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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that the Honourable Serge Joyal, Minister of State, would visit Cameroon from April 27 to May 1, to chair the first session of the Canada-Cameroon Bilateral Commission. He will be accompanied by a delegation consisting of officials from the Department of External Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Export Development Corporation, as well as a number of businessmen.

The main objective of the Commission is to examine bilateral cooperation between the two countries, and in particular the promotion of economic relations. In terms of development assistance and trade, Cameroon is Canada's most important partner in sub-Saharan Francophone Africa. The Commission will discuss the programming of Canadian aid in the coming years, the funding of Canadian exports, and the expansion of cooperation to new sectors of mutual interest.

Mr. Joyal will exchange views with his Cameroonian hosts on such international questions as the North-South dialogue and the overall situation in Africa.

During his visit to Yaoundé, Mr. Joyal will meet with the Prime Minister, Mr. Paul Biya and several Cameroonian ministers. He will inspect a number of Canadian projects, such as the rural electrification project in Makak, a joint undertaking of Janin and Hydro-Québec International, the FEICOM Training Centre, built by SOFATI, and the REGIFERCAM railway yard in Yaoundé, which recently acquired twenty locomotives made by MLW/Bombardier.