

## Montreal Symphony Orchestra embarks on European tour



The Montreal Symphony Orchestra is setting out March 24 on a four-country European tour which includes concerts in seven cities of West Germany, five in Switzerland as well as Paris and London. The orchestra is under the direction of Charles Dutoit (above) with a repertoire that includes works by Stravinsky, Berlioz, Prokofiev and Rachmaninov.

### News briefs

Canada will join with other donors to provide emergency relief for victims of the worst flood in Sri Lanka since 1957, with a contribution of \$50 000 to the Sri Lankan Red Cross Society. This disaster, following so soon after the civil riots of July 1983, has struck many of the same people affected by those disturbances. The rising waters have not only left them homeless, but have also caused extensive damage to their crops. The resulting destruction may well exceed that caused by the devastating typhoon of 1973.

**Canadian Foremost Ltd.** of Calgary, Alberta recently completed two sales to the Soviet Union, worth about \$21 million. They supplied 32 tracked off-road vehicles to be used for pipeline maintenance, and 15 vehicles equipped with geophysical equipment.

A grant of \$1.9 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will help support its program of assistance to Palestinian refugees. The funds, directed through the Canadian International Development Agency, will be used to provide additional classrooms, replace unsuitable rented premises, renovate and rebuild sanitary conveniences

and bring electricity to schools. This grant brings Canada's 1983-84 contribution to UNRWA to \$8.1 million.

**Lavalin Inc.**, Canada's largest engineering and construction management group reports an income of \$600 million in 1983. Based in Montreal, Lavalin grew from its Quebec civil engineering and hydro work after buying two Canadian subsidiaries of US engineering companies about ten years ago. The \$600 million income came from about \$260 million in engineering and construction management work in North America, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia. Construction revenues of about \$350 million came from public building construction in Algiers.

**Teleglobe Canada** has started a new videotex financial service with daily price information for more than 5 000 stocks listed in Canada and the US. The service allows subscribers to analyze, compare and evaluate stocks, and includes an evaluation of investment prospects for major Canadian stocks. The new stock package is part of Teleglobe's Novatex business information service, available to subscribers with personal computers.

Spurred by strong demand from Brazil and China, shipments by Saskatchewan potash producers are expected to reach a record 3.9 million tonnes of product for the 1983-84 fertilizer year ending June 30. Based on an average price of about \$80 (US) a tonne, Campotex potash sales for the fertilizer year ending June 30 are valued at more than \$300 million, up from about \$200 million in the slow 1982-83 year. In addition, North American demand this year is projected at about 7.2 million tonnes, with a value of about \$575 million, up sharply from 5.3 million tonnes in the 1982-83 fertilizer year.

**Mitel Corp. of Kanata, Ontario** has signed a \$44-million contract with British Telecom Ltd., the state-owned British telecommunications authority, for the supply of telephone switching equipment and telephones. The contract, which could reach \$60 million before it expires in March 1985, calls for Mitel's subsidiary in Wales, Mitel Telecom Ltd., to provide SX 200, SX 20 and Super 10 private business exchange switches and Superset Three and Four models home and small-business telephones to British Telecom.

**Victor Judd** of Fort Erie, Ontario recently claimed a world record for staying awake. The 22-year-old unemployed carpenter said he was "feeling just fine" after 18 days and 20 hours of no sleep and eager to get his name in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Three friends stayed up alternately to keep an eye on him, because the record book requires at least one person must be with the contestant at all times. According to the 1983 *Guinness*, the longest period for which a person has voluntarily gone without sleep was 449 hours (18 days and 17 hours), endured in 1977 by Maureen Weston of Peterborough, England.

*Canada Weekly* is published by the Public Affairs Branch, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

*Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.*

*Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.*

Canada

ISSN 0384-2312