

Chretien nephew beaten in Peru jail awaiting trial

QUEBEC (CP) — Paul Chretien, a nephew of federal Justice Minister Jean Chretien, has been jailed in Peru for the last 28 months on drug charges.

Paul's father Gabriel Chretien, the minister's brother, confirmed in an interview with a Quebec City newspaper that his son was in jail in the Peruvian capital of Lima.

He said he had been informed by parents of another Quebecer in the

same prison that Paul was in poor health after being beaten over the head with a pistol by a guard at Lurigancho Prison.

Speaking from his home in Louiseville, near Quebec City, Gabriel said he is considering going to Lima himself.

"If my son is in such a state, he will surely need me. My brother Jean is aware of Paul's situation since his arrest and imprisonment.

"He is in constant contact with the Peruvian embassy in Ottawa. He even considered visiting the country after Paul was arrested, to approach the Peruvian government to intervene in Paul's case. But his aides advised against it.

"In theory," said Gabriel, "my son Paul should go to trial at the end of this month."

No details were available on the charges against Paul.

A total of 35 Canadians, including 21 Quebecers, are in jail in Peru at present according to Canadian government figures.

Jean-Yves Grenon, Canada's am-

bassador to Peru, said in an interview with The Canadian Press that an embassy vice-consul visits prisoners regularly and the embassy provides medicine for those who are sick.

Prison conditions are bad, he said, because the Peruvian prison system has been "traditionally under-budgeted."

"Improvements are coming, but they are well down the road. The immediate situation for prisoners is very difficult."

Colin J. Fabro, Canadian vice-consul in Lima, told *The Gazette* that the main problem is the Peruvian judicial system which is very slow by Canadian standards.

"The whole judicial system in Lima is overworked," he said. "The usual length of a case is about two years, including appeal to the Supreme Court."

The Quebec Committee for the Defence of Human Dignity in Peruvian Prisons, organized a meeting of relatives of some of the prisoners in Quebec City earlier in the week.

The committee cited the case of Gilles Denis, arrested more than two years ago and said to have been robbed recently by a prison guard who had him thrown into a punishment cell when he complained.

Denis said in a letter to the committee that he had suffered repeated homosexual rapes at the urging of guards. When he was removed to the prison clinic, he said, other guards threatened him with violence if he made any complaint about his treatment.

The committee has complained that the Canadian embassy in Lima takes a lackadaisical approach to such problems.

One prisoner, Gerard Simard, wanted a document forwarded to his lawyer in Canada authorizing him to dispose of property here. The document arrived at the embassy Nov. 6, 1980, and was not forwarded to Canada until March 15, 1981.

Couple hears call of jungle

They're off to help out Peruvians

By KATHRYN LEGER of The Gazette

Veronique and Jean-Francois Taschereau of Outremont are not average newlyweds.

For several months they have been waiting to move into their new home.

It will have no electricity, no heat and few modern conveniences.

After a hard day's work they will occasionally dine, by kerosene or gaslight, on wild boar, a roast of monkey or turtle.

Moving time is today — when they transplant their marriage of four months into the depths of the Peruvian jungle.

"Some people think we're crazy," laughed Veronique, 23, who will spend the next two years with her husband in an isolated jungle outpost helping residents make a better life for themselves.

The couple belong to a Quebec-based, non-profit organization called Wings of Hope which provides thousands of jungle inhabitants with a free emergency rescue service, radio communications, medical supplies, food and tools.

Much of the money to fund the service is raised by 10 volunteer businessmen who administer the project which helps to shrink jungle travelling time from days or months on foot to minutes or hours by air.

Often it means a difference between life and death.

"It is fantastic work. You know you're doing something really important," Jean-Francois, 27, said yesterday while completing travel preparations at the Wings of Hope office on Ste. Famille St.

The flying veteran, who spent



Veronique and Jean-Francois Taschereau yesterday

three years as a pilot for the project in Peru until 1979, will act as chief pilot. He'll guide one of three Cessna planes to remote villages scattered over 512,000 square kilometres of jungle maze answering calls for help.

He and his wife will earn approximately \$3,500 a year. Housing is provided.

"There are risks," he admitted, "but you have to live like everyone there does."

The possibility of contracting infectious diseases such as malaria is high "because with the heat (average 100 F.) you don't have any resistance."

He laughed quickly as he remembered using a broom to kill the "very small, but very poison-

ous green snake" he found curled around his shower drain.

