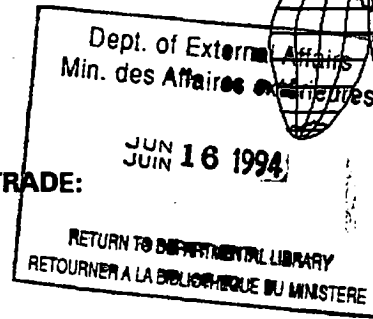


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Le commerce et la politique étrangère cette semaine

May 12-18, 1994



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:
PRESS RELEASES:

National Ballet to Tour Europe and Israel

May 17, 1994, No. 101

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced a grant of \$300 000 to the National Ballet of Canada for a 17-performance tour of Germany, Luxembourg, Holland and Israel, from May 20 to June 20, 1994. "The National Ballet contributes significantly to the promotion of Canada's cultural identity by highlighting some of its most talented artists internationally," said Mr. Ouellet. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

Canada Announces its Participation in Second Francophone Games

May 16, 1994, No. 100

Minister of Foreign Affairs André Ouellet and Minister of Canadian Heritage Michel Dupuy are pleased to announce that a delegation of 386 Canadian athletes and artists will take part in the Second Francophone Games. The Games will take place in Paris and in the French Department of Essonne from July 5 to 13, 1994. "Canada is proud to be taking part in this second edition of the Francophone Games. The Games provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen bonds of friendship and brotherhood," said Mr. Ouellet.

Ouellet Presents 1994 Award for Foreign Policy Excellence

May 16, 1994, No. 99

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today presented the 1994 Minister's Award for Foreign Policy Excellence to Mr. Christopher Cooter, Second Secretary (Political) and Mr. Christopher Liebich, former Second Secretary (Development), at the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi. Their teamwork led to an integration of Canadian foreign aid and peacekeeping activity in Somalia. Mr. Ouellet also presented two citations for exemplary service in the field of foreign policy to Mr. Ross Hynes and Mr. John McNeish. Mr. Ross Hynes, Departmental Human Rights Co-ordinator, in the Human Rights, Women's Equality and Social Affairs Division, was recognized for his contribution to Canada's leadership in the promotion of human rights through Canadian foreign policy. Mr. John McNeish, a desk officer for Mexico in the Mexico and South America Relations Division, was cited for his contribution to enhanced Canada-Mexico relations during the past year.

Ouellet Presents 1994 Award for Consular Excellence

May 16, 1994, No. 98

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today presented the 1994 Minister's Award for Consular Excellence to Mr. Jacques Persoons, Canada's Honorary Consul for Burundi. This award recognizes Mr. Persoon's service to both Canadians and Australians during last year's abortive coup in Burundi and his dedication over several years in a difficult environment. "I am most pleased to recognize the contribution of a Belgian citizen acting as Honorary Consul for Canada. Mr. Persoons' assistance to the Canadian community in chaotic circumstances during the coup in Burundi and the recent evacuation of Canadians from Rwanda was outstanding," said Mr. Ouellet. Citations for exemplary service in the consular field were also presented to Mr. Neil Clegg, Mrs. Lillian Crichton and Mrs. Janet Yates. Mr. Neil Clegg, former First Secretary and Consul in Beijing, was recognized for his handling of the case of a mentally-ill Canadian detained in Mongolia. Mrs. Lillian Crichton, Honorary Consul at Montego Bay, Jamaica, received her citation in appreciation of her dedication and compassion in assisting a large number of Canadians in distress over several years. She has handled over eighty arrests and detentions of Canadians for drug-related offences and close to sixty repatriations to Canada.

STATEMENT:

It is with great pleasure that I announce today my department's support for the extended tour that the National Ballet of Canada is about to make in Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. The National Ballet will also travel to Israel for the first time — a fitting symbol of our maturing relations with a region on the brink of real peace. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is contributing \$300 000 towards this tour. This is an investment which recognizes the artistic excellence and the international reputation of your company. I also wish to pay tribute to the Province of Ontario and to Anne Tanenbaum together with Joey and Toby Tanenbaum for their contributions in making this tour possible. This joint action clearly shows what a strong partnership between the arts and various sectors of society can achieve: a climate of confidence in which all can thrive. In this context, I invite other players in the private sector to profit from the remarkable creativity of Canadian artists, and to share the limelight with them on stages around the world. This grant is a sign of our appreciation for the contribution the National Ballet makes to the cultural life of Canada, as well as to the projection of Canada's culture abroad.... I salute your creativity, your commitment and your energy. I wish you great success in your performances in Europe and the Middle East. We are all very proud of you. I know Canada's artistic excellence will be well represented by such fine ambassadors.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the Occasion of an Announcement of a Grant to the National Ballet of Canada (Toronto, Ontario, May 17, 1994, 94-22)