

The festival also featured two international tournaments for ranked players, a first ever world amateur championship, two open tournaments and a concluding rapid blitz championship: Blitz chess, a favourite of the crowds, is a frantic version of the game in which players have only five minutes to make their moves.

An outstanding success, the festival was highlighted by the brilliant play of Kasparov and his arch-rival and former world champion, Anatoly Karpov. And chess fever spread beyond the competitors to the spectators and people of Saint John. Spontaneous chess games broke out between spectators from as far away as Colombia, Poland, Bangladesh, India

A checkmate for Canada at the World Chess Festival.

and Romania. Local citizens challenged strangers to games at shopping malls and studied books to sharpen their chess strategies. An army of local volunteers also helped to organize and run the competitions. Indeed, volunteers were so numerous that officials were forced to turn down offers of assistance from 200 individuals.

Unlike most other games or disciplines in the world, chess is a game where chance plays no part. Its seductive challenge lies in the fact that every loss is the result of a mistake and therefore preventable. Officials believe that the festival has heightened North American interest in chess, and inspired many Canadians to take up the quest for mastery of this ultimate mind game.



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Furthering the Fight against AIDS

Canada is making significant new contributions to the global fight against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), the fatal disease that continues to threaten and claim thousands of lives throughout the world.

The fifth International Conference on AIDS, with the theme Breaking New Ground: Towards Global Action on

Aids, will be hosted by Canada in June 1989. Jointly sponsored by the Canadian government and the World Health Organization, it will focus on the scientific and social challenges posed by the disease. An anticipated 7 500 to 10 000 public policy makers, medical and social scientists, and representatives of community-based

AIDS organizations will meet in Montreal to discuss their different perspectives on the disease and the means of checking its spread. Areas of concentration will include biomedical research, behavioural science studies, social and economic implications of AIDS, and public policy responses to the disease.

As well, Canada's first ever AIDS hospice was recently opened in Toronto, ushering in a new era of supportive treatment for AIDS sufferers. Located in two renovated Victorian homes, Casey House provides patients with 24-hour care in a home-like setting.

Funding for the centre came from both the provincial government and the generous

donations of the public. As a result, patients receive round-the-clock care from medical professionals, and the hospice is equipped with sophisticated health care equipment. There are computerized beds programmed to shift a patient's position automatically, a large bathtub which accommodates stretchers, and a specially designed shower for wheelchair use.

An innovative model of health care, Casey House is affiliated with a nearby hospital which monitors its expenditures and quality of care. A rapidly growing waiting list for spaces is evidence of the important need the hospice is filling for AIDS victims.

Combating Terrorism

The international community has targetted airports as a new line of defence in the fight against terrorism. Forty-seven states recently signed a Protocol aimed at suppressing unlawful acts of violence at international airports. Marking the conclusion of a two-week diplomatic conference at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, the agreement was adopted by consensus in an unprecedented display of international co-operation.

The conference was the result of a Canadian proposal, endorsed by the ICAO Assembly in 1986, to develop a new legal instrument to deter and punish perpetrators of terrorist acts at international airports.

Increasingly, airports have become the targets of terrorist attacks. Yet until the February signing of the Protocol there existed no international legal framework for dealing with such offenses.

The new agreement fills the gap and is based upon the internationally accepted "extradite or prosecute" principle common to all previous anti-terrorist conventions. The goal is to eliminate safe havens for perpetrators of violence by requiring signatory states to either initiate legal proceedings against alleged offenders or extradite them to another state with jurisdiction over the offence.

The Protocol is a significant addition to the existing network of international anti-terrorist agreements. As both initiator of the proposal and chair of the diplomatic conference, Canada expects the agreement will foster increased international co-operation in the global fight against terrorism.