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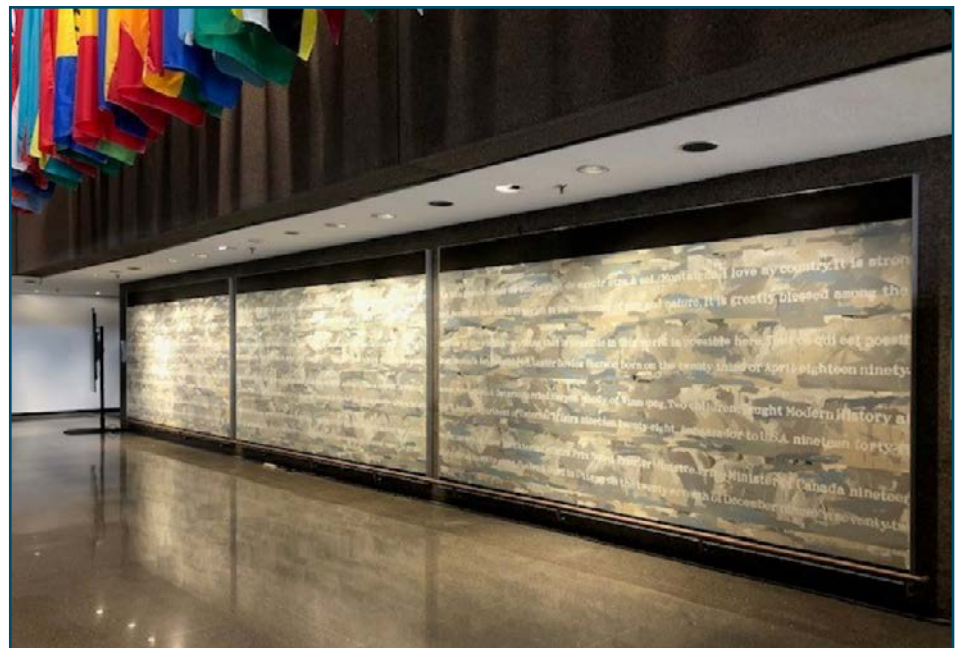
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timescreen/thoughtspace 1974 by Charles Gagnon

By Ian Ferguson



General View of timescreen/thoughtspace 1974.

Like many who worked in the Pearson Building, I passed by this work of art in the lobby for decades, too busy to pay it much attention. Only in retirement did I learn about its significance and its highly regarded creator, Charles F. Gagnon (1934-2003). Readers: we have here a major work by a first-rank Canadian artist that merits a close reading. It should be more appreciated by employees and visitors, as well as millions of Canadians who may glimpse it as a backdrop for ministerial press events.

The work honours the legacy of L.B. Pearson (1897-1972) as diplomat and statesman. In the brochure

distributed at its inauguration, the artist declared: “The form relates somewhat to an obituary in telex form with spiritual dimensions.”

Gagnon also wanted his creation to inspire and challenge Canadians. The painting includes text in English and French, but only one phrase is translated, the final quote from a 1968 speech by Pearson, significantly placed toward the lower end of the right hand panel where one would normally conclude a scan of the text going from left to right and top to bottom. In this space Gagnon inserted and translated: “Everything that is possible in the world is possible here. Tout ce qui est

possible en ce monde est possible ici.” This could only be designed to encourage Canadians to believe in their own country.

The texts are not listed chronologically. They are interspersed with quotes from a few philosophers such as Montesquieu and Camus, illustrating Pearson’s humanistic world view, and his strong attachment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Overall, they reflect Pearson’s belief that humanity could address its differences in a spirit of dialogue, and his belief in Canada’s bright future, provided there was creative engagement and commitment by its citizens. On his use of text in this and (sparingly) in a few other works, Gagnon wrote: “The value of a word is, that if meaningful spiritually, it is timeless and its true interpretation remains a personal experience, therefore, truly provoking and rewarding.”

I was alerted to the work’s significance by a former colleague, Eric Bergbusch, who had interviewed the artist and published an article about the painting in the *Ottawa Citizen* on August 27, 2000. Eric generously

shared his notes and encouraged me in this project. Additional sources were available in the Charles Gagnon fond at the National Gallery of Canada Library and Archives. There it was possible for the first time to determine in more detail Gagnon’s thinking behind the work and the sources for the text.

In 1973-4, in conjunction with planning for the new Pearson Building’s interior, Public Works organized a national competition with a blue-ribbon jury of departments, architects, curators, academics, cultural critics, artists and a representative of the Pearson family. (The official name of the selection body was the Advisory Committee on Art to the Fine Art Program of the Department of Public Works.) The initial selection of artists and art forms was based on the recommendations of the Building’s architects WZMH (Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, Housden). Eleven artists were then invited by the jury to submit proposals and ten responded. The call for submissions allowed for a work in either 2 or 3 dimensions to be integrated into the interior of a working foreign ministry, visually enriching the spaces, while allowing for personal expression and “maintaining elegance and simplicity.” The space was a lobby wall 8’6” high, 45’ long, surfaced with Champlain Red stone from the National Granite Quarry in Northern Quebec. The budget, including design, insurance and installation was \$45,000.

Gagnon prepared his submission meticulously, visiting the lobby twice to assess the site and its lighting, and observing people moving. He wrote his winning proposal by hand (in English) in block letters. In parallel, he was careful to clarify what expenses would be covered and his degree of artistic freedom. He agreed to consult the Pearson family on any quotations chosen. Gagnon was a proud Quebecer, classically educated, but had also studied in New York City (1955-60), including at the time Pearson was awarded his Nobel Prize.

Experiencing the vibrant New York art scene in the 1950s allowed him to assimilate avant-garde developments at a time when the city had replaced Paris as the global centre of the art world. He was also exposed to jazz and classical art, describing the Metropolitan Museum as “my main feeding station.”

The work is a triptych, i.e. composed on three panels, 7’4” high. When asked by Bergbusch about this particular form, Gagnon remarked that three occurred throughout his work and have “a certain spiritual quality.” He may have been thinking of the Trinity in Catholic theology, or the tradition of church triptychs illustrating biblical scenes and the lives of saints. The medium is oil on canvas, mounted on board with an aluminum frame. Gagnon designed special brackets to deal with the work’s considerable weight.

The work is signed on the back, a common practice with abstract works, so that the signature does not distract from the overall effect. Gagnon was confident that his name would at some point be identified in a nearby plaque. It was, and the image is reproduced below.

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The title was capitalized on the plaque, although given in lower case in Gagnon’s original submission, which I have used in this article.

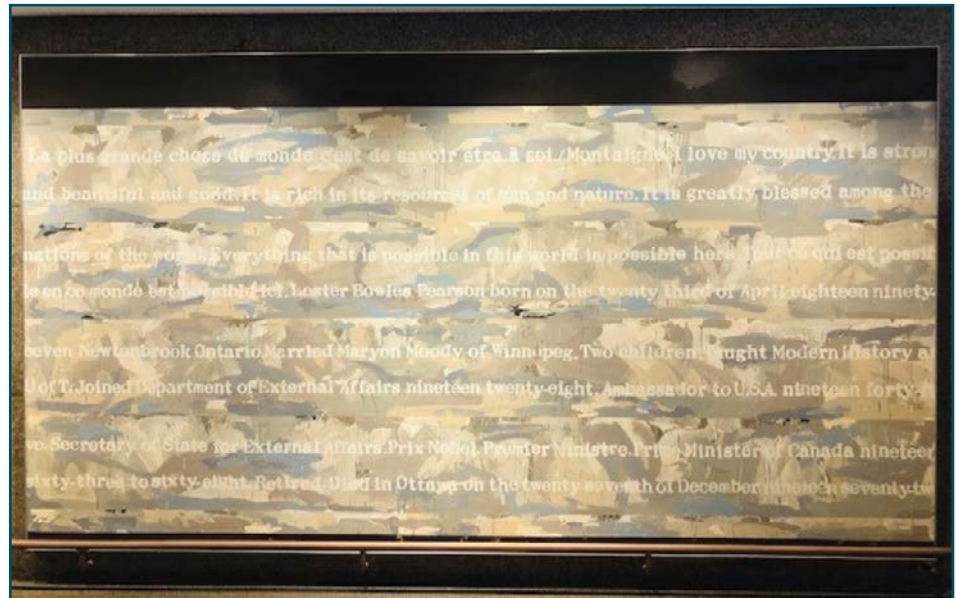
(It is sometimes cited without the date with the words hyphenated, and two parts separated by a comma or hyphen, with the first letters capitalized.) The title may imply imagined new dimensions, as well as suggesting that the viewer can enter into the mind of Pearson while contemplating the work as a time screen.

When viewed from a distance, the work appears as a horizontal abstraction. On approaching closer, text emerges with two lines of text per defined zones. The backgrounds of all the panels are dominated by a grey-tan-white-pink-ivory tone, with occasional black accents. Subtle differences distinguish the individual panels with cloud-shaped splashes of yellow on the left panel, teal green in the middle, and sky-blue on the right. The overall muted palette reflects the preference of diplomacy for non-confrontational language. Thus, no strident or contrasting colours were used.

The artist based his lettering on the fonts from one of Pearson's old typewriters, retrieved by one of the late Prime Minister's secretaries. According to Bergbusch: "Gagnon made high-contrast copies of the typeface in metal. The metal shapes were then used to cut rubber stamps: these were dipped in paint and applied to the canvas..." Each 1.75" letter was then carefully mapped within its line's 6" height, some words being hyphenated. The artist preferred a hand-crafted look in order "to retain the quality of vibration I am seeking."

The use of text in modern art harkened to a classical theory dating at least to Horace (65-8 BCE), to whom the following quote is attributed: *ut pictura poesis* (as in painting, so in poetry). Both painting and poetry employ metaphor, repetition and other rhetorical techniques. Similar turns were employed in Pearson's speeches.

The unveiling of this work on June 11, 1975 was reportedly an animated public event. Former SSEA Mitchell



Right panel *timescreen/thoughtspace 1974*.

Sharp stood in for his successor, the Hon. Allan MacEachen. PM Trudeau attended along with former PM Diefenbaker, members of the Pearson family and former colleagues. There was thunderous applause after the speeches, but technical glitches in unveiling the three panels outlasted the applause, and the painting was greeted with silence. Gagnon remarked: "It seemed they enjoyed it all — except for the painting!" Geoffrey Pearson nonetheless wrote reassuringly to Gagnon on June 23, 1975 to express the entire family's appreciation and his personal pleasure with the result: "The original idea was not easy to grasp for many people but there is no doubt it was perfectly appropriate."

Before and following this prestigious commission, Gagnon pursued a productive and successful career involving experimental film and photography in addition to painting. He was also interested in linking his creations to music, philosophy, mathematics, architecture and design. His influence as a teacher was important, as he taught photography, film, video, sound and mixed media at the University of Ottawa from 1975-96. In 1978, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts organized a solo exhibition of his work, which

toured nationally. In 1995 he received the Borduas Award, Quebec's highest distinction in the visual arts. In 2001, he was honoured with a career retrospective at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. In 2002 he was awarded the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. The supporting documentation cites *timescreen/thoughtspace 1974* among his major achievements. For readers who would like to see more examples of his work, a well documented and illustrated site can be found at: <http://charlesgagnonartist.com/artist>

When the lobby of the Pearson Building is again open to employees and the public, I would happily volunteer to lead a group discussion about the work and its texts. Art should be about the conversation; not only a solitary contemplation. All the texts quoted in the painting are given below with the key.

Ian Ferguson worked at External, then DEAIT from 1972-2007, with several assignments related to Africa and the United Nations and the occasional foray to Latin America and the Middle East. Since retirement he has earned an M.A. in Art History at Carleton University, and volunteers as a docent at the National Gallery of Canada.

timescreen/thoughtspace (1974) by Charles Gagnon

Key to Text and Sources

N.B. All texts in **bold italics** are quoted in the painting. Words elided from original texts are indicated in square brackets. Sources and comments are indented.

FIRST PANEL

The recognition of individual man as the fundamental criterion of all things temporal has been / one of the most liberating forces of history. Elected in Algoma East, nineteen forty-eight. Nobel Peace Prize. nineteen fifty-seven.

Pearson quoted an unnamed Greek philosopher as the source in a speech on Christian Foundations for World Order given to the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America, Boston, 2 December 1954. See: L.B. Pearson, *Words and Occasions: An Anthology of Speeches and Articles Selected from His Papers by the Right Honourable L. B. Pearson* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1970), 128. The original idea, controversial in its time, comes from the pre-Socratic philosopher Protagoras, as cited by Plato: “Man is the measure of all things” in Theaetetus (c. 369 BCE).

Sooner and better than his contemporaries he had come to understand that the world for all its diversity was one... that no nation even the most powerful could escape a common creaturehood and a common peril.

Bruce Hutchison, Editorial Director, *Vancouver Sun*. “A Tribute to Lester Bowles” (Mike) Pearson, delivered at a Memorial Service in Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, B.C. 30

December 1972. Memorial Service Booklet, Charles Gagnon fonds, File Pearson Memorial: Final cards and notes (1974), National Gallery of Canada Library and Archives.

Ce qui donne précisément à la vie, à l'histoire, et à la politique son importance c'est la possibilité qu'ont toujours les hommes et les nations, même s'ils ne le font pas, d'agir sur le milieu plutôt que de simplement y réagir.

L.B. Pearson, speech to the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 2 December 1954, cited in *Words and Occasions*, p 130. French translation by Gagnon. The English original reads: “For precisely what gives significance to life and history and politics is the possibility which men and nations always possess, though they by no means always use it, of acting creatively in their environment, rather than merely reacting to it.”

The best defence [however,] against totalitarianism in any form is to prevent or remove the conditions upon which it feeds.

L.B. Pearson, “The Implications of a Free Society,” speech to the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs summer conference at Lake Couchiching, 13 August 1949, *Words and Occasions*, 92

SECOND PANEL

History is indeed full of turbulence and terror but throughout the ages wise and brave men have been able to find within themselves resources to keep that terror at arms length and the courage to keep their spirits unclouded, and their integrity intact.

L.B. Pearson “On My Installation as Chancellor of Victoria College, 4 February, 1952, *Words and Occasions*, 110.

In 2000, the Hon. John Manley was struck by the painting when he first took up his office as Minister of Foreign Affairs. At a particularly challenging period in world affairs following 9/11, he cited the above phrase in an important address on October 11, 2001 to le conseil des relations internationales de Montréal.

He knew that in this world no work is ever finished, that the best is never good enough, that the reach always exceeds the grasp, that the future of our strange species always eludes its brief authority.

Hutchison tribute cited above.

Camus écrivait: La vraie générosité envers l'avenir consiste à tout donner au présent.

Albert Camus, *l'Homme Révolté* (Paris: Éditions Gallimard, 1951) 376.

In the end, the whole problem always returns to the people: to one person and his own individual response to the challenges that confront him. Korea and Suez.

L.B. Pearson, “Nobel Lecture The Four Faces of Peace, 11 December 1957,” *Words and Occasions*, 18.

The words “Korea, and Suez” were added by Gagnon, perhaps to illustrate the point with historic examples from Pearson’s life; they are not in the original text of Pearson’s speech at this point. The full speech is available on line: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1957/pearson/lecture/>

Misunderstanding [of this kind] arising from fear remains the greatest enemy of peace.

Pearson, Nobel Lecture The Four Faces of Peace, *Words and Occasions*, 17.

THIRD PANEL

La plus grande chose du monde c'est savoir être à soi. Montaigne.

Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* I, 39

I love my country. It is strong and beautiful and good. It is rich in resources of man and nature. It is greatly blessed among the

nations of the world. Everything that is possible in this world is possible here. Tout ce qui est possible en ce monde est possible ici.

L.B. Pearson, "At the Liberal Party Convention, 4 April, 1968," *Words and Occasions*, 292. French version of last sentence by Gagnon.

Lester Bowles Pearson born on the twenty third of April, eighteen ninety-seven, Newtonbrook Ontario. Married Maryon Moody of Winnipeg. Two children. Taught Modern History at U of T. Joined Department of External Affairs nineteen twenty-eight. Ambassador to U.S. nineteen

forty-five. Secretary of State for External Affairs, Prix Nobel. Premier Ministre. Prime Minister of Canada nineteen sixty-three to nineteen sixty-eight. Retired. Died in Ottawa on the twenty-seventh of December nineteen seventy-two.

Maryon Pearson noticed a spelling mistake in the word "Winnipeg" and pointed this out as a proud native of that city. The artist corrected his spelling by overpainting it, thereby underlying the hand-crafted nature of the work.

1973. Vietnam. L'aventure CICS/ICCS (Commission internationale de Contrôle et Surveillance)

Par Gabriel Lessard

Je suis entré au ministère des Affaires étrangères le 6 juin 1972 après une courte carrière comme responsable des examens pour la Commission scolaire régionale Côte-Nord. Huit mois plus tard, le 30 janvier 1973, mon agent du personnel me convoque pour me demander si j'acceptais de partir à pied levé pour le Vietnam du Sud afin de servir sur la nouvelle Commission internationale de Contrôle et Surveillance qui naîtrait des Accords de Paris signés le lendemain. Je répondis : « toujours prêt ». Ainsi le lendemain, mon agent du personnel me convoque à nouveau pour me dire que je serai le plus jeune membre de la délégation canadienne près la Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance (CICS) et que j'avais 24 heures pour me préparer.

J'ai atterri à Saïgon vers 11h30 le 6 février 1973, une date qui a marqué

l'histoire. Car à 14h00 se réunissait pour la première fois la Commission. Saïgon, de ce fait, devenait le point chaud de la scène internationale: un des moments clés de l'histoire de la guerre froide allait s'y dérouler. La première session de la Commission mettrait donc en place les mécanismes de mise en œuvre des Accords de Paris qui éventuellement devait ramener la paix dans la péninsule du sud-est asiatique et apaiserait les tensions de la Guerre froide.

Toute la presse américaine et internationale était en ce jour présente à Saïgon pour cet événement majeur. Il est difficile aujourd'hui d'imaginer la taille imposante que pouvaient représenter les équipements de communication de l'époque. Étant arrivé vers 11h30 et sachant que cet événement aurait lieu, dès les procédures aéroportuaires complétées, je demandai au

personnel qui m'accueillait de me conduire directement à la délégation canadienne.

Environ 150 mètres séparaient les bureaux de la délégation canadienne des bâtiments de la salle de réunion. Ces 150 mètres étaient bordés d'arbres, mais surtout bondés de journalistes et d'équipement de communication sur les 100 derniers mètres avant le bâtiment même. Tous les acteurs étant déjà en session, la meute de journalistes, les caméras, les microphones et tutti quanti se rabattirent sur ma personne, me posant multiples questions sur ce qui allait se passer... Or, je n'en savais strictement rien et je me sentais écrasé par cette presse qui semblait vouloir ma peau...

Qu'ai-je retenu des sessions de la CICS? Tout d'abord, la maestria de notre chef de délégation, mon maître, l'ambassadeur. Qu'il était beau de le

voir opérer! Lorsqu'il intervenait, tous les participants devenaient attentifs, en particulier les chefs des autres délégations indonésienne, polonaise et hongroise. Il s'exprimait tant en français qu'en anglais avec une aisance et un panache qui désarçonnaient, en particulier les interprètes qui étaient tous des pays de l'est. Il prenait un malin plaisir à les tenir sur le qui-vive, reprenant au besoin des traductions lorsqu'il jugeait que sa pensée n'avait pas été bien interprétée.

Mon ambassadeur était un personnage hors norme. Ses soirées se terminaient toujours très tard. C'était un oiseau de nuit. Il aimait le bridge et les échecs. À mon avis, il n'excellait ni dans l'un, ni dans l'autre, mais il aimait le jeu. Après une victoire aussi surprenante que rapide aux échecs, il voulut m'enseigner le bridge, ce sur quoi je ne l'ai pas suivi. Car son horaire et le mien ne pouvaient se concilier. Étant l'agent junior, je devais arriver tôt au bureau pour aider à préparer les briefings du jour. Lui, se levait toujours plus tard, mais absorbait très vite tous les derniers développements et attaquait de pied ferme toutes les réunions de la CICS.

