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SSEA TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL BALLET'S DEBUT SEASON AT COVENT GARDEN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, would be making a special visit to London next week to attend the National Ballet of Canada's debut season at Covent Garden.

After accompanying the Prime Minister, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka, the SSEA will fly to London to see the National Ballet's final performance on August 11. It will be her first visit to the United Kingdom as Secretary of State for External Affairs.

A devotee of modern dance, Flora MacDonald will see a performance of "Mad Shadows", a Canadian ballet composed by André Gagnon and choreographed by Ann Ditchburn, which tells of the emotional and moral disintegration of relationships within a family. The ballet will be premiered at Covent Garden on August 7.

Following the closing performance on August 11 which will be sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada, the SSEA will meet the dancers and staff of the National Ballet at a special reception hosted by the High Commissioner, Paul Martin, and the Agents General of Canadian provinces represented in London.

The National Ballet of Canada is the first Canadian company to appear at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and its season from August 6-11 is a significant milestone in the development of Canadian dance. The internationally acclaimed Company will open the weeks engagement with a Royal Gala to be attended by Her Royal Highest Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon.