

## Canada welcomes home Princess Margriet of the Netherlands



*Governor-General Jules Léger and Mrs. Léger (right) welcome the visitors from the Netherlands to Rideau Hall, where they stayed during their first three days in Canada.*

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and her husband Mr. Pieter van Vollenhoven arrived in Ottawa, the city of her birth, on June 7, for a ten-day stay in Canada. While the princess had returned twice to this country – in 1968 and 1970 – since leaving at the age of two, this was her first official visit.

The royal couple spent three days in the capital before leaving for Edmonton and Jasper in Alberta, as well as Yellowknife and communities in the region of Resolute Bay and Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories.

Queen Juliana's third child, Margriet Francisca, was born in Ottawa's Civic Hospital on January 19, 1943. The Queen, who was then Princess Juliana, had settled in Ottawa temporarily while awaiting return to a liberated Netherlands during the Second World War. The room where the child was born was placed outside Canadian jurisdiction so that she could have exclusive Dutch nationality.

The royal visitors, who were welcomed at Ottawa International Airport by Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Mrs. Jamieson, proceeded immediately to Rideau Hall, where they were the guests of Governor-General Jules Léger and Mrs. Léger.

The following day, the royal couple visited the National Museum of Man, toured the National Aeronautical Collec-

tion at Rockcliffe Airport and saw a performance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride. In the evening, they attended a dinner and dance with over 100 guests, including Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, given by the



*Nurse Gladys Moorhead (above) holds Princess Margriet of the Netherlands a few days after she was born in Ottawa in 1943. "Everyone at the hospital wanted to see her," says Miss Moorhead, "she was a beautiful baby."*

Governor General and his wife at Government House.

On June 9, Princess Margriet, who has been active for several years on the executive committee of the Netherlands Red Cross, visited the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, while her husband met officials of the Transport Department. They later were guests at a reception given by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. A.C. Donker van Heel, of the Netherlands Embassy, and Mrs. Donker van Heel, where they met prominent members of the Dutch community in Canada.

### Alberta and the North

The visitors left for Edmonton, Alberta on June 10, where they were the guests of honour at the twenty-seventh Dominion Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion and where the princess addressed the delegates. The Legion is honorary godfather of her fourth son, Prince Floris. The royal couple were also received by Lieutenant-Governor Ralph Steinhauer of Alberta.

Following a short stay in Jasper, Princess Margriet and her husband toured communities in the Northwest Territories as guests of the territorial government. After a welcome by Commissioner Stuart M. Hodgson of the Northwest Territories at Yellowknife, their program included visits to city hall, and to the ceremonial opening of the Vincent Massey Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

In the Resolute Bay region, the itinerary included the unveiling of a plaque and placing of mementos at a commemorative cairn, an excursion by dog team and lunch with personnel of the Dew Line at Gladan Point.

The royal couple's busy program ended with a visit to Wood Buffalo National Park in the Fort Smith area. They then boarded a plane for Edmonton from where they departed for Amsterdam on June 18.

### Canada/Netherlands relations

The official Canadian presence in the Netherlands dates back to 1922 when a trade office was opened in Rotterdam. This mission remained active until 1940. In 1938 a legation was established in The Hague. It was the fourth diplomatic mission opened by Canada – the others being in Washington, Tokyo, and Paris. The legation was closed during the war, but was reactivated in 1945 and operated out of a hotel in The Hague. The fol-