

RCMP Covers for Police Atrocities



RCMP Cst.
Dan Moskaluk



UN soldier
patrols slum with
masked police

By Richard Sanders

UN Civilian Police (CIVPOL) and UN troops have often stood by and done nothing to stop Haitian National Police (HNP) when they kill innocent people during raids into poor, pro-Aristide neighbourhoods. And, on many occasions (see pages 8-9) during Haiti's coup regime (2004-2006), UN "peacekeepers" were on hand to witness police firing indiscriminately into peaceful, prodemocracy rallies, killing demonstrators.

For instance, at a mass rally on the coup's first anniversary, police "fired at unarmed demonstrators as the UN stood by.... The UN was close enough to see the police open fire on peaceful demonstrators, yet unexplainably, not close enough to do anything about it."¹

Besides providing physical cover for these operations, UN forces have stood by their HNP colleagues at media conferences, helping cover their tracks. For example, after a rally in which nine Aristide supporters were shot dead by police, an HNP spokesperson, Gessy Coicou, faced the media with CIVPOL's frontman, Dan Moskaluk, an RCMP officer from BC: "Coicou...declared that...Lavalas activists who were killed 'were not shot during a demonstration since police authorities had received no notice of a demonstration.' Standing by her side to lend credence to the farce was Canadian UN-Civilian Police spokesperson Dan Moskaluk, who called the march an 'unauthorized,

illegal demonstration.' What Coicou and Moskaluk failed to disclose was that the courier with the official request for the permit to demonstrate... was beaten and arrested by the Haitian police when he tried to deliver it."² (emphasis added)

Although quick to tar the protest as "unauthorized" and "illegal," Moskaluk was completely silent on whether police were authorized to execute peaceful protesters. Nor did he comment on the illegality of the country's Canadian-backed coup regime.

A few weeks earlier, the Swiss-based Small Arms Survey reported that the U.S. had broken its arms embargo by providing the HNP with "5,435 military-style weapons, 4,433 handguns and some 1 million assorted rounds of ammunition" worth US\$6.95-million.³

This was clearly bad news for prodemocracy advocates being terrorized by the police. And, as human rights groups quickly pointed out, the HNP would likely pass weapons to their friends in the death-squads. The line between the HNP and the paramilitary gangs of masked, former military "men in black" was getting harder to determine. Not only were they conducting joint operations (sometimes under the watchful but complacent eye of UN troops), they were also becoming one: "The UN mission is well aware of the unacceptable pace of recruitment of former military into the...police, as well as the parallel emergence of death squads within the institution."⁴

But, to make matters even worse, the HNP and their death squads

were operating with complete impunity: "many top-ranking [police] officers are members of the former military, including the chief of police and the head of the unit charged with investigating police abuses. The unit has not taken action against any police officers for rights abuses since [Prime Minister] Latortue assumed office [after the coup]."⁵

So, how did the Canadian spokesman for the UN's CIVPOL react to news of the influx of U.S. weapons?

"Dan Moskaluk defended the arms transfer as a means of standardizing and keeping track of the police force's weapons.... 'There is a hodgepodge of different [police] weaponry and so one purpose of this is to equip them properly.'"⁶

With abundant evidence of police atrocities all around, how could Moskaluk still present Haiti's police in such a rosy light? Canada was, after all, responsible for their training. A clue can be found in something he wrote before embarking on this Haitian adventure:

"For a police officer, it [is a] chance to act as an ambassador for Canadian civilian police values and ethics.... As Canadians we are esteemed for our values and attitudes."⁷

This reveals Moskaluk's thorough indoctrination into the mythos of Canada as a noble peacekeeper. This hopelessly naive self-image is a widespread and profoundly deep-seated Canadian character fault. However, it was a tremendous asset for Moskaluk in his role as the perfect apologist for CIVPOL during their conflicted mission to build Haitian democracy through support for the illegal regime's vicious police force.

References

1. "UN Accommodates Human Rights Abuses by Police in Haiti," Haiti Information Project, May 8, 2005.
2. Ibid.
3. "Despite Embargo, U.S. Allows Arms Shipments to Haiti," *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, April 23, 2005.
4. "UN Accommodates..." Op cit.
5. "Despite Embargo..." Op cit.
6. Ibid.
7. Media release, "Penticton RCMP Constable prepares for his second UN tour of duty to Haiti," Sept. 7, 2004.