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Geronimo Velasco in the presence of Mr. Regan and Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Edward Bobinski.

Mr. Regan's breakfast discussions with Trade and Industry Minister Ongpin provided useful information on joint ventures as well as the current business climate in the Philippines. During these meetings, Mr. Regan also expressed his satisfaction at learning that a Canadian company, Reid Collins Ltd., had been selected to complete a national industrial tree plantation study in the Philippines.

In the field of agriculture, Mr. Regan announced that as an offshoot of Prime Minister Trudeau's visit and at the request of the Philippine government, three Canadian agricultural experts were being sent to the Philippines to determine areas where Canada could cooperate in the development of the dairy and cattle industries.

That evening, the Minister for International Trade was host at a reception for about 300 guests. The function gave the Canadian trade mission an opportunity to meet many prominent business and government leaders.

On the final day of his stay in Manila, Mr. Regan made two visits. He conferred with executives of Philippine Airlines over possible purchases of the Canadian-made Dash-7. The minister also visited the Asian Development Bank, where he was briefed by officials, and where he witnessed the signing of a contract awarded to a Canadian consulting company for work in Bangladesh.



Signing petroleum assistance agreement: (left to right) Antonio del Rosario, Deputy Minister of Energy; Geronimo Velasco, Minister of Energy for the Philippines; the Minister for International Trade, Gerald Regan; and Peter Towe, President of Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation.

Singapore

Regan meetings focus on trade development and mass rapid transit

A MEETING WITH DR. TONY TAN, Minister of Trade and Industry, was the highlight of a busy schedule on Mr. Regan's first day in Singapore. Both ministers expressed their commitment to reducing impediments to free trade, and Mr. Regan was able to brief his counterpart on recent decisions with respect to freer access of goods to the Canadian market.

Focussing on the buoyant Singaporean economy, the minister spoke of Canadian capabilities in such growth areas as telecommunications, mass rapid transit, oil and gas exploration and large scale construction. He pointed out that the businessmen travelling with him were particularly interested in joint-ventures and licensing arrangements, as well as the direct sales of Canadian goods.



Dr. Tony Tan, Minister of Trade and Industry, greets Mr. Regan, while High Commissioner George Seymour looks on.

Mr. Regan and his delegation also received a briefing at the Economic Development Board given by the Chairman, P.Y. Hwang. Afterwards Mr. Hwang and Mr. Chandra Das, who heads the recently-formed Trade Development Board in Singapore, hosted a luncheon for the minister and his delegation. That afternoon the Canadian delegation visited the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry where they made contact with their Singaporean counterparts who have extensive business interests throughout the region. In the evening, the High Commissioner held a reception for the minister and his delegation to introduce them to the Canadian business community in Singapore. Later that evening, Mr. and Mrs. Regan had a private dinner with Dr. and Mrs. Tan.

On the second day of the visit, the interests of Canadian companies in Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit project took centre stage, when Mr. Regan announced that two major Canadian companies – Metro Canada International Ltd. (MCIL) and Bombardier Inc. – were joining forces to offer an improved package in the competitive bidding for the contract to supply subway cars.

Mr. Regan welcomed the agreement, saying that it represented a significant step in consolidating Canada's position as a world leader in the design and supply of transit systems. Both companies have billion dollar projects underway: the MCIL group has projects in Vancouver, Toronto and Detroit; while Bombardier has won contracts to build cars for the New York Transit Authority and for the Mexico City subway system.

Later that day, the Canadian interests in the MRT were discussed by Mr. Regan in a meeting with Singapore's Minister of Communications, Ong Pang Boon. The two ministers dealt with a number of other subjects, including Canadian expertise in telecommunications, power generation and port control.

Before leaving Singapore, the Minister for International Trade took part in two other events. Mr. Regan spoke at a highly successful luncheon held by the High Commissioner for members of the delegation and guests from Singapore. He also gave a briefing to members of the press.