

A-QUEEN-VISIT; 1ST LD; 0804

1ST LEAD-210 (ADDS COLOR; DETAILS AND ADMIRERS' QUOTES REGARDING ROYAL COUPLE'S VISIT IN VICTORIA; NO PICKUP)

ESPY AP-REUTS

SEE LASERPHOTOS-UCR 1; 4

BY DAPHNE BRANHAM

VICTORIA (CP) - A CROWD OF MORE THAN 700 - MANY OF DUTCH DESCENT - WAVED FLAGS AND CHEERED AS QUEEN BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUS ARRIVED HERE IN BRILLIANT SUNSHINE.

MANY OF THE CROWD ALSO WORE ORANGE FLOWERS AND ORANGE RIBBONS IN HONOR OF QUEEN BEATRIX, WHO REPRESENTS THE HOUSE OF ORANGE.

THE ROYAL COUPLE WAS GREETED BY PREMIER BILL VANDER ZALM WHO SPOKE FIRST HIS NATIVE DUTCH AND THEN ENGLISH.

"ON BEHALF OF ALL BRITISH COLUMBIANS, I WISH TO BID YOU WELCOME, ESPECIALLY TOO ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE DUTCH-CANADIANS WHO HAVE MADE THEIR HOMES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA," HE SAID. "THERE IS A GREAT AFFINITY BETWEEN CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS AND WE OF DUTCH ORIGIN ARE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF THE COMMUNITY THAT EXISTS IN THE PROVINCE AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS."

VANDER ZALM SAID THE ROYAL COUPLE'S NINE-DAY VISIT TO CANADA WILL FURTHER BIND THE FRIENDSHIPS BETWEEN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS.

QUEEN BEATRIX, WHO WORE A BLUE WOOLEN COAT AND GREEN HAT, LOOKED RELAXED AND CHATTED EASILY WITH TWO CHILDREN IN TRADITIONAL COSTUMES WHO PRESENTED FLOWERS AND A BOOK ABOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA.

AFTER SHE SIGNED THE PROVINCE'S OFFICIAL GUEST BOOK, THE QUEEN AND PRINCE CLAUS MINGLED WITH THE CROWD, SHAKING HANDS, ACCEPTING MORE FLOWERS AND TALKING.

MEETS QUEEN

NADINE LANINGA WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD A SPECIAL INVITATION TO SEE THE QUEEN'S ARRIVAL. THE TEENAGER IS FROM LINDEN, WASH., A DUTCH COMMUNITY ABOUT FIVE MINUTES FROM THE CANADA-U.S. BORDER.

NADINE IS THE PRINCESS OF THE TOWN AND WAS DRESSED IN THE TRADITIONAL COSTUME OF GRONINGEN, THE PROVINCE HER FATHER EMIGRATED FROM IN 1950.

TO ACCENT THE COSTUME, NADINE WAS WEARING HER GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S HAT.

"IT WAS WONDERFUL," SHE SAID WITH A GIGGLE. "I JUST GOT A FEW FEET AWAY FROM HERE. IT REALLY LIVED UP TO MY EXPECTATIONS. THIS IS EXCITING."