

serious contenders for the two additional 300 MW units for which EGAT officials are currently studying proposals.

In the field of telecommunications, we have several firms looking at a variety of projects, including telephone privatization in Bangkok and elsewhere in the country. Furthermore, we consider SR Telecoms of Montreal a world leader in rural telecommunications and a strong contender in the forthcoming Asian Development Bank-financed rural telecom project for Thailand.

The list goes on, with Canadian involvement at the early stages of your mass rapid transit project. My Cabinet colleague, Minister Sinclair Stevens, when he visited Bangkok early last March announced that the Canadian Government was to provide \$1.5 million towards a feasibility study of this project.

Canadian commercial interests in Thailand are far from being oriented only to exports to your country. Just yesterday, within a hour of my arrival in Thailand, I participated in the official opening ceremony of a Thailand/Canadian joint venture to manufacture major road grader components for export worldwide. Such a venture benefits both our countries; it provides for an enhanced position in the Thai market for the Canadian company while at the same time contributing to employment and creating transfer of technology opportunities for Thailand.

As many of you will recall, a little over a year ago we held an exhibition of some 28 Canadian manufacturers; of these, some 21 are still pursuing joint venture negotiations. The first joint venture to manufacture solar powered dryers for food products was signed only a few weeks ago and the initial unit is now under construction. It is through these, and we hope many more such joint ventures in the future, that a long term, mature and mutually beneficial commercial relationship will evolve.

Thailand's trade with Canada has been growing at a spectacular rate and has more than tripled from 1982 to 1984 to a level of over 2,000 million Baht. While Thai products were virtually unknown in Canada a few years ago, it is now not uncommon to see quality Thai clothing in the shops and supermarkets featuring Thai rambutans and mangosteens. Indeed, Thailand's recent decision to open a trade office in Vancouver is eloquent testimony to the importance you place on the Canadian market.