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VISIT TO CANADA OF THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF ISRAEL

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade) will be meeting Monday, June 27 with the Honourable Gideon Patt, Israeli Minister of Industry and Trade to discuss a number of bilateral trade issues between Canada and Israel ranging from railway construction in Israel to government procurement, to Canada-Israel cooperation in research and development. Mr. Patt is on a 10 day visit to Canada at Mr. Regan's invitation. Accompanying him is an Israeli Trade Mission made up of eleven prominent Israeli businessmen.

Canadian sales to Israel have been increasing significantly over the years reaching their highest level in 1981 when they amounted to \$124.4 million. In 1982 exports declined to \$122 million but it is expected that the upward trend will continue in 1983.

The composition of Canadian exports to Israel reflects a good mix of agricultural products, industrial raw materials and fully manufactured products. Barley has been the most important export item and will remain so, at least for the next 2 to 3 years. Other leading exports have been crude and refined sulphur, aluminum ingots, aircraft engines, lumber, motor vehicles and synthetic resins.

Canadian imports from Israel have been on the decline since 1979 dropping from \$56.3 million during that year to \$39.8 million in 1982, a decrease of 29%. This is mainly due to a decrease in imports of gems. During the first 3 months of 1983 imports amounted to \$15 million.

Mr. Patt's tour will also take him to Quebec City, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria where he will meet with respective provincial Ministers and business leaders.