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MINISTER REGAN'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), made an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from January 9 to 13, at the invitation of his counterpart, the Saudi Minister of Commerce, His Excellency Dr. Suleiman Al Solaim. During his visit Minister Regan had talks with a number of Saudi Cabinet Ministers in order to review commercial and industrial relations between the two countries and to explore the possibilities for intensifying trade relations and broadening co-operation.

Saudi Arabia has been one of the fastest growing markets for Canadian products and services; exports of goods in 1981 totalled \$455 million, and the total for services (essentially management and consulting) was roughly equivalent. The totals for 1982 are expected to be even higher, but nevertheless the Canadian share of the Saudi market is still small, as Saudi imports are estimated at over \$40 billion.

In addition to His Excellency Dr. Solaim, Minister Regan met with His Royal Highness Prince Badr Bin Abdul Aziz, Deputy Commander of the Saudi Arabian National Guard; His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources; His Excellency Dr. Alawi Darwish Kayyal, Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones; His Excellency Dr. Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, Minister of Industry and Electricity and Acting Minister of Health; and His Excellency Hussein Al Mansouri, Minister of Communications. The Minister called on the Civil Aviation authorities and was briefed on Saudi development priorities by officials of the Ministry of Planning. Minister Regan also toured the industrial city of Yanbu, one of two large industrial complexes being constructed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to produce and export petrochemical products from the Kingdom's vast reserves of natural gas. In addition, he met with Canadian businessmen active in Canada's trade relations with Saudi Arabia.

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