

Minister seeks expansion of trade links with Thailand

A BUSY SCHEDULE OF VISITS began in Thailand when Gerald Regan, the minister for international trade, called upon Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda and Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshall Siddhi Savetsila.

Mr. Regan then called upon the Ministry of Commerce where he announced that Canada would be conducting a series of trade seminars in Bangkok for Thai business companies interested in learning about Canadian markets. Deputy Minister of Commerce Mr. Phairojana Chayaporn also confirmed that Thailand would send a trade delegation to Canada in the next few months.

Mr. Regan next called upon Ob Vasuratna, the Minister of Industry. The two ministers signed a letter of intent whereby Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation, the

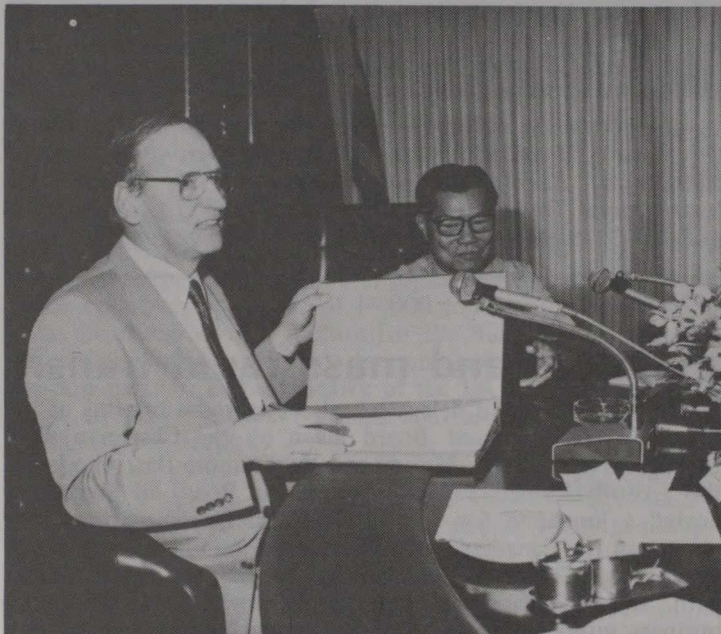
development arm of Canada's national oil company, Petro-Canada, will extend a \$8.75-million grant to aid Thailand's petroleum programs.

The aid, the first of its kind to Thailand by Canada, represents a further step in the development of economic relations between the two countries. The program will also benefit the Canadian oil and gas industry with aid being used to purchase Canadian goods and services to assist Thailand's oil and gas industry. The grant, to be spread over three years, will go to Thailand's four major petroleum programs including: offshore exploration in concession areas recently awarded to the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, a feasibility study on producing compressed natural gas, the training of Thai officials on aspects of petroleum exploration and production, and the setting up of a petroleum data centre at the Department of Mineral Resources.

During his luncheon speech to the Thai business community and various Thai officials, Mr. Regan stressed that Canada, as a nation of the Pacific, was in a particularly appropriate position to develop trade with Thailand and ASEAN. Commenting upon the case for greater Thai-Canadian economic links he stated, "Canadian industrial and business strengths fit surpassingly well with the major sectors of development in the Thai economy. We can share state-of-the-art technology with you in these sectors. As I urge you to receive positively our request to participate more deeply in Thailand's development, I believe that these greater links can be founded on genuine affection and respect between our two countries."

That afternoon Mr. Regan called upon Minister of Communications Samak Sundaravej. The next day Mr. Regan called upon Kasame Chatikavanij, Governor of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT). Mr. Kasame noted that Canada is the second largest offshore supplier of equipment and technological expertise to EGAT (after Japan). He specifically mentioned ten EGAT projects in which Canadian companies have been major players.

At the end of the delegation's stay, the Deputy Minister of Commerce, Phairojana Chayaporn, held a luncheon for Mr. Regan.



Gerald Regan and Ob Vasuratna, Minister of Industry, sign the letter of intent for assistance in energy development.

Kuala Lumpur

Minister discusses prospects for Canadian role in energy projects

THE LAST STOP on the tour by the Minister for International Trade, Gerald Regan, was Malaysia, where he had a two-day working visit.

Mr. Regan and his accompanying business delegation began their visit with a call on the Minister of Trade and Industry, Tengku Datuk Ahmad Rithauddeen to discuss bilateral economic relations. Tengku Rithauddeen stressed Malaysia's interest in increasing its own exports to Canada.

The Minister for International Trade then held a meeting with Datuk Leo Moggie, Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Posts, to discuss Canada's capabilities in these fields. Canadian exporters are very keen to participate in two major Malaysian infrastructure projects: the Port Kelang power generation station and the East Coast natural gas distribution system. Mr. Regan paid a subsequent call on Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Minister of Finance, to discuss the abilities of the Canadian government and financial community to provide competitive terms of credit for major export sales. Finally, the minister reviewed Canadian-Malaysian political relations with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam. Datuk Musa declared that our bilateral relations provide a model for co-operation between North and South nations.



The Minister for International Trade pays a courtesy call on Y.B. Datuk Musa Hitam, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.