



Gazette, Richard Ariess Jr

Delighted pilot Jean-Francois Taschereau with new plane.

Wings of Hope sends new Otter to aid Peru

Montreal pilot Jean-Francois Taschereau is on his way back to the Amazon basin in a new 11-passenger Otter aircraft, destined for relief work with the Wings of Hope organization in Peru.

Taschereau, 28, is a veteran member of the Wings of Hope, a group of volunteer pilots and businessmen who operate an emergency medical and food delivery service to isolated Peruvian Indian villages.

Conditions are similar to northern bush flying which Taschereau did before and after his first stint as a Wings of Hope pilot in Peru in 1976.

"A lot of runways are really steep, up to 10 degrees inclination," he said before taking off from Dorval. The fields are grass strips, often muddy, the shortest only 700 feet long.

Wings of Hope, supported by the

Canadian International Development Agency, bought the \$250,000 Canadian DHC-3 Otter for its ability to land on short strips carrying as much as 2,200 pounds of cargo.

Taschereau, who estimated 50 hours' flying time from Dorval to Peru, said the service is vital to scattered villages.

"If we didn't do it, a complete group of natives would be abandoned," he said. "For them, it would mean dispersal."

The Otter brings to five the planes operated by Wings of Hope out of two bases in Peru.

The initial operation began with five Quebec pilots. Taschereau has a staff of four Peruvian and two Canadian pilots.

The goal is to eventually make the service all-Peruvian.

Canada's ambassador hangs tough in Beirut

By CHRISTOPHER YOUNG
Southam News

BEIRUT — Ambassador Theodore Jean (Ted) Arcand turns 48 today, a birthday he will never forget.

It was to have been the last day of a 3 1/2-year term as Canadian ambassador to Lebanon. But instead Ted Arcand is staying on at Ottawa's request for the duration of the war.

Staying with him is his redoubtable secretary, Michaelena McLaughlin, a veteran of many tough External Affairs postings, including Moscow, Prague and Tel Aviv.

Strongly urged to go

McLaughlin was also due to finish her Lebanese tour next week and head home to Canada, but she says she "wouldn't dream" of leaving the ambassador in the lurch.

The United States has closed down its embassy here and American nationals were strongly urged to leave. Most of them sailed from the nearby port of Jounieh yesterday.

British ships stood by to move departing Britons to Cyprus.

Gilles Durocher, No. 2 man at the Canadian Embassy, was in Jounieh to help Canadians who wanted to leave find passage out.

But the embassy was a busy place, mainly because of stranded Canadians with dual Lebanese citizenship desperately seeking diplomatic help in their arguments with the authorities.

None of the Canadian Embassy staff has gone home, although Arcand has reduced the number working in Beirut from 22 to five: Himself and McLaughlin, political counsellor Andrew Robinson, a communications expert responsible for keeping the channels open to Ottawa and one, sometimes two, embassy guards.

Affable and calm

The other staff members have been sent off on jobs such as Durocher's and to Syria and Jordan, for which the embassy in Lebanon also carries responsibility.

Arcand is an affable and calm man, despite the shirt-soaking heat (mid-30s C.) and the cannon blasts of a city under siege.

The air conditioning had failed in the office building that houses the embassy, as elsewhere, and the ambassador's windows were wide open in hopes of catching some breeze.

"It's noisy," he said, with a mild show of irritation as an eruption of gunfire from a car careering down the street, followed by a wail of sirens, drowned his comments.

"There's a lot more daytime banging than I've ever seen," he remarked, thinking back over a less than quiet tour.

A canvas cot parked against his bookshelves said something about the pace of recent activity, which has kept the embassy open seven days a week, ignoring Canadian and Lebanese holidays alike.

Like other westerners who live here, and who mostly seem to have a great affection for the country despite everything, Arcand mourns the anarchy that has overtaken Lebanon. How long would he stay?

'I'm not paid to be killed'

"Well, I'm not paid to be killed," he said, but he intimated that he hoped to stay as long as it was possible to do business in a reasonable way. The new ambassador, David Jackson, will arrive in September.

The embassy is equipped with a basement bunker to which remaining staff can retreat and survive if there is heavy bombing.

In an adjacent basement area, McLaughlin has somehow wangled space for a destitute Kurdish family she has befriended.

