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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 10, 1969CANADA - TUNISIA JOINT COMMISSION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced on February 10 that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, is leading the Canadian Delegation to the first meeting of the Canada - Tunisia Joint Commission in Tunis. This meeting will have a particular importance for Canada in view of the Canadian Government's efforts to strengthen its relations with one of the most important countries of French-speaking Africa. The meetings will take place from February 10 to 12 inclusive, following which Mr. Pepin will go to Paris to lead the Canadian Delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the O.E.C.D.

The Canada - Tunisia Joint Commission was created in May 1968 as a result of the visit to Canada by the President of Tunisia, His Excellency Habib Bourguiba. The two countries wished to continue the exchange of views which took place during the visit last May, and considered that the creation of a joint commission would provide an excellent means of dealing with a great variety of subjects of mutual interest. They will be studying methods of cooperating even more closely. The interests of the two countries have become increasingly close in several fields, including cultural affairs, trade, technical and economic assistance, francophonie and other aspects of international affairs. As agreed last May in Ottawa, the first meeting will take place in Tunis, and future meetings will alternate between the two capitals.

Mr. Pepin will be accompanied by officials of the Departments of External Affairs and Industry, Trade and Commerce and of the Canadian International Development Agency.