"It's not as terrible as the Tarzan movies make it out to be," commented Bruce Edwards. He and his Peruvian-born doctor wife Elisea recently returned from a three-year stint in Satipo where the Taschereaus are headed.

"It's extremely difficult but very rewarding," said Edwards.

The team is also training Peruvians to become pilots, radio operators and managers. And they provide know-how for villagers to build airstrips so that their communities will be more accessible.

Wings of Hope has helped build 62 landing strips, including 20 since 1975, and install 40 radio stations.

CITY BRIEFS

Crippled plane lands safely

An Air Dorval Cessna with six people aboard made a safe landing at Dorval airport yesterday under the watchful eyes of emergency measures personnel.

"The pilot radioed the tower that he was having problems with his landing gear," a Transport Canada official said.

"The aircraft made a perfectly normal landing after circling the airport to burn off as much fuel as possible," the transport official said.

Vandals topple 33 headstones

Vandals who broke into a north-end cemetery last week were back this week, adding 33 broken and toppled headstones to the 16 they knocked down last week.

Richard Fortin, caretaker of the King Edward Benefit Society's Jewish cemetery at Saue and Berri Sts., said yesterday he thinks teenagers were responsible for the damage.

But this time the headstones were not defaced with painted swastikas, as has happened there in the past, he said.



SALEEMEE ZAKAIB Big celebration

St. Remi tunnel gets clean-up

Commuters between Montreal and Verdun will have to bypass the St. Remi tunnel at night next week when it is closed in alternating lanes for spring cleaning.

The Montreal-to-Verdun lane will be closed Sunday through Tuesday and the Verdun-to-Montreal passage from Wednesday through Friday.

Worker faces mischief charge

A 44-year-old Point St. Charles woman who was urging citizens patrols to curb rising street crime in the district was charged yesterday with public mischief.

Terry Notaro, of Liverpool St., and organizer with the Point's community clinic, is charged in a summons with making a false police report.

Montreal Urban Community (MUC) police said the woman filed a complaint last week claiming four men had abducted and held her for nine hours last week.

Notaro will appear in court within 30 days. The charge is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and a jail sentence of up to six months, or both.

Happy returns for 100th time

Saleemee Zakaib left Lebanon in 1923, a married woman and arrived in Montreal one month later, a widow.

Instead of being reunited with her husband after more than 15 years of separation, she was told that he had died on the same day she had left her homeland.

With two sons and two daughters, a son-in-law and a newborn grandchild, she picked up the pieces of her life and carried on the grocery business her husband had begun.

Yesterday Mrs. Zakaib celebrated her 100th birthday, surrounded by more than 60 relatives and friends.

She has eight grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. The business, Oriental Olive Importing Ltd., is still a thriving family interest.

The reason for her long and healthy life, said one of her granddaughters, is that the her main concerns have been her family and the church. She ran a farm in Lebanon, raised four children alone, cared for herself until she was 95 years old, and helped raise her grandchildren.

A party in honor of her 100th birthday was given by the Women's Auxiliary of Cedar Home, Gouin Blvd. E., where she is now living.

Life sentence is imposed on murderer

Claude Montreuil was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for a murder he committed after escaping from police custody.

Superior Court Justice Raymond Landry imposed the automatic life sentence on the 24-year-old prisoner for the first-degree murder of Michel Crepeault, a 21-year-old Chomedey man whom Montreuil shot at close range Jan. 18 in an Ontario St. bar because he did not like the way the victim was staring at him.

The jury of six women and six men brought in its verdict after less than two hours of deliberation.

Montreuil escaped from custody last November while awaiting transfer from Parthenais detention cells to prison, where he was to serve a 12-year sentence.

Canadian flag to mark Pearson plot

WAKEFIELD (CP) — Lester Pearson gave Canada its flag in 1965 and veterans in the Wakefield Legion believe it should fly over his grave, currently marked only by a simple stone.

Pearson, prime minister from 1963 to 1968, was buried in 1972 in the tiny Maclaren Cemetery overlooking this west Quebec village near Ottawa.

Legion members plan to raise the flag June 6, the anniversary of D-Day, the 1944 invasion of Normandy.

Mary Macdonald, Pearson's executive assistant for 21 years, says Pearson wanted a simple funeral, but would approve of the flag.

"He would very much like this; it's a rather lovely idea."

Pearson and two colleagues from the external affairs department made a pact to be buried in the cemetery while strolling through the Gatineau hills in the 1930s. Thirty years later, he paid \$10 for a double plot at the site.

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