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SECOND SESSION OF THE CANADA-ALGERIA JOINT COMMISSION,
ALGIERS, APRIL 19-21, 1982

The Minister of State for External Relations, the Honourable Pierre De Bané, announced today that he will visit Algeria from April 19 to 21, to chair the Second Session of the Canada-Algeria Joint Commission there. He will be accompanied by a delegation of representatives of eight departments and three Crown Corporations, and about twenty businessmen.

The main objective of the Commission is to examine bilateral co-operation between the two countries, and especially the promotion of economic exchanges, which amounted to over \$800 million in 1981, making Algeria Canada's most important trading partner in Africa and the Middle East. The Commission will also undertake to explore the possibilities of expanding our relations to other areas, such as scientific and technical co-operation, an agreement which is now in the negotiation stage.

The political aspect of Mr. De Bané's visit will consist of consultations with his Algerian hosts on international issues of concern to Algeria, such as the North-South dialogue, nonalignment, and the situation in African and Middle East.

During his stay in Algiers, Mr. De Bané will meet with Prime Minister Abdelghani and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, the Postal Service, Professional Development, Energy and Agriculture. He will also visit a number of large Canadian projects financed through the \$1.2 billion line of credit made available to Algeria by the EDC.

Mr. De Bané's stay in Algeria will be a sequel to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's visit in May, 1981.