

# PRESS RELEASE



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GRANTS FOR THE "THEATRE L'EGREGORE"  
AND "LA TROUPE DE L'ATRIUM"

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that the "Théâtre de l'Egrégore" of Montreal will undertake a two-month tour of France, Belgium and Switzerland under the programme of cultural exchanges with French-speaking countries. The company will receive a government grant to defray the cost of the tour, during which it will give some forty performances in several cities including Paris, Le Havre, Bourges, Bordeaux, Marseille, Lyon, Geneva, Lauzanne and Brussels. The company will tour with two productions selected from its repertoire: "A Private Soldier", by the Montreal playwright Marcel Dubé, will alternate with a programme containing two plays, one by Arthur Kopit and the other by the Toronto playwright Stanley Mann.

Mr. Martin emphasized that "Le Théâtre de l'Egrégore" would be the first theatrical company from Canada to undertake a tour of this kind and in particular to visit French cities in the provinces as well as Paris. He welcomed this initiative on the grounds that it would serve to make Canada better known in the regions visited.

Mr. Martin also announced that a grant would be awarded to "La Troupe de l'Atrium" under the same programme to enable this company to accept an invitation from "Maisons de la Culture" at Le Havre, Bourges and Grenoble to present the company's production of Denis St. Denis in these three cities. It may be remembered that this young amateur company presented this play at regional and national festivals of dramatic art at Montreal and Brockville with considerable success.