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Mikhail Gorbachev meets a guru; Pepsi seeks to railroad a rival; the Royal Bank defers to Disney; cool weather nips a festival in the bud; Pierre Trudeau adopts a mentor's role; the Queen's man boycotts a ceremony; Clyde Wells finds that fame has a price; a double could spell trouble for the NDP.

OPENING NOTES

Romantic links for Pierre Trudeau, Mikhail Gorbachev meets a guru, and the Royal goes to Disney World

A PEACEFUL MEETING

During his May 29 visit to Ottawa, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met privately with such luminaries as Pierre Trudeau, Ed Broadbent, Jeanne Sauvé and Eugene Whelan. But he also held an unpublicized 10-minute meeting with Sri Chinmoy, a New York City-based guru who says he specializes in "meditation and inner peace." Chinmoy, 58, who describes himself as "a truth-seeker and a God-lover," said that Gorbachev is "very soulful and has a compassionate heart." Chinmoy's delegation presented the Soviet president with a leather-bound book containing 456 letters, which included messages from 108 Canadian mayors and four provincial premiers. The guru also composed a song for the occasion. Said Chinmoy: "I composed this song about him and read it out line by line. He was quite pleased and he said we must work together for world peace. In conclusion, I said to him, 'May the Soviet Union and Canada divinely grow and supremely glow.'" Appropriate wishes for two nations that could use a period of inner peace.

Chinmoy (left), Gorbachev: two 'compassionate hearts'