La CICS a été un outil de la Guerre froide. Elle a été conçue en fonction d'un monde divisé entre l'Ouest et l'Est, entre le capitalisme et le communisme. Ainsi, deux délégations représentaient chaque bloc, soit le Canada et l'Indonésie pour l'Occident et la Pologne et la Hongrie pour l'Est. Cette composition devait en assurer l'objectivité. Le Canada avait beaucoup hésité à s'engager dans cette deuxième commission internationale. Il jugeait que la première Commission, celle qui avait suivi les accords de 1954 sur le destin de l'Indochine, n'avait pas été un succès. Or, le Canada en avait fait partie durant toute son existence en compagnie de l'Inde et de la Pologne. Une faiblesse de la structure de cette première commission avait été que les rapports d'incidents militaires n'étaient transmis à aucun organisme

qui eut pu rectifier ces situations.

Le Canada jugeait donc à priori que cette nouvelle commission, la CICS ne conduirait pas aux résultats escomptés, ce qui effectivement fut le cas. Cependant, suite aux pressions énormes des USA, des membres de l'administration, le Canada a accepté d'y participer. Le Canada espérait qu'au lieu d'être tout simplement acheminés aux protagonistes, les rapports des incidents militaires trouveraient d'une façon ou de l'autre leur chemin jusqu'au Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies qui pourrait prendre les mesures appropriées. Le Canada possédait aussi d'autres avantages. Tout d'abord, il connaissait bien le terrain du fait de sa participation à la première commission. De plus, le professionnalisme des forces armées canadiennes était reconnu de tous.

Le Canada accepta donc de s'engager pour une période de six mois afin d'évaluer la fonctionnalité de la CICS et de mettre en place les modalités sous lesquelles elle opérerait. C'était principalement la tâche des 250 militaires de l'armée canadienne et des 50 membres du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères.

J'ai déjà souligné que la composition de la CICS en quatre délégations devait en assurer son objectivité. Encore cette notion restait-elle à définir. Pour le Canada, l'objectivité signifiait rapporter la réalité telle qu'elle était vécue ou perçue par des observateurs militaires qui devaient décortiquer la dynamique d'un incident. Si un militant du Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire avait été à l'origine d'une escarmouche, il fallait le signaler et éventuellement condamner le ou les responsables. La même logique devait s'appliquer tant dans le cas d'incidents provoqués par le Gouvernement du Sud Vietnam que par les troupes du Nord Vietnam dont la présence factuelle au sud n'a jamais été admise, sauf en expliquant que le Nord pouvait répondre à

une demande du Gouvernement révolutionnaire provisoire.

Pour les tenants de la philosophie communiste, soit les représentants de la Pologne et de la Hongrie, pour le Nord Vietnam et pour le Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire, notre philosophie de l'objectivité ne s'appliquait tout simplement pas. Car, pour eux, l'objectivité se concevait dans le contexte de la réalisation du Grand soir rouge, c'est-à-dire de la victoire totale du communisme, de l'égalité pour tous, etc. Nous étions en pleine Guerre froide et les communistes avaient une foi absolue en leur supériorité philosophique et historique. Étaient donc objectifs ceux qui avaient compris le sens de l'histoire qui nécessairement conduirait à la réalisation du Grand soir rouge. Pour la Pologne et la Hongrie, leurs alliés, le gouvernement du Nord Vietnam et le Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire, ne pouvaient donc être coupables d'aucun manquement aux Accords de Paris.

Nous faisons ainsi face à deux conceptions inconciliables de l'objectivité. La CICS pouvait condamner unanimement le gouvernement du Sud Vietnam, mais jamais l'allié du gouvernement du Nord Vietnam, soit le Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire. Le Canada, par sa simple présence contribuait à projeter sur la scène internationale une image négative du gouvernement du Sud Vietnam qui devenait le mauvais larron. Il était le coupable, l'acteur de mauvaise foi qui ne voulait pas réellement mettre en œuvre les Accords de Paris, en mettant fin aux escarmouches et à la guerre. Le Canada était le jouet d'une dynamique à laquelle il souhaitait mettre fin.

La CICS connut un moment de grande tension lorsque, par mégarde, un rapport d'incident préparé par les quatre délégations militaires condamnait unanimement

le Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire. Les délégations de Pologne et de Hongrie dont un premier échelon avait approuvé le rapport, ont alors mis leur véto à la transmission de ce rapport aux protagonistes. L'inénarrable ambassadeur canadien a alors demandé une suspension sine die de la session de la CICS et a fait valoir qu'elle ne reprendrait pas tant qu'une solution à la transmission de ce rapport n'aurait pas été trouvée.

Encore une fois, je souligne que nous opérons sur le point chaud de la scène internationale. Tout ce qui touchait la CICS faisait les manchettes de la presse mondiale. Les gestes de la délégation canadienne étaient commentés dans tous les journaux, particulièrement au Canada, et ne recevaient pas systématiquement l'appui de la presse. Alors a commencé avec la centrale un dialogue qui nous a fait beaucoup réfléchir. Ce fut d'abord le directeur qui attira notre attention, demandant de réviser notre copie; puis le directeur-général; puis le sous-ministre... l'ambassadeur réunissait son équipe et discutait des tenants et aboutissants de toute cette affaire. Puis, un jour il nous dit : « Les gars, nous avons épuisé toutes nos cartouches. Nous avons résisté jusqu'à maintenant, mais je m'attends à recevoir des instructions du Ministre. Il nous faudra capituler ». Sauf que les instructions du ministre n'ont pas eu le temps de nous parvenir. Car les délégations communistes avaient finalement accepté de transmettre le rapport. Nous étions soulagés et heureux.

Il y aurait certes d'autres anecdotes à raconter, mais elles n'ont pas la même signification. Étant le plus jeune agent sur le terrain, j'avais été désigné comme agent de liaison avec le Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire que le gouvernement du Canada ne reconnaissait pas. Cela m'a parfois donné l'occasion de corriger des notes et de participer plus directement à la conception de l'action.

Le Canada n'avait donc pas réussi à faire valoir que les rapports de la

CICS devaient trouver leur chemin jusqu'au Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies. Il s'était engagé pour 6 mois et voyait que rien ne changeait, que la guerre se poursuivait de façon différente et plus subtile. Le Ministre canadien vint en mission dans la région pour évaluer la situation. Il était accompagné d'une importante délégation de la presse et son avion fit escale dans les pays de la région pour entamer des discussions avec les gouvernements, y compris celui du Vietnam du Nord. Je fus pour ma part envoyé au Laos pour aider notre chef de mission, en particulier avec la presse. Ma première mission fut de discuter avec le directeur de l'aéroport qui était de sang royal. Il me fallait donc donner de la « majesté ». C'était plutôt cocasse...

Ma visite au Laos me valut une autre expérience avec la presse. Le Ministre devait en effet à chaque étape donner une conférence de presse. Le plus respecté de tous les journalistes, le représentant du Devoir, était celui qui donnait le ton, du moins en ce qui concerne la substance. Pas toujours très fier de ses condisciples, il me dit : « Gabriel, si tu n'as jamais vu une meute de loups affamés, prépare-toi, ce sera pour aujourd'hui ». Il a ainsi parfait mon éducation en ce qui concerne la presse... Je demeure toujours méfiant.

Le Ministre canadien, rentré à Ottawa, fit son rapport au cabinet et le Canada annonça sa décision de se retirer de la CICS. Il sera remplacé par l'Iran. L'expérience canadienne aura duré exactement six mois. Je faisais partie du groupe des derniers agents à quitter le Vietnam du Sud le 6 août 1973. Moins de deux ans plus tard, le retrait du Canada se révélait prémonitoire avec la chute de Saigon le 30 avril 1975. Entre temps, le Canada aura permis aux États-Unis de se retirer « dans l'honneur » et de contribuer à mettre fin à un chapitre pas nécessairement très glorieux de leur histoire. Le Vietnam, après avoir été deux entités

reconnues internationalement sous deux commissions internationales redevenait un seul pays avec la victoire du Nord sur le Sud.

Le Vietnam a beaucoup compté dans ma vie. J'y ai vraiment eu le sentiment de faire partie de l'histoire en marche. Il a été le terrain de mon apprentissage et une école de formation sans pareil. J'y remettrai les pieds comme ambassadeur 32 ans plus tard. Je craignais que mon expérience de la CICS soit perçue négativement par mes interlocuteurs. Ce fut tout le contraire. Les Vietnamiens valorisaient que j'aie été un témoin de leur histoire.

J'en reviens à ma première nuit à Saigon. Compte tenu de l'arrivée massive de militaires, de diplomates, de journalistes et de curieux de toutes sortes, la capacité hôtelière de la capitale sud-vietnamienne était complètement débordée. La délégation canadienne n'ayant pas pu me retenir une chambre dans un hôtel décent, je me retrouvai dans un hôtel de troisième catégorie où des blattes énormes se mettaient en action dès que la lumière était éteinte. J'ai souvent été logé dans de beaux hôtels, mais je me suis aussi retrouvé dans des hôtels de deuxième ou troisième ordre où le « canadien moyen » n'aurait pas accepté de rester. La fonction et le devoir ont toujours primé sur les conditions matérielles. C'était vrai pour moi, mais aussi pour la très grande majorité de mes collègues. Je tiens à le souligner pour tenter de mettre fin à certains mythes qui minent nos instruments diplomatiques en les réduisant au champagne et à la vie facile.

La carrière diplomatique de Gabriel Lessard a débuté au Vietnam en 1973. Il y retournera 32 ans plus tard comme Ambassadeur du Canada. Entretiens, il aura été en congé sans solde de 1977 à 1980 chez Alcan d'Afrique et du Moyen-Orient, directeur de la Francophonie de 1989 à 2002 et directeur exécutif adjoint au Secrétariat de l'Évaluation du Renseignement du Conseil privé de 2002 à 2005.

How I Ran From Iran (*Part Two*)

By Roger Lucy

In Part One, published in Issue Three of FORUM, I related how six Americans not captured with the taking of the American Embassy in Teheran in November 1979 were hidden by Canadian diplomats for more than two months, with risk of discovery a daily occurrence. Now for the rest of the story....

In late January 1980, we were advised that two exfiltration experts from the CIA would arrive a few days before the departure date, to finalize measures. Ken Taylor opened the red bag with the doctored passports. The passports were genuine but for the doctored names and nationalities and a lot of entry stamps, which were fake to deceive the Iranians. I knew some Farsi, and Ken asked me to carefully check the entry stamps. What I found left me stunned. The Iranian calendar begins on or around 21 March *Now Rouz*. The first month, *Farvardin*, begins then, and we were in the final months of the old year 1351, at the beginning of the 10th month, *Dey*. This is something experts

on Iran should know, but somehow the CIA had inserted the forged visa stamps based on our Gregorian calendar, with our “house-guests” departing before their visas had been issued. I reportedly said some very uncomplimentary things about the CIA including, according to Jean Pelletier’s book “From the people who brought you the Bay of Pigs”. In any event my heart sank as I assumed this would delay our “house-guests” departure by at least a week.

