

19. In this sector, Ministers attached importance to the symposium on nuclear energy sponsored by the Mexican Academy of Engineers which will be opened by Ministers Oteyza and Lumley on February 2nd in Mexico City.

20. Ministers welcomed the Mexican and Canadian Governments' announcement of an early signing of a technical agreement between Hydro Quebec and the Federal Electrical Commission with regard to electric power generation and the long-distance transmission of electric power. Further, they noted with satisfaction the fact that CFE and Ontario Hydro expect to sign a similar agreement soon.

21. The subject of metallurgical coal was accorded considerable importance in the light of the significant expansion of the Mexican steel industry in the near future. Presently known Mexican reserves are insufficient to meet current needs and thus Canadian cooperation is required in two main areas:

1. Joint cooperation in exploration in order to increase national production of coking coal;
2. A secure supply of Canadian coal by means of a medium term supply contract.

22. The Canadian delegation expressed its interest in this proposal, and noted its international expertise in this sector and indicated that as soon as possible, it will determine the possibility of signing contracts in this regard.

23. Further, both delegations confirmed that a joint seminar on thermal and coking coal will take place next February.

24. The Mexican delegation considered that there exist good long term possibilities for joint cooperation in mass urban transport and the rationalization of the transportation system in Mexico City and in other cities. In this regard, a joint committee exists which is working in this sector.

25. Ministers discussed the trade of crude oil between Mexico and Canada. Both delegations were pleased with the progress in the discussions between Naviera Minera del Golfo and Petro-Canada on the movement of Mexican oil to Canada.

26. Ministers also reported on joint efforts which are being carried out between NAVIMIM and Saguenay Shipping for the establishment of a regular transport line between both countries. The importance of this arrangement was underlined, because among other things, it would relieve the pressure on the railway system for transportation of commodities between both countries.