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Belgian royalty visits Canada

The recent state visit by King Baudouin, accompanied by Queen Fabiola, marked the first time a Belgian monarch had visited Canada. Their five-day stay, beginning in Ottawa on September 19, included three other cities — Toronto, Quebec and St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Belgian entourage included Vice-Prime Minister Léon Hurez, who met with J.S.G. Cullen, Canada's Employment Minister, to discuss job-creation programs, and Alfred Cahen, Executive Assistant to the Belgian Prime Minister, who met with Ivan Head, Prime Minister Trudeau's special adviser on international relations.

On arrival in Canada, the royal couple were welcomed by the Governor General and Mrs. Léger, their hosts during their two days in the capital. On September 20, they completed a busy program, beginning with the laying of a wreath at the War Memorial and a visit to the Memorial Chamber in the Parliament Buildings. During the morning also, they met with members of the diplomatic corps and planted a tree in the grounds of Government House. A state luncheon given by the Governor General preceded a visit by the Belgian party to the National Museum of Man in the afternoon. Following that, they attended a reception for the Belgian community given by Belgian Ambassador Charles Kerremans and, in the evening, they were present at the National Arts Centre for a performance by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. The reception later at the Centre, was given by King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola.

On September 21, they travelled to Toronto, the second stop of the tour, where their activities included meetings with Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon and Premier William Davis, as well as visits to the Royal Ontario Museum, the Hospital for Sick Children and the Ontario Science Centre.

The following day, the royal couple were in Quebec City and met with Lieute-



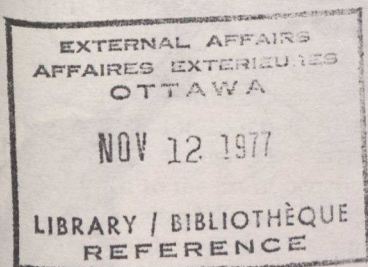
King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola (right) chat with Prime Minister Trudeau and Mrs. Léger, wife of the Governor General, at the National Arts Centre on September 20, where they saw a performance by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

nant-Governor Hugues Lapointe and Premier René Lévesque, before spending the night at the historic hotel Manoir Richelieu in Pointe-au-Pic.

From Quebec, the Belgian visitors flew to St. John's Newfoundland, where their schedule included a tour of a nearby harbour and a fish-processing plant, before their departure for Brussels.

Relations between Belgium and Canada

Besides its Ambassador in Brussels, Canada is represented in Belgium by a Quebec delegate general, an officer of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and an official of the Canadian Wheat Board. The existence in Belgium of branches of three Canadian banks and several hundred companies — 15 large ones — also indicates Canada's keen interest in that country. Brussels, headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the European Community, is also the focus of Canadian attention. Moreover, the close ties that



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