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MINISTER REGAN'S VISIT TO HONG KONG

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), arrived in Hong Kong on May 2, 1983 with 35 senior executives of Canadian companies to begin a two-week tour of South East Asian capitals. The visit is a follow up to the Prime Minister's trip to the region in January of this year.

Mr. Regan held discussions on Tuesday, May 3, with the Honourable Eric Ho, Secretary for Trade and Industry, the Honourable John Brembridge, Financial Secretary, and the Secretary of Transport, the Honourable Alan Scott on a wide variety of topics of multilateral and bilateral interest.

The Minister said "I personally take great pleasure at the strong record of accomplishments in our relations with Hong Kong and at the continuation of their expansion, particularly for Canadian exporters. Trade between Canada and Hong Kong is approaching Canadian \$1 billion and has continued to grow despite the world recession".

Canadian exports to Hong Kong rose to approximately Canadian \$250 million in 1982, a 32% increase over 1981 or nearly 12 times the value of our exports to Hong Kong a decade ago.

As examples of recent Canadian initiatives in Hong Kong, the Minister mentioned the Vessel Traffic Management System for the Port of Hong Kong which involves expertise from the Port of Vancouver, Canadian Coast Guard and Leigh instruments, the Hong Kong Power Utilities which in 1982 for the first time imported coal from British Columbia and Alberta Coal Fields and a Canadian design proposal for the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre.