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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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CANADA EXHIBITS
IN PRAGUE THEATRE DESIGN COMPETITION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

Theatre designers Murray Laufer and François Barbeau are among the delegation chosen to represent Canada at the Prague Quadrennial, the international exhibition and competition of stage design and theatre architecture to be held in January 1976. The Department of External Affairs has appointed Monsieur Yvon Sanche, Technical Director of Le Grand Théâtre in Quebec as Commissioner General of the delegation attending both the Quadrennial, and meetings of the International Organization of Stage Designers and Technicians, which takes place during the same period.

Monsieur Sanche has been responsible for selecting the Canadian representatives. In addition to Monsieur Barbeau and Mr. Laufer, the delegation includes David Peacock, Head of the Theatre Section for the Canada Council, and Paul Bussièrès, Director of the design department of the Quebec Conservatory of dramatic art.

Canada will be exhibiting in all four categories of the Quadrennial competition: set design, costume design, theatre architecture and student design. Photographs and models of over 20 productions designed by Murray Laufer will be shown in the Stage Design display. Among them are illustrations of sets for The Flying Dutchman, Louis Riel, and Bluebeard's Castle produced by the Canadian Opera Company; and of The Plough and the Stars and Question Time presented by the Toronto Arts Production Company at the St. Lawrence Centre.

Costume design in Canada will be represented by the work of Montreal designer François Barbeau, whose designs are familiar from productions by Le Théâtre du Rideau Vert, The National Arts Centre, Le théâtre du Nouveau Monde and La Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrale. Eleven costumes from Productions of Le deuil sied à Electre, Andromac and Beckett will be shipped to Prague along with 81 sketches and photographs from his many other stage presentations.

The Canadian entry in the Theatre Architecture category is the new Shaw Festival Theatre at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Plans, and photographs by Roland J. Thom and Peter Smith architects of Toronto will be displayed.

Finally, to represent the work being done by students in Canada, Mr. Sanche has obtained the best examples of student design from the National Theatre School in Montreal; the Quebec conservatoire of dramatic art; and the theatre departments of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver and the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Set and costume sketches by approximately 25 young designers have been assembled for the Czech exhibition.

As an international showcase of Theatre design, the Prague Quadrennial is a major event in the theatre world. During the three week conference, delegates will see the work of over 30 contributing countries and will participate in seminars on problems in contemporary theatre.