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QUEBEC 1534-1984

The Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), and the Honourable Serge Joyal, Secretary of State, today announced that the Government of Canada plans to grant \$1.6 million to the Quebec 1534-1984 Corporation. This amount represents the federal contribution to the operating budget of the Quebec 1534-1984 Corporation.

The subsidy will provide much of the financing required for the events of 1984 that will mark the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's landing in Canada. Mr. Lapointe stated that it is important for a country to hold special celebrations to commemorate the most important dates of its history.

According to Mr. Lapointe, the events of 1984 will be the greatest contributors to the tourism industry of Canada, especially of Quebec, after the World's Fair of 1967 and the Olympic Games of 1976.

The planned activities, which include a gathering of tall ships off Gaspé and Quebec City, the Challenge Canada Race, performance races and a Quebec City-Saint Malo Atlantic crossing, will attract over a million tourists to Quebec, produce more than \$92 million in economic spinoffs and create 4,000 jobs.

Mr. Joyal indicated that a memorandum of understanding will be signed between the Secretary of State Department and the Quebec 1534-1984 Corporation for payment of the subsidy, to be made in installments of \$500,000 in 1982-83, \$750,000 in 1983-84 and \$350,000 in 1984-85.

The Minister drew attention to the involvement of the Government of Canada in planning the Quebec 1534-1984 celebrations, referring to the close cooperation provided for nearly three years by the Canadian Coast Guard, the significant role

played by the Canada Government Office of Tourism in the symposium for captains of the tall ships held in Quebec City last fall and the \$9.5 million spent on the construction of nautical infrastructure to receive the many sailing vessels arriving for the 1984 events. Mr. Lapointe also referred to the excellent work done by Mr. Richard Drouin, President of the 1534-1984 Corporation, and his team in preparation for these great celebrations that will be a source of pride to all Canadians.

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