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MAJOR EVENT IN CANADA/CHINA RELATIONS: THE VISIT OF THE SHANGHAI BALLET

Canada's cultural and political relations with the People's Republic of China will be further enhanced this week when 150 members of the Shanghai Ballet arrive in Vancouver on May 1 for a month-long tour of Canada. As part of its first appearance outside China, the Shanghai Ballet presents its North American première in Vancouver. This underlines the close relationship developing between Canada and China.

Approximately 60,000 Canadians will see China's foremost dance company in performances in Vancouver (May 5 to 8), Ottawa (May 11 to 14), Montreal (May 19 to 22), Toronto (May 24 to 28) and Hamilton (May 31 and June 1).

The visit of the Shanghai Ballet is one of the many exchanges with China initiated and facilitated by the Department of External Affairs. This tour, organized in Canada by the Touring Office of the Canada Council, represents the highlight of Canada's official exchange programme with the People's Republic of China this year. Two other notable cultural events are the recent and highly acclaimed tour of China by the Canadian Brass, and the projected visit of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in January 1978.

The past 12 months have seen over 20 visits in the fields of education, science, medicine, trade, technology, sports, photography, performing arts, broadcasting and crafts. Such exchanges provide Canadians and Chinese with an excellent opportunity to learn about each other's country.

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