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VANCOUVER (CP) - QUEEN BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUS OF THE NETHERLANDS MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DUTCH-CANADIAN COMMUNITY MONDAY ON THE NEXT-TO-LAST DAY OF A NINE-DAY TRIP TO CANADA.

MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE, WHO HAD RECEIVED SPECIAL INVITATIONS, GATHERED INSIDE A TENT ON THE RAIN-SOAKED LAWN OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY TO MINGLE WITH THE COUPLE.

EARLIER, THE QUEEN AND PRINCE CLAUS, STANDING AGAINST A BACKDROP OF HISTORIC TOTEM POLES INSIDE THE MUSEUM, WERE PERSONALLY INTRODUCED TO THE GUESTS.

THE COUPLE, WHO ARRIVED IN VANCOUVER BY TRAIN IN THE MORNING FROM CALGARY, WERE LED INTO THE VIA RAIL STATION BY PIPERS AND WELCOMED THERE BY ABOUT 100 WELL WISHERS, MANY HAVING MINATURE DUTCH FLAGS.

"WE HAVE A WEAK SPOT IN OUR HEARTS FOR ROYALTY," SAID RINA DALM, 61, WHO MOVED TO BRITISH COLUMBIA FROM THE NETHERLANDS IN 1951. "WE ARRIVED RIGHT AT THIS SPOT 37 YEARS AGO TO START A NEW LIFE IN CANADA."

THE QUEEN, WHO SPARKED A SMALL CONTROVERSY LAST WEEK WITH HER REMARKS ABOUT AN 1839 REPORT THAT URGED THE ASSIMILATION OF FRENCH-SPEAKING QUEBECERS, WAS MET AT THE TRAIN STATION BY B.C. PREMIER BILL VANDER ZALM, PROBABLY THE BEST KNOWN OF THE 350,000 PEOPLE OF DUTCH ORIGIN NOW LIVING IN CANADA.

VANDER ZALM SAID IT WAS A "PARTICULAR PRIVILEGE" FOR HIM TO WELCOME THE QUEEN SINCE HE LEFT HOLLAND AS A BOY "WHERE I MIGHT NEVER HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE QUEEN OR ROYALTY.

"I NOW GET TO WELCOME HER FIRST HAND."

TODAY, THE COUPLE IS SCHEDULED TO TOUR A MACKILLAN BLOEDEL LTD. LOGGING CAMP DIVISION AND SAWHILL NEAR CHEMAINUS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND BEFORE LEAVING LATER IN THE AFTERNOON FOR AMSTERDAM.

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