

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

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VISIT OF MADAME QIAN ZHENGYING,
MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND ELECTRIC POWER
FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade today met with Madame Qian Zhengying, Minister of Water Resources and Electric Power for the People's Republic of China. Madame Qian is visiting Canada at the invitation of Mr. Kelleher for an extended visit to hydroelectric, thermal and nuclear power facilities across Canada. Mr. Kelleher's invitation was extended to Madame Qian by a Canadian hydroelectric power delegation which visited China in November 1984. A Memorandum of Understanding, signed at that time, focussed on Canadian cooperation with China in its major power development plan and participation by Canadian firms in the planning and implementation of projects.

During the discussions, Mr. Kelleher announced that Canada, as part of a series of special trade initiatives the Government is undertaking in the region, will provide approximately \$612,000 toward development of a feasibility study of the Longtan Hydroelectric Project. The Longtan project, located on the Hongshui river, is expected to have a generating capacity of 4000 - 5000 megawatts. China had specifically requested Canadian assistance on this project in the 1984 Memorandum of Understanding. The feasibility work is to be carried out by the "CIPM-Yangtze Joint Venture", a cooperative venture involving Lavalin, SNC, Acres, Hydro Quebec and B.C. Hydro.

Mr. Kelleher also announced that Canada is prepared to participate with China, at their request, in the development of a model turbine for use in hydroelectric projects. Support from the Department of External Affairs would be to a maximum of \$300,000 and the work would be done by Canadian General Electric.

