland.

4. Attached is a news clipping from the "Gazette de Lausanne" issue of 14.6.72, respecting subjects visit to France. As far as is known, the visit received no other publicity here.

[Signature]
V.R. Dahl
Visa Control Officer
BERNE

Reviewed Aug 1 1972
SECURITY SERVICE RECORDS
L’indépendance du Québec
ne saurait tarder
affirme à Paris M. Levesque
chef du parti québécois
July 7, 1972

Re: René LEVESQUE

This is further to your letter dated 3-5-72.

2. René LEVESQUE, President of the Parti Québécois, is not considered a subversive revolutionary. He is a strong Quebec nationalist who advocates separation of that province through peaceful and democratic means. The party is considered a threat to national unity but is in no way illegal. May we clarify that we are interested in the international activities of Mr. LEVESQUE and his associates only to the extent that their international contacts are individuals and groups who advocate separation of Quebec from Canada.

3. LEVESQUE left Montreal on 8-6-72 for Paris and later Brussels. From his viewpoint, his reception was very favourable in European political circles and he received plenty of exposure from the press. His official tour ended on 23-6-72 but he extended his stay in Europe for a few weeks holidays.
4. The following biographical data may be useful:

Date of Birth: 24-8-22

Place of Birth: New Carlisle, Quebec

Address: Montreal, Quebec

The only photography available of subject was taken from a press clipping which is enclosed.

L.R. Parent, A/Commr.
D.D.G.

Encl.