

Canada and Mexico sign trade agreements

Canada and Mexico have signed agreements providing for at least \$200-million in Canadian exports to Mexico during the next three years.

The two agreements cover the \$100-million sale of subway cars by Bombardier Incorporated of Montreal to Mexico City and a \$100-million sale of agricultural commodities, including wheat, dairy products, canola, corn and coloured beans.

The agreements were signed in Ottawa by Canadian Trade Minister Ed Lumley, Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan, Mexican Secretary of Commerce Jorge de la Vega Dominguez and Enrique Ballesteros, Director-General of CONASUPO, the Mexican food commodity agency.

The agricultural agreement sets out sales targets for six commodities during 1981 and 1982. The Canadian Dairy Commission and the Canadian Wheat Board have already reached agreement with CONASUPO on the sale of wheat and dairy products. The Wheat Board recently negotiated an agreement to supply Mexico with 100,000 tons of winter wheat in 1981-82 with an option for a further 300,000 tons of wheat during the same period. As a result of the new agreement, Canada will become Mexico's

second largest source of foodstuffs.

In May 1980, Trade Minister Lumley led a mission of government officials and senior Canadian businessmen to Mexico in an effort to further identify areas of economic co-operation. It was during meetings with Mexican officials that discussion began that led to the successful conclusion of negotiations between Bombardier and Mexico City.

"This is the second step in what we see as long-term co-operation between our two countries in the urban transportation field," said Mr. Lumley. Earlier this year, the engineering arm of the Montreal Metro signed a technical assistance contract with Mexico City Metro. Both subway systems use rubber-tired technology.

The first delivery of the Bombardier cars will be in May 1982 and the final delivery is scheduled for February 1983. The sale to Mexico is the biggest export sale of mass transit equipment ever made by a North American company, and one of Canada's largest single international sales of manufactured goods.

The two new agreements are expected to sharply increase total Canadian exports to Mexico, which reached \$236 million in 1979. In that year food and beverage sales to Mexico were only \$36 million.

Sanctions on Iran lifted

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced that, effective March 3, the government lifted sanctions imposed against Iran following that country's seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, November 4, 1979.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Gray also announced that the lifting of sanctions means that the export embargo against Iran has been cancelled.

The decision to remove sanctions follows the release of the hostages in January and action by others states, notably the United States (which has publicly and formally accepted the agreement with Iran for the release of the hostages), the European Economic Community member states, Japan, Norway and Australia, to cancel their sanctions. However, the Canadian government has not yet considered reopening the Canadian embassy in Tehran, and has indicated it has no intention of doing so in the near future. Among other considerations, the government wants to study the safety of any Canadian staff who might return there before taking this step.

Telidon wins international award

Telidon, Canada's two-way television technology, has won an international award for design excellence and technical superiority.

The Touche Ross New Perspectives Award is presented annually to firms, individuals and institutions demonstrating innovative thinking, boldness and courage in confronting problems facing mankind.

Telidon was developed by the Communications Research Centre of the federal communications department.

Attached to a television set, Telidon gives users instant access to a wide range of information stored in computer data banks.

Telidon was the only Canadian winner of the 1981 new perspectives awards made by Touche Ross and Company of New York.

Canadian Communications Minister Francis Fox accepted the award from Robert Rennie, chairman of Touche Ross Canada and vice-chairman of Touche Ross International, an affiliation of accounting and management firms with offices in 82 countries.



Trade Minister Ed Lumley points out dotted line to Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan the signing of a multi-million dollar deal with Mexico. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (right) and Mexico's Commerce Secretary Jorge de la Vega Dominguez (far left) look on.

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