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NATIONAL BALLET TO TOUR EUROPE AND ISRAEL

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a grant of \$300 000 to the National Ballet of Canada for a 17-performance tour of Germany, Luxembourg, Holland and Israel, from May 20 to June 20, 1994.

"The National Ballet contributes significantly to the promotion of Canada's cultural identity by highlighting some of its most talented artists internationally," said Mr. Ouellet.

At a presentation ceremony at the National Ballet in Toronto, Mr. Ouellet also thanked the Ontario government and Anne Tanenbaum together with Joey and Toby Tanenbaum, for their generous support in helping to make this tour a reality.

The Minister expressed satisfaction with the co-operation between the public and private sectors in the crucial area of international cultural relations. Mr. Ouellet said he hoped that Canadian businesses would continue to support Canadian artistic talent on stages the world over.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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