

ECONOMIC MISSION TO FRANCE

The Prime Minister announced recently that, in keeping with the Government's policy of developing closer economic relations with France, a Canadian economic mission had been organized to visit France in June.

The Government of France has warmly welcomed this initiative and has proposed a programme that should assure a very fruitful visit for the mission.

TIGHTEN BUSINESS TIES

The mission will visit France from June 4 to 15 to explore prospects for closer relations between Canadian and French business communities. In particular, it will identify industries and other areas of business activity that provide opportunities for the exchange of technical information, investment,

CULTURAL FEAST FOR EXPO '67

It was announced recently that, as host of the 1967 World Exhibition, Montreal would set the stage for internationally famous drama, operatic and orchestral groups.

The Canadian Stratford Company will appear in the Expo Theatre from October 16 to 28. Organizers hope that this English-language "theatre festival" will coincide with a French-language festival, composed of leading companies performing in French.

During the same period, the National Theatre Company of Britain, led by Sir Laurence Olivier, will perform at a new theatre being built at Montreal's Place des Arts.

The repertoires of the Stratford Company and the National Theatre have not yet been announced.

LA SCALA OPERA COMPANY

La Scala Opera Company of Milan will present nine performances in the Grand Salle of the Place des Arts, October 5 to 15. It will be the first appearance of this company in North America and its only appearance on the North American continent in 1967.

The full company of about 400 will be sent to Montreal, including its leading singers, conductors designers, chorus and orchestra, technical staff and complete equipment for the production of several major operas. The repertoire is not yet known.

VIENNA STATE OPERA

The entire company of the Vienna State Opera, including a full *corps de ballet*, will present five operas in the Grand Salle of the Place des Arts from September 1 to 22. Their appearance in Montreal, similar to that of La Scala Milan, will be a premiere, and the only visit to North America in 1967.

Accompanied by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the company will present the *Marriage of Figaro*, *Elektra*, *Don Giovanni*, *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Wozzek*. In addition, the Philharmonic Orchestra will give four concerts.

and links between like-minded organizations in both countries.

The mission, led by the Minister of Industry, Mr. C.M. Drury, will include the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jean-Charles Cantin, and 22 members drawn from the public service and from business, financial and academic communities.

It is expected that the mission will lead to private initiatives of more specialized character and that these, in turn, will achieve the closer economic relations that are sought. Prime Minister Pearson has said that, while these initiatives are to be pursued by non-governmental sectors of the community, the Government would give them every appropriate encouragement.

Included among other opera companies that have been engaged to perform during Expo '67 are the Stockholm Royal Opera, the English Opera Group, the Hamburg State Opera, the Canadian Opera Company and the Montreal Opera Company.

The cost of transporting these companies to Montreal and back will be borne by the governments concerned. In turn, Expo will provide the theatres, accommodation in Montreal and *per diem* allowances.

TRANSFER OF INDIAN SERVICES

Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing announced recently that the responsibility for administering certain services to Indians would be handed over by the Indian Affairs Branch to the Northern Administration Branch in the District of Mackenzie. The Indian Affairs Branch will continue to be represented in the district by a small senior staff that will deal with Indian treaties, the Indian Act and the work of the Indian Advisory Council in the Mackenzie.

"Education services have been integrated for some time in the Mackenzie District", Mr. Laing said, "and the advantages derived will now be extended to such programmes as welfare and economic development". He added that the objective of concentrating these programmes in one branch was to ensure that all the people in the Mackenzie would receive more efficient services.

As a result of this change, most of the staff of the Indian Affairs Branch in the Mackenzie District will be absorbed by the Northern Administration Branch to provide services and programmes for all residents of the area.

Responsibilities involving the treaties and other special rights of the Indians, together with the work of the Indian Advisory Council, will be dealt with by the Indian Affairs staff of some five officials, who will remain at Fort Smith.