Pointe aux Trembles voters favored: MCM

The Montreal Citizens Movement says the City of Montreal plans to give voters of east-end Pointe aux Trembles proportionately more representation on city council than other Montrealers.

In a letter to Municipal Affairs Minister Jacques Leonard, made public this week, MCM President Jean Roy says Montreal's proposal to annex Pointe aux Trembles, accepted in a recent referendum in the east-end community, would give its residents three representatives on city council, or an average of about 7,500 voters per district.

Roy says the number of voters in the existing 54 districts of Montreal ranges between 14,579 and 10,604, with an average of 12,494.

He urges Leonard that "in the event you cannot oppose this venture (annexation), dubious for more reasons than one, at least you not tolerate such a flagrant exception to the Electoral Representation Act and, beyond that, the elementary principles of democracy."

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The Gazette, Dept. 20174
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Two at college lose jobs in funds probe

By HARVEY SHEPHERD
of The Gazette

Two top administrators of Ahuntic College have lost their jobs in the wake of an investigation into the institution's financial affairs.

Mounir Rafla has resigned as director general and Georges Page has been relieved of his duties as director of teaching services.

Rafla said he quit in an effort to improve the working climate at the north-end CEGEP.

He will collect at least three months of his \$60,000-a-year salary and could stay on the college payroll for as long as a year if he fails to find a new job in that time.

The college is still trying to recover \$54,000 that it contends Rafla received improperly as pay in lieu of vacation. The directors also hope to recover about \$150,000 from 22 high-ranking staff members, including about \$19,000 from Rafla, in another dispute over holidays.

Rafla said he will go along with any agreement reached between the directors and the other staff.

Board chairman Gaetan Boucher said Page has not yet been reassigned to other duties and has not yet responded to the decision. Page could

not be reached for comment.

A government investigation into the CEGEP's financial affairs found no evidence of fraud but concluded that administrators had shown serious laxity in the handling of funds.

Education Minister Camille Laurin ordered tighter controls and appointed five new members to the board of directors.

The investigation was ordered after unionized teachers and other workers at the CEGEP went on strike for two days in April to press for the removal of top administrators.

A union statement welcomed what it called the "forced departure" of the two staff members.

Boucher, secretary general of the Jacques Cartier School Commission in Longueuil, who took over as chairman in April, was re-elected at Tuesday's board meeting.

Rafla said he had decided to quit after 15 years at the college because the unions were continuing to keep tension at a high pitch.

"What is important to me is that the college continue to function," he said. "It was an almost interminable state of war and it was useless for me to stay on."

Woman can seek compensation for Czechoslovakian property

An 81-year-old Montreal woman has been given the green light by the Supreme Court of Canada to apply for millions of dollars in compensation for family property confiscated by Czechoslovakia.

Jolana Schavernochno was born in Montreal in 1901 but returned with her parents to their native country.

She married a wealthy grocery wholesaler. The Communist government confiscated the family's property in 1948 and Schavernochno fled the country, returning to Montreal 30 years ago.

In April, 1973, Czechoslovakia agreed to pay a lump sum of money — \$3.25 million — to Canada which set up a Foreign Claims Commission to compensate Canadian citizens whose property had been seized.

Schavernochno, claiming dual citizenship, applied for compensation for \$28 million worth of property confiscated by the Czechoslovakian government.

Lawyer Julius Grey took Schavernochno's case to the Federal Court of Canada in 1980, after the commission refused her claim on grounds that her "dominant citizenship" at the time of confiscation was Czechoslovakian.

"The compensation was intended only for people who were Canadian

citizens at the time of the nationalization," Grey said in an interview.

The Federal Court ruled against Schavernochno, who appealed to the Supreme Court where arguments revolved around the interpretation of regulations connected with the compensation fund.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the Federal Court.

Grey said a new claim will be filed with the fund on behalf of Schavernochno, who is in poor health. She lives with her son in Montreal. Her husband is dead.

"She certainly needs the money," said Grey. "These are not wealthy people, but they are not welfare cases either."

He said any claim would be scaled down in proportion to the amount of money available in the fund. "You cannot ask for more money than there is in the fund."

Grey said his clients did not want to discuss the case publicly until a final settlement is reached with the compensation commission.

Schavernochno determined to pursue the case, said Grey, because of her strong feelings about the confiscation.

"To me the case is very much the citizen against the state," he said,