I was greatly concerned about our subterfuge being blown. Shortly after moving into the Sheardown house, I had come down-stairs to discover one of our “house-guests” speaking on the telephone to his wife in Athens. After the Revolution, the Shah’s dreaded secret police SAVAK had been bloodily dismantled, but in the ensuing months many surviving staff had been recruited into a successor organisation, SAVAMA. I assumed that some skilled in monitoring telephones would be among the holdovers. Apparently not, or if they were, they were not inclined to share their findings with those who

held the US Embassy. At the time I did not know that, so in the dead of night, whenever I heard a car stop outside the house, my heart stopped. I appreciated Zena Sheardown’s courage having to spend every day alone with our “house-guests.”

Ottawa reassured us that there was no need to worry. The problem with the entry visas would be solved once the people from Langley arrived. They did, on 26 January, in the form of two nondescript businessman types, one calling himself Julio, the other Kevin. One had, if I recall correctly, a German passport; the other was posing as an Irish national. Kevin, who was revealed as Tony Mendez, the CIA’s “master of disguise,” was also a master at confidence building. Julio’s identity has never been revealed. They explained that this exfiltration operation was just one element in a broader plan aimed at liberating all the hostages. Over the past two months, the CIA had rebuilt an extensive network in Iran, and they outlined a plan, which looked like the “Eagles Claw” rescue operation, which failed spectacularly in the desert east of Tehran in late April 1980. Ken already knew more about this than I did, as he and our by-then departed Sergeant Jim Edwards had been engaged in intelligence collection and providing a communications link to Washington. Jim, unfortunately, had been apprehended while doing reconnaissance of the US Embassy and had abruptly departed on the next plane to Europe. Following the need-to-know principle (or more exactly the principle that what you do not know cannot be extracted), I had studiously avoided details of these extra-curricular activities, although I was occasionally drawn into discussions about the lay-out of the US Embassy.

Tony solved the problem of the botched visas. Fortunately, the second bag from Ottawa had included



Photo: Sajad Nori on Unsplash

Tehran airport, Iran.

spare, unmarked passports and bogus Iranian visa and entry stamps. He stamped in new visas in these passports (wetted with some of the last of Ken's Chivas). I provided him with more convincing dates, based on the Persian Calendar, which were penned in.

Richard Sewell solved another detail. On arrival at Mehrabad, passengers filled out an arrival declaration with their names, passport numbers, place of stay etc. The original was stapled into the passport and the border control people retained a copy to be checked with the original on departure. Lacking the original slip in the passports would be awkward. Fortunately, Richard obtained a supply of blank forms from the British Airways agent.

We discussed the possible cover stories. It soon became clear that the Hollywood option that we had almost dismissed out of hand was the CIA's preferred scenario and the one for which they were most prepared. Tony and Julio went through all the backup that had gone into it: buying the rights to a film (indeed, they had bought the film rights to a Sci-Fi novel I was quite fond of); setting up a production company; opening a production office; hiring staff to man the telephones, and preparing supporting props and paraphernalia, like business cards, story boards etc. Those details are shown quite accurately in *Argo*. Our "house-guests" were meant to be a Canadian production team, who had been stranded in Tehran, while looking for a suitably exotic locale as a location for the film. In retrospect it was utterly improbable. But by the time Tony and Julio had finished their exposition, not only did we buy into it, but were wishing we could pose as part of this film crew and be exfiltrated alongside our "house-guests".

The next step was to prepare the "house-guests" for exfiltration. I took Tony and Julio to the Sheardown house, while Ken brought the Staffords. Tony recounted some past

exfiltration feats, including one or two from Iran. He presented the possible cover stories but concentrated on the film crew option. Like us, the "house-guests" (or most of them) were sold on it. In working out the cover stories, consideration had been given to which position on the film crew best suited each "house-guest's" background and interests. Tony's intent was to engross them in role-playing to suppress apprehensions about going through Mehrabad airport. The next 24 hours was given to studying cover stories, pursued with great enthusiasm.

On the final day, the "house-guests" continued to absorb their assumed identities. Tony skilfully applied a little make up here, some hair gel there, choosing and arraigning clothing to blend them into their new roles. Ken and I went back to the Embassy to put out a warning to Canadians still in Iran, advising them to prepare departure plans. Our staff were told we were closing for a week while the Ambassador returned to Ottawa for consultations, and the Canadian staff took a well-deserved break. (For some reason we, or at least I, seriously believed we really would be back once the dust settled). The New Zealanders would look after Canadian affairs in our absence. A final message from Michael Shenstone, DG for Africa and Middle East, wished us "Good luck and Godspeed. See you later Exfiltrator."

Returning to the Sheardown house at the end of the afternoon, the "house-guests" had been thoroughly drilled in their roles. To test them, we did a dry run of what they might encounter at the airport. Donning an old camouflage jacket and my most truculent sneer, I assumed an Iranian accent and the role of a suspicious Revolutionary Guard and conducted mock interrogations to try to shake their stories. (Mark Lijek claims I was convincingly ferocious.)

We prepared a farewell supper with our New Zealand co-conspirators and

ensured that no un-Islamic beverages would be left behind. By the end of the evening no one felt any pain. Richard Sewell took Tony and Julio back to their hotel and the rest of us retired for our final night in Tehran. Around 3 AM I roused our guests and bundled them into a couple of Embassy cars (both drivers, while Iranians, were sympathetic to the Mujahedin-e-Khalq and therefore had no love for the regime). Richard would see our guests to the airport, while I cleaned up their traces at the Sheardown house. From there things unfolded as they should, although our CIA friends may have gotten themselves a bit over-refreshed. They over-slept their alarm, and Richard had to have them aroused from their slumbers. Nonetheless, everyone reached the airport in time for the pre-departure hoops of baggage inspection, check-in procedures, and immigration formalities. As expected, the border officials showed no inclination to match their arrival slips with the carbon copies supposedly on file. The only glitch was an hour's delay due to technical problems with the Swissair flight – less exciting than *Argo's* suspense-filled account of suspicious Revolutionary Guards and car chases. In short, everything that could go wrong did not.

Once I received news that our former charges were en route for Zurich, I repaired to the Embassy where I joined Ken, Sergeant Claude Gauthier, and our Communicator Mary O'Flaherty in the final preparations for closing the mission (Laverna Dollimore and Junior Gosse had already departed on a morning flight). Whatever was left of classified material was shredded (most of our files had been purged in November). Any Canadians missed in our first go-round were warned to depart. Anything of value or sensitivity not already destroyed or shipped out was locked in the vault. A final message to Ottawa reporting our success was sent. Then our cypher machine was wrapped in a dip bag, and

Sergeant Gauthier – forever after to be nicknamed “Sledge”- pounded it to bits with a 10 lb. sledgehammer. I fielded a call from the Foreign Ministry inviting me to discuss a bilateral aviation agreement (air links with the USA had been severed). I excused myself saying I would be out of town and proposed meeting the following week. They agreed.

We locked-up the Chancery, leaving a sign on the door saying we were temporarily closed. We repaired to the Danish Official Residence where, joined by Chris Beebe and Richard Sewell, the Danish Ambassador, Truls Munk, hosted a fabulous lunch. He was a wine connoisseur, and we were treated to bottles of Chateau Lafite Rothschild, which I had never had, before or since. Then to Mehrabad, boarding an SAS flight to Copenhagen (the Danes had arranged an up-grade to Business Class). There was a slight delay as one passenger had not shown up, and we had to disembark to identify our baggage. Then, once in Turkish airspace, we began to celebrate, and I

recall little of the subsequent flight.

All the remaining Canadians were aboard the flight to Copenhagen, where I awoke the next morning in the SAS Hotel to discover that we were front-page news. Pelletier had kept his promise not to break his story until we were all safely out of Iran, but only just. Since then, I have never been back to Iran, and indeed the chill in our diplomatic relations was such that our embassy did not re-open for seven years. The Iranians wanted an apology from Canada; the Canadian position was we had nothing to apologise for. For years, we kept silent about the CIA's involvement, although explanations of how we accomplished it all on our own lacked a certain credibility.

Finally, at the turn of the millennium the CIA decided it needed some good news stories to burnish its image. Recently retired, Tony Mendez was a good example of a CIA officer doing good things clandestinely, and he was brought in from the cold. It became possible to speak much more

freely of what happened. Since those exciting days I have kept in touch with all our former “house-guests,” especially Mark and Cora Lijek. We have had reunions every 5 years or so – although not in late January. On a couple of occasions Tony Mendez attended (alas he died two years ago). Also invited were such Canadians who, to my knowledge, had worked hard at Headquarters or abroad to support the operation and ensure its success. For obvious reasons, a 2020 reunion was not possible, and it is hard to predict if enough of us will be around for future reunions. It is hard to believe this all happened 40 years ago!

Roger Lucy joined External Affairs in 1971 and served in Chicago, Jeddah, Baghdad, Tehran, Oslo, and Port of Spain before retiring in 2005. Since retiring, he has written about a dozen monographs on Canadian armoured vehicles, as well as a book on the Canadian Ram tank. Roger and his spouse, another External Affairs officer, Susan Howell, reside in Ottawa with their cat, Eudoxia.

Une affectation près le Saint-Siège

Par Jean Bourassa

Au début des années 2000, une affectation au Saint-Siège m'apparaissait intéressante, tant au plan professionnel que familial. J'étais fasciné par la portée de l'action diplomatique du Saint Siège ainsi que de son influence intellectuelle universelle, ce en dépit de la petite taille de cet État. Ce qui surprend lors d'une affectation au Vatican, même pour un diplomate aguerrri, est l'étendue du protocole tiré d'un autre âge ainsi que l'esprit de confrérie entre collègues diplomates. Mon prédécesseur, anglophone albertain, avait fondé un “groupe francophone” avec notre collègue français et ce groupe s'était muté rapidement en

un équivalent du WEOG onusien, au sein duquel nous avons tissé des liens d'amitié très étroits qui s'avèrent d'une valeur inestimable pour échanger de l'information et de collaborer à l'occasion de grands événements.

