

In addition, Mr. Kelleher noted that Mme Qian had, earlier, expressed an interest in the possibility of equity investment from Canada in large scale power projects in China. Mr. Kelleher announced that, in order to explore this area, his Department has contracted with R.L. Walker and Partners to obtain a report on the degree of interest by Canadian private sector investors and the possible modalities of such investment.

In this context, Mme Qian confirmed that her Ministry had just signed an agreement with the Bank of Montreal under which the Bank will be appointed Financial Adviser to the Ministry of Water Resources and Electric Power. Mr. Kelleher expressed his pleasure at this news.

All of the above developments, as well as Canadian funding of \$1.6 million for feasibility work on portions of the Three Gorges Hydroelectric Project previously announced by the Honourable Monique Vézina, represent Canada's response to earlier Chinese requests in areas where Canada/China cooperation might proceed.

The Minister for International Trade noted the above announcements were the latest in a number of special trade and development initiatives being undertaken by the Government through his Department to support Canadian firms in priority markets such as China. It follows earlier announcements by Mr. Kelleher that the number of Trade Commissioners in the Canadian Embassy in Beijing is being significantly increased and that a Canadian Consulate will soon be opened in Shanghai.