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CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SAUDI ARABIA

The Honourable Ed Lumley, Minister for International Trade, announced today the signing of a Civil Aviation Services Procurement Agreement and two related training contracts, valued at approximately \$2 million, between Canadian Commercial Corporation, (CCC) and the Presidency of Civil Aviation (PCA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This agreement, which establishes a general framework within which the Presidency may source its Civil Aviation training requirements as well as its future needs for related equipment, systems and services from Canada through CCC, was developed in close collaboration between CCC, Transport Canada, the Department of External Affairs and the Ontario Educational Services Corporation.

The training contracts executed simultaneously by the parties represent the first two Canadian undertakings under this general agreement. The first calls for English Language Training for 25 Saudi nationals, to be carried out by the Ontario Educational Services Corporation, (OESC), an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Education, at St. Lawrence College of Applied Arts & Technology in Cornwall, Ontario.

The second contract calls for the training by Transport Canada of the 25 Saudi students in Air Traffic Control procedures in compliance with international standards. This program will be carried out at the Transport Canada Training Institute, also located in Cornwall.

Minister Lumley noted that this agreement is an excellent example of bilateral economic relations initiated by the Prime Minister during his successful 1980 visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The agreement will hopefully support discussions currently underway for Canadian manufacturers to supply Civil Aviation technology to Saudi Arabia.