

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, announced today an international tour of a major collection of paintings by THE GROUP OF SEVEN - CANADIAN LANDSCAPE PAINTERS, from the McMichael Canadian Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario. Mr. Robert McMichael, C.M., founder and curator of the gallery in Kleinburg, will travel with the exhibition to Scotland, England and the U.S.S.R. The tour is under the joint auspices of the Department of External Affairs and the Government of the Province of Ontario, with the assistance of Air Canada.

In co-operation with the Scottish Arts Council, the Canadian paintings will be shown at the Kelvin Grove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow from August 24 to September 19, the Talbot Rice Centre at Edinburgh University from September 29 to October 29 and at the Aberdeen Art Gallery from November 24 to December 18. The GROUP OF SEVEN collection will then go to London for display at the Canada House Art Gallery, Trafalgar Square, from January 11 to February 24. The itinerary for the U.S.S.R., to begin in March and include two or three major centres, will be announced at a later date.

The collection is a study of an art movement which had its official beginnings nearly sixty years ago when seven artists exhibited together at the Art Gallery of Toronto. The original "Group of Seven" eventually included 10 landscape painters, and the touring collection of forty-four works includes paintings by eight of them: Tom Thomson, a catalyst for the movement who drowned before the Group was actually formed; Frank Carmichael; A. J. Casson; Lawren Harris; A. Y. Jackson; Frank Johnson; Arthur Lismer; J. E. H. MacDonald and F. H. Varley. Only A. J. Casson is alive today and maintaining an active career as a painter at 78 years of age. Although they last exhibited together in 1931, the painters of the Group remain the best known exponents of a distinctively nationalist movement in the history of Canadian art.