

"Indeed, Australian ministers at federal and state level expressed an interest in the hi-tech show when I talked to them last November in Australia. Some will attend the shows. Trade officials in our Melbourne and Sydney posts confirm that business leaders have been responsive to invitations to the hi-tech seminars, " the Minister said.

The seminars are being held in Melbourne February 21-23, at the Regent Hotel, and February 28-March 1, at the Hilton International Hotel, Sydney. A special delegation of buyers is flying in from Wellington, New Zealand, and others are coming from Perth.

"Canada's interest in Australia was demonstrated last November when I officially opened a new post in Perth, Australia," noted Mr. Regan. With continuing improvements in transportation and telecommunications, increased trade and co-operation are more feasible than ever. The Australia-to-Canada ANZCAN cable, scheduled to open in September, is another strand in the developing network of transportation and telecommunications linking Australia/New Zealand and Canada. The cable links Sydney, Australia, and Auckland, New Zealand, to Canada at Port Alberni, British Columbia, where it interconnects with Canadian telecommunications network. The new undersea cable will have more than 20 times the capacity of the existing submarine cable, known as COMPAC. ANZCAN represents an investment of \$480 million with Teleglobe Canada participating with a 15.5% interest, Australia and New Zealand with 49.5% and 15.1% respectively. British Telecom and other interests make up the balance.

Other areas of co-operation being explored between Canada and Australia include defence production, where one country or the other can make longer runs on the products it is selected to produce by mutual agreement. "Longer production runs are more economical and both countries can profit," said Mr. Regan. The Minister noted that Australian-Canadian co-operation on defence production would give both countries better leverage in pricing, offset provisions and deliveries.