

Rendez-Vous 87

Bridging international borders



Rendez-Vous 87...an unprecedented event...combining sports and culture to promote international excellence and friendship. From February 8 through 15, 1987, renowned personalities in sports, the arts, fashion, cuisine and business from Canada, the United States, the USSR, and Europe will gather in Quebec City for this unique event sparked by a game of ice hockey.



Marcel Aubut, president of the Quebec Nordiques and of Rendez-Vous 87.

A two-game series between North America's National Hockey League (NHL) All-Stars and the Soviet Union national team, provided the momentum for Rendez-Vous 87. When North America's National Hockey League designated Quebec City as 1987 host of the annual All-Stars game, Marcel Aubut, president of the local hockey team, the Quebec Nordiques, proposed an exciting alternative. He suggested replacing the traditional game with a competition between some of the world's finest hockey players — the All-Stars and the Soviet Union national team — and to turn these games into a focal point for a week of sports and cultural activities as a means of bridging international boundaries, particularly between Canada's neighbours to the south and to the north, beyond the Arctic Circle.

The governors of the NHL agreed to support the project. They will break the 39-year old tradition by suspending regular activities for a period of five days.

Organized by Mr. Aubut, this eight-day celebration will include the

hockey games plus a succession of galas, entertainment events and festivities under the honorary chairman, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada.

Some other Canadian personalities lending a hand with this non-profit event — all proceeds go to charity — are three who serve as ambassadors extraordinary: Kenneth Taylor, former Canadian ambassador to Iran and consul-general of Canada in New York, the man known for his role in assisting six members of the United States embassy to escape from Iran; Guy Lafleur, a former NHL star, and Rick Hansen, the disabled athlete whose recent wheelchair trip through 33 countries raised money for medical research and made the public aware of the capabilities of the handicapped.

Quebec City's annual winter carnival — the world's largest winter festival — coincides with Rendez-Vous 87. Together, the two events, held in a city recognized for its unique historical charm, extensive facilities and hospitality, promises continuous enjoyment for all.