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THIRD MEETING OF THE CANADA/BELGIUM MIXED COMMISSION,  
OTTAWA, OCTOBER 17-21, 1977

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Mixed Commission provided for under the terms of the Cultural Agreement concluded between Canada and Belgium in July, 1967, is holding its third meeting in Canada from the 17th to 21st of October.

The Canadian side of the Commission is led by Mr. André Bissonnette, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Belgian side by Mr. Marcel Hicter, Director General of Youth and Recreational Affairs in the Ministry of Education and French Culture. It meets in Ottawa on the 17, 18 and 21 of October.

The Belgo-Quebec Sub-commission which meets in Quebec on the 19 and 20 of October is led on the Quebec side by Mr. Robert Normand, Deputy Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs. In his capacity as Quebec head, Mr. Normand is a ex officio member of the Mixed Commission.

Ontario is represented by Mr. Roy Schatz, Ministry of Education; New Brunswick by Mr. Bernard Poirier, Director of Official Languages, Cabinet Secretariat; Nova Scotia by Mr. Roland Aucoin, Ministry of Education; Manitoba by Mrs. Denise Chénier-Ferguson, Federal Provincial Cultural Relations Secretariat; Saskatchewan by Mr. Victor Tétreault, Ministry of Culture and Youth; Alberta by Miss Joan Speakman, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Representatives of Canadian ministries and other agencies are also taking part in the work of the Commission.

During the course of its work, the Commission will review activities which have taken place under the terms of the Agreement since the second meeting held last year in Brussels from the 11th to 15th of October. During the past year, Belgo-Canadian cultural relations have been strengthened, particularly in the areas of scholarship exchange, links established between Belgian and Canadian university faculties

and in exchanges of professors. The Commission will establish for the months and years to come a reciprocal programme of exchanges and cultural promotion consistent with the orientations of Belgo-Canadian cultural co-operation. These orientations are aimed in particular at a growth in exchanges of persons in the academic and socio-cultural sectors and at an increase in the promotion of artistic creativity.

At the time of the meeting of the Mixed Commission the "Théâtre expérimental de Montréal" will be in Belgium. From the 8th to the 11th of October, they were playing in Liège at the "Centre d'Outremeuse" during the "Festival du jeune théâtre" with the plays Garden Party and Beaujeu. From October 14 to 19, they will perform the same plays in Louvain-la-Neuve. Reciprocally, the "Théâtre de Zygomars" (from Namur) will give performances in Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan.