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MINISTERIAL TRADE VISIT TO HUNGARY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The Minister of State for International Trade will begin a 16 day mission on January 2, 1983 to both Hungary and the Middle East. Countries to be visited in the Middle East are Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) and Cyprus.

The main objectives of this mission include furthering Canadian trade relations, promoting Canadian products and expertise and developing technical cooperation with various government ministries. In support of these activities, Minister Regan will be meeting with several of his ministerial counterparts in each of the above countries.

Canadian exports to Hungary in 1981 totalled \$11.7 million and included such items as rawhides and skins and wood pulp and chemical products. Among Canada's major export items to the Middle East are automobiles, lumber, telecommunications equipment and mining machinery. Export trade figures for 1981 showed sales of \$455 million in goods and over \$200 million in services to Saudi Arabia, followed by \$83 million to Kuwait, \$49 million to U.A.E. and \$12 million to Oman. Saudi Arabia alone is Canada's 6th largest purchaser of Canadian manufactured goods.

Minister Regan's visit to Hungary is in response to an official invitation made by Hungarian Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Veress. Minister Regan's visit to Oman and U.A.E. will be the first ever of a Canadian Minister to these two countries and he will also be the first trade minister to visit Kuwait.

The Minister intends to meet with a number of Canadian businessmen who will be in the area during the time of his visit and help promote their various trade interests in such sectors as telecommunications, aviation, electrification and mining.