

Since 1976, relations between the two countries have benefited from a variety of new instruments of cooperation, including shared-cost training and technical assistance programs and Canadian export credits. In addition to political consultations with his Tunisian counterpart, Mr. Pepin will talk with other members of the Tunisian Government in order to examine the long-term outlook for cooperation and means of promoting exchanges. While in Tunis he will also have an opportunity to meet with Mr. Chedli Klibi, the Secretary-General of the Arab League.

In 1971, Mr. Pepin was the first Canadian Government Minister to make an official visit to Algeria. Since that time, relations between Canada and Algeria have progressed remarkably. Some examples of this include the establishment of a Bilateral Commission, the 1983 Framework Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, the large number of ministerial visits on both sides, and the establishment of means of interpersonal and economic cooperation.

These developments, a result of the activities of the Canadian and Algerian governments and the performance of Canadian firms operating in Algeria, explain why Algeria ranked eleventh in 1983 among Canada's trading partners. Canadian exports have risen from about \$30 million in 1971 to one-half billion dollars today. Mr. Pepin's Algerian visit follows the recent signature by the Export Development Corporation and the Algerian Development Bank of a new line of credit for Canadian \$542.5 million to support the sale of Canadian capital equipment and services.

As well as permitting him to gauge the progress made in the bilateral relationship over the past decade, Mr. Pepin's Algerian visit will prepare groundwork for additional cooperation and more diversified cooperation. The visit will also provide an opportunity to exchange views on the principal questions of international interest.