



No. 215

November 5, 1992

VIETNAMESE POET RECEIVES LE GRAND PRIX DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

The Minister for External Relations and International Development and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, the Honourable Monique Landry, was pleased with the French Academy's recent announcement that Le Grand Prix de la francophonie had been awarded this year to Vietnamese poet Nguyen Khac Vien.

"Le Grand Prix de la francophonie was established in 1986, following a Canadian initiative demonstrating Canada's attachment to the French language," Mrs. Landry stated.

The Government of Canada, on the 350th anniversary of the French Academy, offered to establish a fund for the creation of Le Grand Prix de la francophonie under the aegis of the French Academy.

Le Grand Prix de la francophonie is awarded to a Francophone author whose literary work, nationally or internationally, has made an eminent contribution to the maintenance and illustration of the French language.

The winner of the prize, Mr. Khac Vien, will receive an award of \$100,000. Mr. Khac Vien was born in Hanoi in 1913. After studying medicine in Paris, he devoted himself to literature. He has written a French anthology of Vietnamese literature from its origins to the present, and has translated into Vietnamese the great French classics of Molière, Hugo and Baudelaire.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874