

News of the arts

Shanghai Ballet's Canadian tour first in North America

Some 150 dancers of the Shanghai Ballet, performing for the first time in North America, are on a month-long tour of Canada as part of a cultural exchange between Canada and the People's Republic of China. The Canadian Brass recently toured China and the Toronto Symphony will go there next year.

After its première in Vancouver, British Columbia, the company visits Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario, ending the tour on June 1.

Classical ballet was introduced to China after the revolution and the establishment of the People's Republic. The Shanghai Ballet was founded in 1960. When the Chinese national airline showed its first "in-flight" movie



The White-Haired Girl, is performed by the Shanghai Ballet, now on a month-long tour of Canada.

in 1971, it chose the dance film *The White-Haired Girl*, performed by the

Shanghai Ballet. The airline chose the film owing to the popularity of the story of Hsi-erh (the white-haired girl) and the artistry of the company but the choice of the film also demonstrated the significant growth of interest in ballet in China in a relatively short time.

The visit of the company to Canada is one of the many exchanges with China initiated and facilitated by the Department of External Affairs. The present tour, which was organized in Canada by the Touring Office of the Canada Council, is the highlight of Canada's exchange program with the People's Republic of China this year.

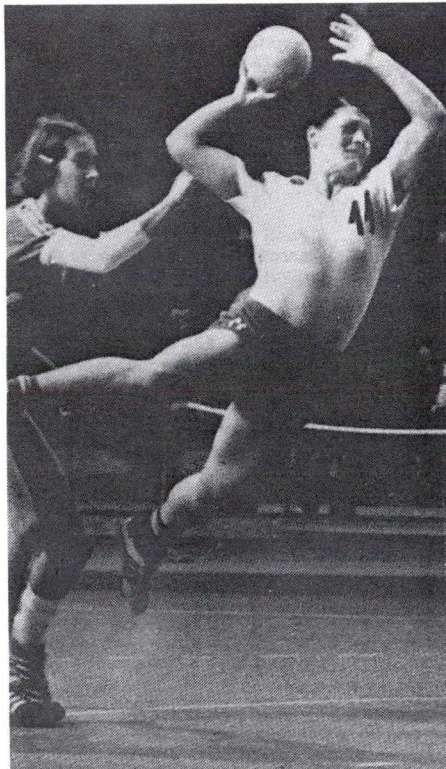
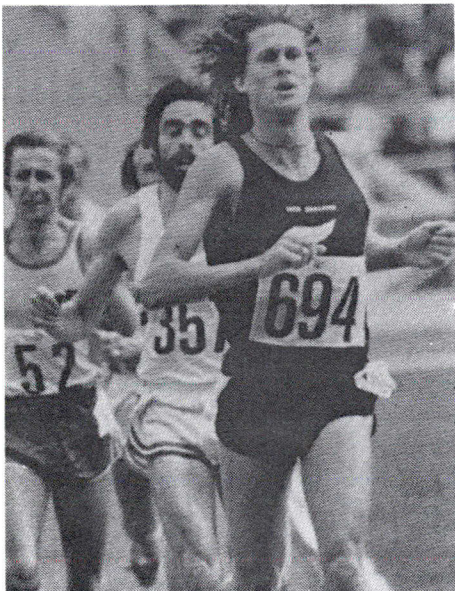
During the past 12 months over 20 visits have taken place in the fields of education, science, medicine, trade, technology, sports photography, the performing arts, broadcasting and crafts.

Olympic film available

Games of the XXI Olympiad, the official film of the 1976 Montreal Olympics, had its première in Montreal and Cannes last month.

The film was shown every evening free of charge until May 15 at the National Film Board, which produced it. The free screenings will continue across Canada during the summer.

Canada's Ambassador to France, Gerard Pelletier, attended the première in Cannes at the trade fair for television program buyers, Marché Interna-



tional des Programmes de Télévision, on April 22.

NFB hopes that the two-hour film will be sold to international television, although the 35-mm version will also be available for release in theatres both in Canada and abroad. For more information write to the National Film Board of Canada, 550 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Canada.

