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FLYING START FOR EXPO '67

Four years of tireless effort were rewarded by the successful opening in Montreal on April 27 of the 1967 Universal and International Exhibition, better known as Expo '67 - the only first-category world exhibition ever held in North America.

Canada's new Governor General, the Right Honourable Roland Michener, who presided over the inauguration ceremonies, described Expo '67 as "an exhibition never surpassed, if ever equalled". Prime Minister L.B. Pearson called the event "the fulfilment of one of the most daring acts of faith in Canadian enterprise and ability ever undertaken". Similar tributes were paid by Quebec's Prime Minister Daniel Johnson and Mayor Jean Drapeau of Montreal, as well as Mr. Pierre Dupuy, the Commissioner-General of the Exhibition.

While some 7,000 guests looked on, the flags of the 62 nations represented at Expo '67 were unfurled, the royal anthem and the Canadian national anthem were played, cannon boomed and the 11 jets of the Royal Canadian Air Force "Golden Centennaires" roared overhead. The ceremony ended with the playing of the bilingual Expo song, entitled in English *Hey Friend, Say Friend*, after which the guests dispersed to see the sights and enjoy the fun.

Expo '67 was opened to the general public the next day, April 28.

PM's TRIBUTE

In his address during the inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister Pearson said (in part):

"...The heading of an article about Expo in a recent issue of an American magazine referred to it as, "The Big Blast Up North". Certainly Expo is

going to be that - and much more. Behind this big Canadian birthday "blast" are achievements in planning, organization and construction that are little short of miraculous.

"The men behind these achievements should be proud and happy. We should be grateful to them, as we recall the sceptics who once said Expo '67 was too big a project for Montreal, Quebec or Canada to accomplish in less than four years. But it was done - and well done.

"We are witness today to the fulfilment of one of the most daring acts of faith in Canadian enterprise and ability ever undertaken. That faith was not misplaced.

MONUMENT TO MAN

"But Expo is much more than a great Canadian achievement of design and planning and construction. It is also a monument to man. It tells the exciting and inspiring story of a world that belongs not to any one nation but to every nation.

"No theme could have been more fitting for our times than "Man and His World". Here in Expo we have one of the most impressive collections of man's works and man's ideas ever brought together....

"The scope of international support for the Expo theme, as shown by the record-breaking participation, is a wonderfully encouraging display of man's faith in himself and his world; in his capacity to improve and progress; in his power to cope with the challenges of his world and himself. In all the wonders of man which we now have on display at Expo, we can see in inspiring actuality how much every nation has to gain from co-operation and how much to lose in conflict.