



Canapress

Amid symphony music, smoke and lasers, CANADAIR Aerospace Group rolled out its new Regional Jet earlier this spring, full of optimism that the product will sell despite the disastrous state of the airline industry. More than 2000 people attended the glittering ceremony, among them Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa.

CANADAIR, a unit of the Montreal-based transportation giant, Bombardier Inc., began the Regional Jet project back in 1989. Essentially a stretched version of the Challenger executive jet, the RJ, as it is known, will fill the niche between tur-

boprop planes and those having more than 100 seats. The 50-56 seat aircraft is the only twin-engine commercial airliner on the market with fewer than 100 seats, and with a price tag of \$16.5 million it is also the least expensive jetliner available.

Tom Appleton, executive vice-president of the Regional Jet Division, says the company has more than 100 orders and commitments already for the jet, among them DLT, an affiliate of the German carrier Deutsche Lufthansa. Other customers include major North American and European carriers.

Over the next decade, the world market for commuter aircraft is expected to be around 1200, and with its unique jetliner, CANADAIR fully expects to gain 40 to 50 per cent of that business.

CANADAIR's RJ hopes to corner the world market for commuter aircraft.

"Great Canada '91" Celebrates Opening of New Canadian Embassy

Canada Day, July 1, in Tokyo, heralded the start of Great Canada '91 — a two-week festival of Canadian dance, music, art and film to commemorate the opening of the new Canadian Embassy.

Great Canada '91 was the first cultural exchange of this magnitude between Japan and Canada, both of whom are important trading partners in the Pacific Rim group of nations. The festival was organized by the Great Canada '91 Organizing Committee, under the auspices of External Affairs and International Trade Canada, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs, the provincial governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec, and the Federation of Economic Organizations (Japan-Canada Economic Committee).

Participating in the festival were more than 160 artists and entertainers from across Canada, including a full-length touring production of the Charlottetown Festival's *Anne of Green Gables*, Montreal's Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and concerts by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

In a program devoted to modern dance, Margie Gillis, a modern dance choreographer and performer from Montreal, appeared at the Canadian Embassy Theatre. Gillis was the first performer, teacher and lecturer to introduce contemporary dance in China after the Revolution. She has also toured in other Far Eastern countries, including Japan.

The 32-voice Calgary Boys' Choir, under the direction of Douglas Parnham, also performed at the festival. The

choir has won more than 30 First Place Awards in the Kiwanis Music Festival, plus Best Overseas Choir in 1982 and again in 1986 in the Bournemouth Music Festival in Great Britain.

After 26 years of performing across Canada and on international stages, the Orford String Quartet gave its last six international performances at Great Canada '91. Three other world-renowned Canadian musicians — pianists Louis Lortie, André Gagnon and Angela Hewitt — gave concerts to rave reviews.

Two significant visual arts projects that were well under way before coming under the umbrella of the Great Canada '91 Festival were exhibitions by Geneviève Cadieux and Alan Belcher. Cadieux, who was Canada's sole representative at the Venice Biennial in 1990,

created a large new photographic work, using the latest photographic technology available in Japan, for the Sagacho Exhibit Space, the leading alternative gallery in the country. For his exhibition, Belcher created a large, spiral-shaped installation entitled "Condo Tokyo '91." It is constructed of concrete cinder blocks, overlaid with colour-laminated photographs taken by the artist in Tokyo.

Canada's native Inuit artists also played an important part in the festival. On exhibit throughout the festival were works drawn from the collections of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario, and the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, British Columbia.