La taille restreinte du corps diplomatique en poste à Rome contraste avec les postes que j'avais eus précédemment comme Londres ou Paris et aussi parce que le travail y est davantage axé sur la politique étrangère et que certains sujets que j'y ai abordés ont rapidement demandé l'attention du bureau du premier ministre. Le Saint-Siège constitue

un observatoire exceptionnel en politique étrangère ainsi que pour les grandes questions de l'heure. C'est ainsi qu'un jour je me suis retrouvé avec une poignée de collègues dans une ONG près du Vatican qui avaient organisé une rencontre de médiation avec les leaders des parties belligérantes d'un pays en proie à une guerre civile, ou encore j'ai passé une pleine soirée au téléphone avec des collègues à Rome et Ottawa, au ministère et BPM, pour discuter d'une proposition de règlement entre pays en guerre. Quant à la dimension religieuse, il importe de noter que le Canada est présent au Vatican dans une relations d'État à État, ce



St. Peter's Basilica, Piazza San Pietro, Vatican City

qui n'empêche évidemment pas de recevoir à l'occasion des membres du clergé, qu'ils soient catholiques, anglicans, d'autres confessions ou incroyants, ou de suivre les développements des publications du Saint-Siège lorsqu'elles concernent les gouvernements comme par exemple l'encyclique "Deus Caritas Est" du Pape Benoît XVI où il est mention du devoir des États envers la justice sociale.

Si le Vatican constitue surtout une capitale religieuse pour de nombreux fidèles chrétiens ou d'autres confessions, il attire également intérêt et curiosité comme important centre intellectuel, dont l'histoire a marqué différentes époques comme la renaissance ou la période baroque et dans des domaines aussi divers que les premières universités en éducation, nos systèmes de droit et les arts par les musées, la musique,

la peinture ou l'architecture. De nos jours le Saint-Siège demeure encore et toujours un centre du savoir que ce soit par les travaux de l'Académie pontificale des sciences qui compta parmi ses membres le physicien et cosmologiste Stephen Hawking et avant lui des sommités comme Bohr, Fleming, Marconi, de Broglie, Heisenberg ou encore par le nombreuses conférences sur les préoccupations de l'heure, climat, migrations, eau, etc. et auxquelles participent les sommités du domaine, qu'elles soient croyantes ou non.

Concernant les affaires étrangères, le Vatican exerce une diplomatie tout aussi discrète qu'efficace alliant l'action feutrée de ses diplomates sur le terrain, l'aide de pays partageant les mêmes valeurs, certaines ONGs et les déclarations lors d'encycliques ou de visites papales. Le Saint Siège a contribué à régler de façon discrète de nombreux conflits et agi de concert avec d'autres pays, dont le Canada, pour la défense des droits de la personne ou l'aide humanitaire. Nos interlocuteurs du Saint-Siège sont normalement des diplomates d'expérience, ayant vécu de nombreuses années à l'étranger et maîtrisant plusieurs langues. Certains ont un ou même deux doctorats et connaissent à fond les données sociales et politiques des pays dont ils assurent le suivi.

Une affectation près le Saint-Siège constitue un vertigineux voyage dans le temps qui ne manque pas de fasciner les amateurs d'histoire. La tradition veut que le corps diplomatique accrédité au Saint-Siège organise un dîner pour les cadres de la Curie à l'occasion du nouvel an, auquel participent les diplomates accrédités mais non-résidents; à son tour la Curie reçoit à l'été les diplomates en poste à Rome et nous avons droit à des visites privées avec guides du Vatican, Chapelle sixtine, Basilique Saint-Pierre, et autres salles suivies d'une réception. Les contacts auprès des

spécialistes du Saint-Siège que j'ai établis lors de ces visites me furent très utiles par la suite à l'occasion des visites assez fréquentes de politiciens ou de personnalités artistiques canadiens.

Le "Venerable English College", un séminaire britannique situé à Rome, est la plus vieille institution étrangère en dehors de la Grande-Bretagne et dont l'origine remonte à 1362. L'ambassade d'Espagne, justement près de la place éponyme, est la plus vieille ambassade toujours en service. Mon collègue avait appelé à mon attention une petite cloche près d'une fenêtre, à l'extérieur au deuxième étage, laquelle servait de signal à l'ambassadeur pour appeler ses domestiques. On raconte que pour une raison inconnue l'ambassadeur de France voulut interdire l'usage de cette cloche en se plaignant au Vatican que seule l'Église pouvait se servir de cet instrument. L'ambassadeur d'Espagne utilisa donc un petit canon; l'ambassadeur de France, trouvant cette méthode encore plus bruyante, se ravisa rapidement et trouva une exception aux règles permettant l'utilisation de cloches à des fins autres que religieuses. On transforma les appartements au XIX^{ème} siècle pour y accueillir le Roi en cas d'exil éventuel, ce qui ne s'est pas produit. Le conseiller et chef de mission adjoint occupe toujours les appartements destinés au Roi, mais toutefois sans le trône...

Un poste à Rome implique des moments qui peuvent parfois faire sourire après coup. La Gouverneure générale Michaëlle Jean représenta le pays à la cérémonie de clôture des Jeux olympiques de Turin un week-end, et elle voulut également profiter de son séjour en Italie pour rencontrer le Président italien ainsi que le Pape; je demandai et obtint une audience pour un lundi midi. Or le Vatican exigeait que l'on achemine les cadeaux pour le Pape au moins deux jours à l'avance, ce qui dans ce

cas s'avérait impossible. Je négociai néanmoins une entente pour livrer le cadeau à la première heure le lundi et un militaire canadien de passage à Turin s'occupa de me rapporter le cadeau le samedi. Quand je suis allé chez lui pour prendre le cadeau, il me raconta avoir eu quelques problèmes avec cette sculpture inuite emballée dans une grosse boîte. Comme il ne voulait pas se départir du cadeau pendant le trajet, il voulut l'apporter avec lui en cabine; la préposée aux billets lui fit remarquer qu'il n'avait pas la taille réglementaire, ce à quoi il lui répliqua qu'il s'agissait d'un cadeau pour le Pape ! Elle s'esclaffa et presque en larmes lui répondit que c'était de loin la meilleure excuse qu'elle avait jamais entendue. La sculpture accompagna néanmoins le colonel en cabine.

L'organisation des événements spéciaux comme les funérailles d'un Pape ou l'élection d'un successeur représentent un défi de taille pour une petite ambassade. Lors des funérailles du Pape Jean-Paul II, il fallait gérer non seulement la logistique de la délégation officielle mais aussi celle de nombreux députés et autres invités. Notre ambassadeur près l'Italie m'avait offert tout son personnel et je lui avait dit que cette visite allait demander des efforts concertés et qu'il me faudrait peut-être une couple d'agents politiques durant la cérémonie. La délégation officielle ne causait guère problème étant guidée par le protocole mais j'étais plus inquiet pour les autres délégués, députés, dignitaires provinciaux, etc. qui prenaient place dans deux autobus. J'avais donc demandé à deux agents d'accompagner la délégation et de s'assurer que tout le monde prenne place dans les véhicules dès que la cérémonie fut terminée, car d'après mes expériences lors de grandes cérémonies, je prévoyais un chaos exceptionnel et dantesque attendu l'ampleur de l'événement.

Je demandai quelques heures plus tard à l'un de mes collègues qui avait accompagné la délégation comment les invités avaient pu s'extirper de la foule, évaluée à plusieurs centaines de milliers de personnes. Il me répondit qu'ils avaient été les premiers à sortir, sans aucun problème; il s'était simplement assuré que les personnes embarquent un peu à l'avance dans les autobus puis profitant de l'indescriptible cohue avait commandé au chauffeur "Segui questo veicolo" (suivez ce véhicule); il s'était inséré dans la délégation du Premier ministre Berlusconi.

Lors du Conclave pour l'élection de Benoît XVI, les cardinaux durent voter à plusieurs reprises et la traditionnelle fumée noire sortait de la cheminée érigée sur le toit de la Chapelle Sixtine indiquant un vote nul. Un soir alors que j'étais à l'épicerie, mon assistante alors sur la Place Saint-Pierre m'appela pour me signaler qu'elle apercevait de la fumée. Quand je lui en ai demandé la couleur, elle me répondit, le plus sérieusement du monde: grise ! En fait on corrigea rapidement le tir et une fumée blanche sortit finalement annonçant l'élection de Benoît XVI.

Bien que les diplomates en poste aux ambassades près le Saint-Siège soient généralement des diplomates d'expérience, il s'agit en fait d'un excellent poste pour de jeunes agents du secteur des relations politiques. Un pays ami y envoyait d'ailleurs ses agents en premier poste; un peu perdus au début comme il fallait s'y attendre, l'esprit d'entraide de la communauté les a rapidement aidés dans leur tâche et ils connurent par la suite une excellente carrière suite à leur affectation.

Diplomate de carrière, Jean Bourassa a été affecté à New-York, Madrid, Londres, Paris et Rome. Retraité depuis 4 ans, il se passionne pour le vélo, la photographie et la musique.

The link between image and influence – Why Canada needs cultural diplomacy

By John Graham

A decade ago John Baird, then foreign minister, withdrew the funding for the Canadian Studies Overseas program, then in its thirty-eighth year. The reason: it was part of a government-wide squeeze to balance the budget in advance of an election – wherein so-called “expendable” programs were cut. The shock was felt around the world by international students, researchers, universities and by the many Canadian diplomatic missions which had benefitted from the link with Canadian Studies.

How could this have happened? How could a program that provided seed money to over 7000 international scholars to teach about Canada so that foreign publics, media and decision makers better understood what modern Canada was about and one that generated impressive financial returns to Canada, be cancelled? And the savings? At the time the program was cut, the cost to the federal treasury was about five and a half million dollars – peanuts in the context of a federal budget, especially for a program that was regarded as one of Foreign Affairs’ most cost-effective small scale programs. And cost-effective because the greater part of the financial burden was borne by foreign universities.

How Canada and Canadians are seen from abroad is more than a casual question. A thorough answer embraces our GNP, our exports, the richness of our scientific and medical research, our commitment to reconciliation with our indigenous peoples, our governance, the flow of students, immigrants and much else. These perceptions help define our sense of who we are.

