

exploration for hydrocarbons in areas of Thailand where private industry is not active plus providing technical assistance and on-the-job training of personnel in hydrocarbon exploration, development and production. The current expenditure will be made over a two-year period.

PCI receives its funds separately through appropriations from the Canadian government. Its funding under Canada's National Energy Program has been established at some \$250 million by 1985 as part of Canada's official development assistance.

The mandate of PCI is to employ Canadian oil and gas technology and expertise to provide assistance to oil-importing developing countries and, in doing so, to open up industrial and trade opportunities for Canada while generally improving bilateral relations.

In addition to discussions in Bangkok the PCI delegation led by Mr. Towe also visited Manila where a similar program will be undertaken.

Aid to Poland

Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, will provide \$200 000 in assistance to vulnerable groups in Poland. The funds are in response to a joint appeal by the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

A disruption of essential services in Poland, in the wake of the economic and social upheaval dating from 1981, means that medicine, food and clothing will be required this year. For this reason the LRCS and ICRC have begun a joint appeal in order to pursue their humanitarian operations through to June 1983. The program will continue to provide relief, tracing services and medical assistance, aimed at defined vulnerable groups in Poland. This includes the aged, sick and handicapped children from low-income families, newborn babies and their mothers, and children suffering from long-term or incurable diseases.

The latest contribution brings to \$1 million the amount of Canadian humanitarian relief to Poland. Canada provided \$100 000 to the Canadian Polish Congress in October 1981 and \$200 000 in March 1982, and \$500 000 to the LRCS/ICRC joint relief program in January 1982.

Canadian minister leads trade mission to five countries

Minister of State for International Trade Gerald Regan led a trade mission to Hungary and the Middle Eastern countries of Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates from January 2-17.

Mr. Regan's visits to Oman and the United Arab Emirates were the first ever to those countries by a Canadian minister.

The main objectives of the mission were to further Canadian trade relations, promote Canadian products and expertise and develop technical co-operation with each of the countries visited.

In Hungary, Mr. Regan along with Canadian government officials and businessmen, met with Deputy Prime Minister Marjai and other ministers to discuss ways of increasing trade between the two countries. Their meeting also served to support the efforts of Canadian firms involved in negotiations with Hungarian officials.

They spoke of the possibility of Dominion Engineering Works of Montreal supplying the Danube Iron and Steel Works with a \$10-million strip coilbox. G and B Automated of Toronto, in co-operation with Canada's Export Development Corporation, has already signed a \$3.1-million contract for grinding wheel manufacturing technology and plant design with a possible sale of \$4 million in machinery still to come.

In addition, H.B. Nickerson and Sons Limited of Sydney, Nova Scotia is pursuing opportunities for the sale of Canadian seafood products to Hungary, while James A. Lewis Engineering of Calgary is interested in selling a computer software package to the Hungarian National Oil and Gas Trust for drilling activity. Ontario Bus Industries Incorporated are also holding discussions with Hungarian officials on the manufacture of articulated Ikarus-design buses in Canada.

Negotiations between the delegation and Hungarian officials centred on future trade missions involving the exchange of expertise between the two countries.

Omani visit

From January 5-8, Mr. Regan and the Canadian delegation visited the Sultanate of Oman for talks with Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Zubair. They discussed co-operation in a number of sectors including telecommunications and mining, as well as, Canadian participation in the implementation of Oman's second five-year plan which will provide for \$28 billion in investments.



Mr. Regan (left) is met at airport in Saudi Arabia by Dr. Suleiman Al Solaim.

The Canadian trade minister also met with Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Qais Abdul-Munim Al-Zawawi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Al Alawi Abdullah with whom he reviewed the Middle East situation. Mr. Regan participated at a round table discussion at the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals. The Omani ministers present expressed an interest in Canada's aerospace industry, in particular Canada's *Challenger* and de Havilland's *Buffalo* and *Twin Otter* aircraft.

The Canadian businessmen accompanying Mr. Regan also held a series of meetings with officials of state organizations and business leaders. The Canadian delegation visited a copper mining and refining complex developed by Canadian companies and utilizing Canadian equipment.

Canada-Kuwait relations

Following his stay in Oman, Mr. Regan travelled to Kuwait where he met with Minister of Commerce and Industry Jassim Khalid Al-Marzouk. The two discussed furthering Canada-Kuwait trade relations particularly in the areas of telecommunications, high technology equipment, urban transit and consulting services. The Canadian minister also met with the Minister of Petroleum Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa Al-Zaban, Minister of Finance and Planning Abdul-Latif Al-Hamad as well as the president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul-Aziz H. Al-Sagar. Mr. Regan held talks