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CANADA - FRANCE JOINT COMMISSION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that a Canadian Delegation will go to Paris to take part in the third meeting of the Joint Commission set up under the Franco - Canadian cultural agreement of 1965. The meeting will take place on February 18.

The Canada - France Joint Commission meets periodically, alternating between the two capitals. The first meeting took place in Paris in 1965 and the second in Ottawa in 1967. This meeting will review the cultural exchanges resulting from the 1965 agreement, and will study ways of eliminating obstacles to these exchanges and of expanding relations between the two countries in the fields covered by the agreement. These fields include the exchange of students and professors at the university level, exchanges of assistants at the secondary and higher level, and the equivalence of diplomas. They also cover exchanges of people in the literary and artistic field, of scientists and technicians, and of young people and trainees. The Commission will also review exchanges in the field of the performing and visual arts, tours by theatrical troupes and other artistic groups and exhibitions of fine arts.

The Canadian Delegation will include representatives of the Department of External Affairs, the Department of the Secretary of State, the Science Secretariat, the Arts Council, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, as well as representatives of the members of the cultural section of the Canadian Embassy in Paris. In addition representatives of two provinces, Ontario and New Brunswick, will join the Canadian Delegation. The Delegation will be led by Mr. André Bissonnette, an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.