Most developed countries have long recognized that leaving these impressions to conventional media

interaction was leaving too much of their image to chance. Seventy years ago, the Massey Royal Commission on the “Arts, Letters and Sciences” characterized our cultural landscape as “bleak”, accepted that the image we projected abroad was critically important for the country, and recommended that the care and improvement of that image should be a central function of our foreign policy.

Massey ignited the domestic cultural scene, producing an explosion of the arts and of the institutions (like the Canada Council and the Social Sciences Research Council) that promoted them. Internationally, there were stunning successes, and at home there were efforts to erect a “third pillar of foreign policy” comprising arts and science. But there was no sustained pressure to ensure that the new Canadian vitality was understood abroad. Meanwhile our competitors shot past us and continue to do so.

Focusing on this dilemma, a Special Joint Committee of Parliament disclosed the annual per capita expenditures on cultural diplomacy (including international education) of four of our major competitors and ourselves: France - \$26.50; Germany – \$18.49, UK - \$13.37; Japan - \$12.60; Canada - \$3.08.

Given the scale of our foreign operations, this may appear to be a mini-crisis. However, it raises a fundamental question about whether we understand the relevance of cultural and knowledge diplomacy and the consequences of our failure to invest in it. In the case of Canadian Studies, our neglect threatens an invaluable program. Of 23 national associations, only 17 are still more or less operational. Numbers, academic programs and academic outreach are

in steep decline. Money for research grants came largely from Ottawa, and the absence of that funding has meant that it is almost impossible to replace departing faculty.

Canadians deeply engaged in our cultural trajectory have been appalled. A national campaign to restore funding and update the program is led by Nik Nanos. Included in the campaign’s distinguished leadership team are Margaret Atwood, Daniel Beland, Robert Bothwell, Senator Patricia Bovey, Senator Peter Boehm, the Rt Hon Joe Clark, John English, Louise Frechette, Lawrence Hill and Jane Urquhart.

For too long this has been a bad news story, and few observers who have followed the saga over the years would disagree. Certainly not the Senate, whose Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs deplored Canada’s lack of interest in its own culture, concluded that “Cultural Diplomacy should be a pillar of Canada’s foreign policy”, and urged unanimously that Global Affairs “support the creation of a modernized Canadian Studies program that would contribute to knowledge about Canada in the world” - along with other basic components of cultural diplomacy.

The opportunity for change recommended by the Senate lies just ahead – in the budget, now in preparation for the new Parliament.

John Graham has been a Canadian diplomat, the first head of the Unit for Promotion of Democracy in the Organisation of American States (OAS), an international mediator in the Dominican Republic, Chair of the Canadian Foundation for the Americas, and writer and editorial cartoonist for the Manor Park Chronicle.

Announcements/Annonces

CFSAF Annual General Meeting

Given the general uncertainty surrounding large meetings, the executive of CFSAF has decided to postpone our Annual General Meeting until the New Year, possibly until April or May, when the public health situation should be much more certain. In the meantime, we hope to have some announcements about the future activities of CFSAF. We are interested in hearing the views of members, and we are also

interested in continuing to expand our membership. On how to join the Forum, see the last page of this issue, or ask us questions at edit.forum99@gmail.com.

Assemblée générale annuelle de la FASEC

Compte tenu de l'incertitude entourant toujours les grands rassemblements, l'exécutif du FASEC a décidé de reporter l'assemblée générale annuelle au début de la prochaine année, possiblement en avril ou mai, lorsque la situation

concernant la santé publique devrait être beaucoup plus claire. D'ici là, nous espérons faire quelques annonces visant les activités futures du FASEC. Nous sommes toujours heureux d'entendre les points de vue des membres, et nous sommes également intéressés à continuer d'élargir les adhésions. Pour savoir comment rejoindre le Forum, veuillez consulter la dernière page de ce numéro, ou transmettez-nous vos questions et suggestions à edit.forum99@gmail.com.

Columns

On Photographing Birds

By Victor Rakmil

For some, bird photography is an excuse to get out in the fresh air; for others it's the hunt and some just like birds.

There is a distinction between birding and bird photography. Most of the birders I meet are worried that photographers will scare off the birds by getting too close and ignoring the local codes of conduct for interactions with birds. Birders use scopes that have a far greater reach than the majority of telephoto lenses. There is a rivalry between both groups, and some diplomacy may be required. A friendly birder can help you find and identify birds. Knowing something about local birds' habits and habitats is part of the game. Books and smartphone apps on birds can also help.

For bird photography I use a Nikon D500 and a 200-500mm F5.6 lens. I know good photographers who started with a 70-300 mm lens, but super zooms like the one I use are

dropping in price (\$1800). Just for humorous reference, Nikon's 800 mm lens is \$20,000. Some call them "Dentists' lenses". My suggestion is to avoid a lens with too large a range e.g. 50-600mm; the image quality may not be stellar. If you can afford it, buy a lens that does not change aperture when it zooms.

Every spring, having sat out the winter, I have to remind myself of the best settings and retrain my eye to use my telephoto lens. For example, looking down a narrow tube to find a small thing in a tree is clearly doable but it takes practice.

F8 is a good depth of field for birds, and if available on your camera use auto ISO (the camera decides the sensitivity of the sensor up to a maximum you set). A high shutter speed is necessary, and a high frame



Depth of field.

Photos: Victor Rakmil



Telling a story.

rate (how many shots your camera can take when you hold down the shutter) certainly helps for birds in flight. A basic rule is to use the reciprocal of your lens (e.g. 500 mm equals at least 1/500th of a second), but with birds in flight expect to use a shutter speed in the range of 1/1000th of a second to get sharp photos. Learning about the autofocus of your camera and using continuous focusing mode if you have it on your camera is a must.

A proper and steady hold on your camera pressed against your eye and braced by the camera strap, helps considerably in keeping your photo sharp as much as using a sufficiently high shutter speed. Autofocus has become increasingly reliable in the latest cameras, and the technology continues to change. Knowing your camera's abilities will help you get crisp sharp photos, for example, setting up the autofocus in your camera to help track a bird in flight.

Many people don't use tripods anymore because the stabilization in the latest lenses and in cameras work very well. But a tripod and gimbal (a specialized tripod head designed for birding) will always do better.

Many birds find a perch in the trees, making themselves more or less

invisible. It's their movement that gives them away. Photographers look for good backgrounds with as few distractions as possible in front of and behind the bird. Your viewer's eye will go to the brightest spot first: if that is pure white (i.e. burned out), it will impact their impression of your photo. Above all, focus on the eye. A well-exposed bird in plain view against an out of focus green background or a blue sky is a good start.

Birds feeding their young; raptors, owls, and birds in flight are top of most people's shooting list. While birders will keep some sites secret to protect the birds, at the other extreme is a large crowd with many cameras going off as if POTUS is in town. There is a link below to an example of a Code of Conduct that birders and nature clubs urge photographers to abide by. Birds are sensitive, and many are species at risk. Some people think baiting snowy owls with live mice is fair game, only to have the owls expect such meals on a regular basis. The same with ducks, throwing them food only acclimatizes them to humans, and that might not help them if they migrate during hunting season.

Bird nests are often found in the cavities of trees or holes drilled out by woodpeckers. Some are used over

and over by generations of the same family or by different species. Ospreys like to nest in the open on platforms, some constructed especially for them. Owls and raptors, like hawks, are often found when a murder of crows harass them. Just follow the sound. These are the kinds of tips birders and bird photographers can help you with.

Birds in Flight (BIF) is something we all need to try. Swivel with your hips, not your feet, mind your shutter speed, use auto ISO and optimize the autofocus settings on your camera.

Note that birds take off and land into the wind, useful information to know to place yourself if you think a bird is going to make a move. As many a photographer will tell you, birds often defecate on take off so don't be surprised that your first shot is unusable. I am not surprised when I get more backside views than faces with difficult birds. Gulls tend to circle around making them easier to capture the second time around, and Canada Geese fly in straight lines along waterways. Both are good for practice.

When it comes to exposure a bit of underexposure is useful, especially with all-white birds like egrets. You can get more detail in your final processed photograph this way.

For those of us in Ottawa there is the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club (founded in 1879, it is Canada's oldest nature club). Its website, events and other tools are must haves for local birders and photographers including best places to find birds. Their code of conduct is here: <https://ofnc.ca/programs/birding-in-the-ottawa-area/code-of-conduct-for-birders-birdwatchers-and-photographers>

Many of the things I have written about here are also applicable to other animals. In the field with other photographers, there is frequently someone ready to give tips, point out birds they have seen, good spots to find them and is handy in identifying what you shot.

Tradex Mutual Funds

Over 60 years investing for Canadian public servants

By Robert Todd

In the late 1950's, several young Trade and Commerce officers sought a means to invest in Canada's economic growth when posted abroad. Because their work provided them inside knowledge of Canadian exporters' plans, avoiding conflict of interest was a significant ethical issue. How to do this?

A mutual fund using a professional investment portfolio manager, following the no-load model, offered a potential solution: no personal involvement in stock decisions; least-cost investing, and 'invest and forget' environment for an era of slow international communications. In 1959, of the 16 funds then operating, only one Canadian mutual fund was 'no-load'.

Convincing the higher-ups to approve this proposal was the challenge. In the end, a no-load mutual fund restricted

to employees of the two federal departments with staff overseas was approved by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Finance, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Prime Minister John Diefenbaker.

"Tradex Investment Fund Limited" (TIF), a federally registered company, was incorporated on January 29, 1960. Shares (\$5 each) were issued, along with its first valuation on April 30, 1960. Members (still called by this inclusive name) paid a \$5 registration fee to help recoup the cost (\$1,816) of establishing the Fund. By the end of its first year of operation, Tradex had 147 members and \$119,075 in assets, including 23 Canadian stocks.

A ten-person volunteer Board of Directors met monthly to manage the Fund, contracting administration to Royal Trust. In 1969, Fry Investment

Management (later Sceptre Investment Counsel) replaced Andreae, Cole & Thompson as investment counsel. From April 1970, eligibility to invest in Tradex was extended to all federal government employees.

In 1978, Tradex shared office facilities in a modest downtown building with the Civil Service Mutual Benefit Society. As membership increased, Tradex hired staff and in 1982 prepared its first Annual Summary Statement for investors and began weekly valuation of TIF shares.

Fund performance has always been a focus of members. In its first year of operation, TIF had a 30% rate of return. By March 1980, share values had increased, leading to a four-for-one stock split. A Financial Times survey of Canada's 55 mutual funds with a ten-year performance record reported Tradex was first over ten



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years and fourth over five years. By the end of 1987, Tradex had \$50 million in assets under management and over 5,000 accounts, including newly created RRSP accounts!

To address a larger membership and a more diverse investment environment, in 1988, Canada Trust became Registrar, Custodian and RRSP trustee, offering more services than its predecessor at no higher cost. To cover administrative costs and to allow the fund to offer members a wider range of services, 95% of Tradex members accepted the Board's proposal to create a new federally chartered company, "Tradex Management Inc." (TMI). It would manage the business of the funds and operate the office in exchange for an annual management fee of 0.6% of net assets. This arrangement had the advantage that income surplus to annual operating and reserve requirements would be rebated to members as lowered fees.

Doubts about investing only in equities, following the market drop in October 1987, led the Board to offer a fixed income fund investing in Government of Canada bonds and Treasury Bills. Elliot and Page of Toronto was investment manager for the 1989 "Tradex Security Fund" (TSF).

Managing Tradex's affairs has been a passion of its Board members. Gordon McCormack, an early investor and Director, became part-time General Manager from 1985 until April 1990, when the Board appointed Andrew Billingsley, an employee of Statistics Canada and Tradex Director, as its new full-time President.

He oversaw a broadening range of services being offered. The President's Quarterly Reports provided context to the investment environment and performance details for Tradex funds. Eligibility to purchase Tradex's funds was extended to federal, provincial and municipal employees across Canada, along with their family members. Fund names were clarified

- "Tradex Investment Fund Limited" became "Tradex Equity Fund Limited", and the Security Fund became "Tradex Bond Fund". A "Tradex Investment Savings" account was offered in 1993, being a high daily interest savings account through a major trust company.

A new fund was created in 1994, "Tradex Emerging Markets Country Fund", focusing on interest in newly industrializing countries. Its portfolio manager used closed-end country specific funds as its preferred investment vehicle. The fund's investment objectives were later broadened to include Europe and the USA, and it was renamed the "Tradex Global Equity Fund". Tradex also assisted Ottawa-based funds sponsored by the Professional Institute of the Public Service (PIPS) and the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers (PAFSO).

Before Y2K, Tradex surpassed \$100 million in assets under management. It also changed investment managers for the Equity Fund and the Bond Fund to improve performance and reduce costs for members.

Tradex's past twenty-five years have been no less exciting than its early years. It has established itself as a respected niche player in a highly competitive field. This is a tribute to the focus of its managers (Board and professional staff), the skill and insight of its investment counsel and the faith of its members, who continue to entrust Tradex with their savings and their expectations of its continuing success. ■

Robert Todd was a Director of Tradex from 2002 until 2017. He remains a member of the Tradex Independent Review Committee. With all of this, he found time for a satisfying career at ExtAff-DEAIT and to have a happy and fulfilling family life.

Annonces/Announcements

ARTHABASKA - À la croisée des destins

Notre collègue, Claire Poulin, vient de publier un excellent roman dont deux chapitres (premier et dernier) forment les volets "diplomatiques" d'une histoire trépidante.

ARTHABASKA est un récit "transatlantique" qui nous fait voyager de la France au Canada à travers des personnages hors du commun. Cela nous amène dans la région des Bois-Francs d'où Claire est originaire. Par ses talents d'écriture, elle a su très bien romancer une histoire attachante inspirée de la vie de sa mère, institutrice dans une école de rang du Québec. "Avec mes mots, je veux que les lecteurs

voyagent, qu'ils s'imaginent chaque endroit et qu'ils se sentent transportés dans le temps", nous a-t-elle confié. Cela, elle l'a très bien réussi puisque la force de ses personnages nous fait vivre des rêves, des angoisses et des rebondissements pittoresques, témoins d'habitudes culinaires et de péripéties dignes d'une autre époque.

Ce premier roman de Claire Poulin (qui ne sera pas le dernier car elle planche déjà sur un deuxième) peut être commandé directement de la plateforme des Éditions Spinelle en France via le lien suivant: <https://www.editions-spinelle.com/index.php/litterature/litterature-generale/romans/arthabaska-a-la-croisee-des-destins>

John Henry SIGLER, 1932-2021

By *Vicken Koundakjian*

John Sigler, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, Carleton University, passed away at age 89 on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the Queensway Carleton Hospital in Ottawa.

John had been a wonderful contact and a superb source of intellectual debate to the many of us who worked on the Middle East in the foreign service over several years.

John and his wife Joan were both from Indiana, and married in 1953, the same year John earned his BA in International Relations from Dartmouth College. Moving to Georgetown University, John got his MA, then to the University of Southern California for his PhD in political science in 1968. He was a Fulbright Fellow in international law at the Université de Grenoble, studied Arabic and Maghreb sociology at the Université de Tunis, and was Regents Scholar in Islamic Studies at UCLA. Not just an academic, John also served as a US Air Force intelligence officer, both on active duty and in the reserves from 1955 to 1968.

From 1967 to 1971, he taught at the School of International Relations at USC and at Macalester College in Minnesota. In 1971, John accepted a faculty position in international relations at Carleton University in Ottawa with support from John Sloan Dickey, president of Dartmouth College. Dickey had a strong interest in Canada and was a close personal friend of Lester Pearson, who was the Chancellor of Carleton when John arrived. Dickey was the leading academic authority in the United States on Canada, editing the 1965 study of Canada-US Relations for Columbia University. In 1979, he helped John and his two colleagues, Brian Tomlin and Harald von

Riekhoff, in their study “Canadian-U.S. Relations: Policy Environments, Issues and Prospects”. In 1985, John was chosen with Charles Doran to write and edit the follow-up study on Dickey’s work, which was entitled “Canada and the United States: Enduring Friendship Persistent Stress”.

John was strongly committed to teaching and supervision. In 1974, he won the Ontario Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. From 1977 to 1982 he served as the Director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, continuing to focus on his major research interest in the Middle East, much aided by the presence in the School of General E.L.M. Burns, the commander of UN truce supervision and peacekeeping forces between Israelis and Arabs from 1948 to 1964. He worked closely as well with J. King Gordon, who had served as UN press officer with Burns. John wrote a series of articles on Middle East conflict for International Affairs, the journal of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA). In 1984, John joined Albert Legault (Laval, UQAM) in editing and writing CIRCA, an annual bilingual survey of international conflict. John wrote the Middle East section from 1984 to 1998.

John saw Canadian academic life as particularly rich because it combined English, French and American academic traditions. He particularly valued his tenure (1986-98) as professeur adjoint de science politique at the Université d’Ottawa.

John served as an advisor to Canada’s Departments of Defence and Foreign Affairs, the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Board member (1984-88) for the Canadian Institute for International

Peace and Security, Board member (1983-89) for the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, and lecturer at PCO’s Intelligence Assessment Secretariat. He appeared regularly on television, spoke frequently on the radio, and was listed in the Canadian “Who’s Who”.

John served on the boards of the International Studies Association, the Social Science Federation of Canada, the Peace Science Society, and Science for Peace. He received career research awards from the International Association of Middle East Studies and the Canadian Political Science Association. His work, primarily on the Middle East, appeared in several academic journals. In contrast to the prevailing theoretical emphasis on international defence and security, he built on general systems theory, conflict resolution theory, and peace research.

He was a founding member of the Group of 78 to promote support for the United Nations, third world development, international law and human rights. He was also a founder of the Middle East Discussion Group to provide a forum for visiting Middle East specialists in Ottawa.

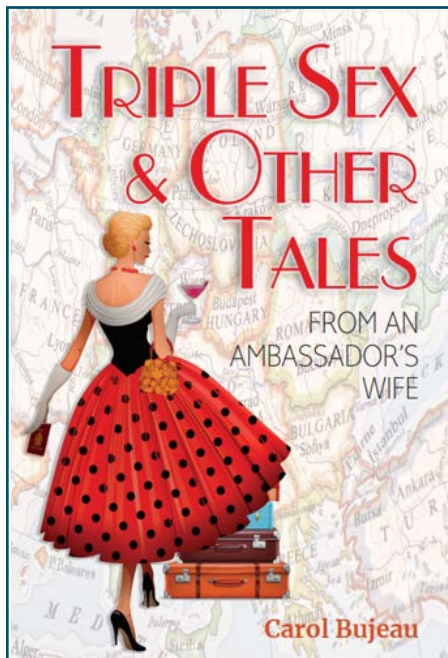
At the time of his death, his major research project, entitled How Peace Came to the Middle East, remained unfinished. John argued that diplomats, academics, and political leaders, particularly in Canada, had worked hard on detailed peace plans that failed to make a breakthrough in the political arena. In recent years, he advocated moving the dysfunctional United Nations from its headquarters in New York to Jerusalem, sacred to all three Abrahamic faiths, and where the original vision and promise of the UN might be restored.

John, from all your friends at External, DFAIT or GAC, may you rest in peace.

Vicken Koundakjian is a serving foreign service officer who, in his early days in the Department, had the delightful and distinct honour of knowing John Sigler.

Triple Sex & Other Tales of an Ambassador's Wife

By Carol Bujeau



By Stuart Hughes

Carol Bujeau's "*Triple Sex*" is an instant classic in a specialized field: the Canadian foreign service experience. She is in fine company, from Charles Ritchie to John Kneale. It's "instant" because you may not have not heard of Carol as an author, and "classic" because you're hooked in the first few pages and there's no letting go until you have savoured the journey through to its wise and mellow end. A lucky break? Maybe. But, as Stephen Leacock's wrote, "...it took twenty years of hard work to get this lucky". In Carol's case, 35 years might be more accurate, and partnered in every sense with the recently retired John Holmes.

Carol and John are in many ways quintessential Canadians, she the Montréal-born daughter of a Péquiste father and Irish-Québec

mother, John the lawyer and a hockey-loving son of southwest Québec. Both remain eager to explore far horizons, both proud and enamoured of that great project that is our Canada, both deeply honoured to represent their country, best foot forward. They try to ensure that others see the best in us as they see the best in others - it takes a team of at least two. In their case, four - raising two "foreign service brats", now making their own way, proving their own worth.

Carol's professional background gets almost casual reference in the book, but the traces are everywhere. She studied psychology and social work, worked with NGOs and USAID, and was a successful communications professional, including with Foreign Affairs. She was an events organizer, and notably founder and fund-raiser for a Canadian scholarship fund for Jordanian women wishing to study in Canada. She became the consummate, 'cordon bleu' diplomatic spouse at the Ambassadorial level and, for good measure, became a furniture designer on their last posting in Manila.

Given those talents, the book inevitably has an epistolary quality, with vignettes becoming whole letters from very different settings. Her perceptions have an ethnographic quality, finding fascinating cultural practices where others might only find frustration. She is a skilled navigator of awkward settings, and disarmingly honest about being a root cause of some her misadventures. Above all, she is a skilled raconteur with a keen eye for irony (if not absurdity), unintended humour, empathy, compassion, sometimes impatient with mediocrity, and always ready to celebrate the joys of a challenging life.

I preceded Carol and John to Turkey and relished that section

of *Triple Sex*. I too fell in love with a country of such natural gifts, cultural and historical complexity and, once, such promise. Carol writes of an outburst by a mutual friend, one of Atatürk's progeny, that is very funny but also reveals the depth of despair of those millions of Turks who feel their country has been usurped. Carol is not didactic, but she invites us to look beyond the surface humour to the greater tragedy that may lurk below.

Three themes stand out in this multi-level book. First, networking is at the heart of successful diplomacy. Second, it's team-building, because you won't succeed at the first without the other. Third, by implication, is that unless the Canadian Foreign Service provides meaningful opportunities for spouses, the profession can only expect to sustain itself with single officers (sometimes lonely souls), or with spouses as clever, independent and as deeply wedded as Carol is with John.

Why read this book? For entertainment; I laughed out loud many times, some scenes were altogether too familiar. It is sometimes almost ribald, but never vulgar. Read it for its insights into far horizons (like Ghana) where she and John discovered much about the world and themselves. Read it to learn how to sustain relationships - to be a parent - in a profession almost willfully designed to undermine them. This a story of a joint diplomatic life enjoyed to the hilt. But it is also a loving letter from a mentor to those who follow. Success and happiness do not fall into your lap... it may take twenty years of optimism and, yes, hard work.

Stuart Hughes is a former FS, Editor of 'bout de papier', and - full disclosure - an old friend of Carol Bujeau and John Holmes.

Diplomates en péril?

Par Jean-Yves Dionne et Lucie Tremblay – Chroniques peu diplomatiques, Lanoraie, Québec, Les Éditions de l'Apothéose, 2021.



Par François LaRochelle

“Le Canada est de retour” annonçait fièrement Justin Trudeau alors qu’il venait d’être élu une première fois en 2015. Depuis, il est clair que ce n’était qu’un slogan. Notre échec en 2020 pour obtenir un siège au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies en est la plus récente illustration. Seule notre participation aux G-7 et G-20 nous permet de rester faiblement sur l’écran radar mondial. Le substantiel et éloquent essai écrit par Jean-Yves Dionne et Lucie Tremblay *Diplomates en péril ?* arrive au bon moment car il décortique les raisons qui minent l’influence de la diplomatie canadienne et explique pourquoi le Canada ne joue plus le rôle qu’il avait auparavant.

Beaucoup de livres ont été publiés sur les tenants et aboutissants de la diplomatie. Certains portent sur la théorie de la pratique diplomatique et visent un public universitaire,

d’autres sont des mémoires de diplomates sur leurs années de service et intéressent les praticiens, les historiens et des lecteurs qui suivent les questions internationales. Ce qui est particulier et original dans celui des Dionne-Tremblay c’est qu’il couvre ces deux aspects dans une perspective canadienne, se basant sur leur expérience d’anciens diplomates.

Dans la première partie, les auteurs dressent un portrait fort complet du système diplomatique canadien. Il décrit son histoire, traite de ses particularités dans un contexte fédéral, donne des détails sur le recrutement et le profil des agents du service extérieur. Il élabore sur leur formation, missions et tâches, leurs outils de travail. Ils soulignent leur professionnalisme, dans le contexte d’une évolution rapide de ce métier. Fort de son expertise en relations industrielles, M. Dionne souligne le rôle moteur de la syndicalisation des agents du service extérieur. De ses luttes et acquis pour ses membres.

Le propos des auteurs établit un diagnostic : la diplomatie canadienne a du plomb dans l’aile et c’est en grande partie suite au lent détricotage de son service extérieur. De ses valeurs et de sa composition. Il décrit en particulier comment les méthodes actuelles de son recrutement remettent en question sa pertinence et son avenir. Découlant des coupures budgétaires à répétition, les gouvernements successifs à Ottawa ont graduellement dévalué les conditions de vie à l’étranger des agents du service extérieur tant personnelles que professionnelles. À Ottawa, on constate un effritement de l’influence des fonctionnaires expérimentés ou spécialistes des Affaires étrangères, au dépend des cabinets de lobbyistes et des attachés politiques. Les gouvernements récents ont multiplié les nominations politiques à la tête d’ambassades

importantes au lieu de diplomates de carrière.

Tous ces paradigmes contribuent à diminuer l’influence d’Affaires mondiales Canada (AMC) au sein de l’appareil gouvernemental fédéral et à saper le moral d’un groupe de serviteurs de l’État qui faisait jadis l’envie de leurs collègues étrangers. Les auteurs portent donc, avec raison, un regard fort critique sur la gestion des diplomates au sein de AMC. Ils posent les questions qui choquent. Leur analyse est incisive et bien documentée.

Mais heureusement ils ne s’arrêtent pas là. Ils font des propositions concrètes pour renouveler la politique étrangère canadienne. Elle passe, selon eux, par un net coup de barre pour reconnaître la place essentielle que les diplomates y jouent pour l’élaborer et la mettre en place pour l’intérêt de tous les Canadiens. Et que cette contribution soit reconnue à sa juste valeur dans l’appareil gouvernemental. Notamment par une reconnaissance de son rôle dans une approche multilatérale pour faire face aux défis contemporains : que ce soit les changements climatiques ou la lutte contre le terrorisme par exemple. Sans oublier ceux qui œuvrent au développement et au commerce.

La seconde partie du livre, *Chroniques peu diplomatiques*, décrit des tranches de vie de la famille Dionne-Tremblay dans diverses affectations, sur plusieurs continents. Anecdotes bien sûr mais aussi une description de la vie d’une famille dans le service étranger souvent dans des situations difficiles et stressantes. Elle nous familiarise avec le travail du diplomate commercial sur le terrain, que ce soit de promouvoir des produits et services canadiens mais surtout d’ouvrir de nouveaux marchés pour nos exportateurs ou d’attirer de nouveaux investissements étrangers.

Pour le lecteur qui s'intéresse à la profession de diplomate, le contenu de la deuxième partie du livre dresse un portrait de ses activités professionnelles qui n'est pas la caricature que l'on en fait parfois d'un coureur de cocktails, passant son temps au bord de la piscine un verre de champagne à la main et des petits fours dans l'autre. Il met en perspective ce que c'est de vivre de longues années loin de ses proches au Canada et de travailler dans un environnement totalement différent de celui que l'on connaît chez nous.

Au-delà de la réflexion sur la régression de la diplomatie canadienne le livre incite à d'autres questionnements existentiels : À quoi sert un diplomate à l'étranger en 2021 alors que la récente pandémie a encouragé l'utilisation d'outils virtuels comme les visioconférences pour faire des

Ce qui est particulier et original dans celui des Dionne-Tremblay c'est qu'il couvre ces deux aspects dans une perspective canadienne, se basant sur leur expérience d'anciens diplomates.

négociations internationales ? Qu'elle en est sa valeur ajoutée ? A-t-il encore un rôle à jouer dans un monde où le multilatéralisme semble en perte de vitesse ?

Diplomates en péril ? brosse un tableau exhaustif de la réalité de notre diplomatie actuelle. Il est

un appel au renforcement de la politique étrangère canadienne à travers notamment une mise à niveau de son principal instrument pour la mettre en application, son service étranger. Sa lecture stimulera ceux qui s'intéressent au rôle du Canada sur la scène internationale et à ses praticiens. Mais il devrait aussi résonner auprès de nos dirigeants qui y trouveront une inspiration pour relever le niveau de notre diplomatie. Elle le mérite. Pour qu'enfin le Canada soit vraiment de retour !

François LaRochelle, ancien diplomate canadien, est analyste en politique internationale et Fellow de l'Institut d'études internationales de Montréal (UQÀM).



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Our annual membership fee is \$25.00. We are also asking friends and colleagues to consider a lifetime membership in the Forum, for a one-time contribution of \$200.00 or more. Those who become lifetime members this year will be honoured by having their names on a list as the Founding Life Members of the Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum (CFSAF), 2021. Lifetime members will not need to pay any further annual fee, even if annual fees are raised in the future.

We are also welcoming those people who decide to become benefactors, by contributing \$250 or more to the Forum, and receiving life membership in the process.

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Se joindre au Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC)

Merci à bon nombre d'entre vous qui vous êtes joints au Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC), en tant que bienfaiteurs, membres à vie et membres annuels. Pour ceux et celles d'entre vous qui ne se sont pas encore inscrits, nous vous encourageons à le faire.

La cotisation annuelle est 25,00 \$. Nous demandons également à nos amis et collègues d'envisager une adhésion à vie au Forum, pour une contribution unique de 200,00 \$ ou plus. Ceux et celles qui deviendront membres à vie cette année seront honorés d'avoir leur nom sur la liste des membres fondateurs du Forum canadien des anciens du service extérieur (FASEC), 2021. Les membres à vie n'auront pas à payer de cotisation annuelle supplémentaire, même si les frais annuels devaient augmenter.

Nous accueillons également les personnes qui décident de devenir bienfaiteurs, en cotisant 250,00 \$ ou plus au Forum. Ils seront par le fait même membres à vie.

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In the meantime, our work goes on. We are already working on the next issue of FORUM and would welcome your reactions and suggestions. If you have ideas or wish to contribute, contact us at edit.forum99@gmail.com.

Thanks in advance!

Daniel Livermore and Gérald Cossette

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En attendant, notre travail continue. Nous travaillons déjà à la rédaction du prochain numéro du FORUM et nous serions heureux de vos réactions et suggestions. Si vous avez des idées ou voulez faire une contribution, contactez-nous à : edit-forum99@gmail.com.

Merci beaucoup!

Gérald Cossette et Daniel Livermore

FORUM

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