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THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS RESEARCH CENTRE

OTTAWA -- The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), today announced that the Department of External Affairs will support the establishment of an International Business Research Centre as a division of the Conference Board of Canada. The Department of External Affairs will provide approximately one-third of the Centre's \$450,000 annual operating budget over the next five years, and will be joined, in its support of the Centre, by a number of private sector organizations and by the Conference Board of Canada itself.

Mr. Regan said that the Centre will play an important role in the development of a knowledge base for the improvement of policies and practices of international trade management. "The Centre will contribute to the public understanding and resolution of those international trade issues of particular interest to Canadian industry". To fulfill this role, the Centre will carry out a three tiered program of activities consisting of research studies, conferences and an information service. An advisory council consisting of both private and public sector representatives will provide guidance to the Centre and will serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas among members and set the priorities for the Centre.

"I am particularly pleased to be able to assist in the establishment of the International Business Research Centre", said Mr. Regan. "We must ensure Canadian exporters have access to as many analytical tools and as much expert advice as we can provide to assist them in selling into world markets which are becoming even more competitive and demanding".

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