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Variety of Programs Organized for Thai Visitors in Ottawa

climate in Thailand with emphasis on energy development. This energy seminar was attended by a delegation of Alberta officials and businessmen headed by Alberta's Minister for International Trade Horst Schmid who conducted discussions with Thailand's Energy Minister Flying Officer Sulee Mahasanthana. Mr. Schmid has been a regular visitor to Thailand over the past several years and has encouraged closer co-operation in the energy sector.

On to Ottawa

From Vancouver Prime Minister Prem and his party flew to Ottawa where they were officially met at the airport by Canada's Defence Minister The Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais. Important bilateral meetings were held with Prime Minister Trudeau and Canadian Cabinet Ministers during the morning of April 11th. A very fruitful exchange of views on the situation in Southeast Asia took place during which Prime Minister Trudeau reiterated Canada's endorsement of the ASEAN position on the resolution of the ongoing conflict in Cambodia. Mr. Trudeau also expressed

Canada's admiration for the successes achieved by ASEAN and emphasized Canada's desire for closer political and economic links.

Following the bilateral meetings, the Thai and Canadian Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of three important agreements between Canada and Thailand. (See page 10 for details)

During the afternoon of April 11th several programs were conducted simultaneously for the Thai visitors. Prime Minister Prem attended Question Period in the House of Commons followed by a demonstration presentation of the world famous Musical Ride by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. At the same time Thai Commerce Minister Kosol Krairiksh and Agriculture Minister Narong Wongwan headed a group of Thai businessmen in a "round table" discussion with their Canadian counterparts led by Minister for International Trade Regan. Foreign Minister Siddhi met members of the Combined House of Commons and Senate Committee on External Affairs and Defence Policy for an hour long session on current political developments in Southeast Asia.

State Dinner

The evening was highlighted by a State Dinner hosted by Prime Minister Trudeau. Prime Minister Trudeau's toast made reference to the rapid growth and exciting prospects for Thai-Canadian relations. On the broader scale of Pacific Rim relations the Canadian Prime Minister characterized the development of Canada's Asia Pacific Foundation concept as a concrete manifestation of the increasing interchange of ideas around the Pacific Ocean. He also emphasized Canada's admiration for Thailand's achievements and made particular reference to the notable contribution of Prime Minister Prem. Prime Minister Prem returned to the rapid expansion of Canada-Thailand relations and paid tribute to Mr. Trudeau's role and influence as an international statesman.

The visit of Thailand's Prime Minister clearly indicated the rapidly growing relationship between Canada and this important ASEAN country. The visit drew attention to the increasing significance of the shared objectives of the two countries.

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Ballet Troupe in ASEAN

The National Film Board of Canada has entered into an agreement with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens to make a 90 minute film of the tour. The producer-director is John N. Smith who has been with the NFB since 1972.

Mr. Smith is Canada's foremost film director of dance. His two latest dance films, *For the Love of Dance*, and *Gala*, each won the dance world's most prestigious prize, the Grand Prize of the New York Dance Film Festival in 1982 and 1983 respectively.

The film of Les Grands' Far East tour will record not only high points in the performances but also the adventures of the company as they follow an exciting and pressure-packed program through twenty cities in Asia.

On its Asian tour, Les Grands will be performing works inspired by Quebec folklore, such as *Tam Ti Delam* (B. MacDonald/G. Vigneault), as well as choreographies of marked significance in the history of ballet: *Soaring* (D. Humphrey/R. St. Denis), *Jardin aux lilas* (A. Tudor) and *Serenade* (G. Balanchine).

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens tour of the Far East is sponsored by the Department of External Affairs, Le Gouvernement du Quebec, and Canadian Pacific Airlines.

