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CANADA AT THE AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE OF BERLIN,
DECEMBER 5, 1982 - JANUARY 30, 1983

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that the Akademie der Künste (Academy of Fine Arts) in Berlin will host a major multidisciplinary presentation of Canadian arts between December 5, 1982 and January 30, 1983. At press conferences held today in Montréal and Toronto, representatives of the Department of External Affairs, the Canada Council and of the Akademie der Künste announced details of the programme whose organization in Canada is shared jointly by the Department (Bureau of International Cultural Relations) and the Canada Council.

The Akademie der Künste is one of Europe's most influential cultural institutions and plays a central role in the cultural life of West Berlin. An invitation was issued in 1978 to Canada to present the best of Canadian artistic achievement in all disciplines. The proposal was enthusiastically received by the governments of Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany and by the Senate of West Berlin, as an expression of the commitment of both countries to their expanding relationship in all areas, and the central importance of cultural cooperation to this relationship was underlined by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt during the Prime Minister's visit to Germany in July 1978. The importance attached to the project by both sides is further reflected in its scope - the most ambitious undertaking of its kind ever mounted abroad by the Department of External Affairs. It was agreed that the Canada Council, with its

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expertise in all artistic disciplines, would team with the Department in the organization and coordination of the programme, which comprises:

- a general information exhibit on Canada;
- an exhibition of Canadian architecture;
- an historical art exhibition;
- an exhibition of contemporary art;
- a performing arts component of twelve events including music, dance and theatre;
- a comprehensive film programme;
- a literary colloquium;
- readings by six Canadian writers.

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