

Mr. Regan's visit to India February 26 and 27 was highlighted by a meeting with Mrs. Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister. Their discussion focussed on expanding economic cooperation and bilateral trade between India and Canada.

Mr. Regan also called on the Minister of Railways of India, Mr. A.B.A. Chani Khan Choudhury, to promote the interests of Canadian firms in the computerization of Indian railways. India has a vast network of railways--equalling that of Canada--but it has not yet modernized its passenger and freight traffic control systems. Several Canadian firms are seeking contracts financed by the World Bank to provide modern telecommunications and computer systems to ameliorate inefficiencies in the railroad network.

During a call on the Indian Minister of Energy, Mr. Shiv Shankar, Mr. Regan stressed the great experience and capability of Canadian engineering and manufacturing companies in providing design and construction services and equipment for hydro and thermal power stations. Although India is capable of providing much of the equipment required for hydro projects such as Chamera, the country will have to import significant amounts of power generation equipment to achieve its ambitious expansion programme necessitated by domestic demand for electricity. "Canadian manufacturers and engineers," said Mr. Regan, "recognize the importance of power to India's growing industrial sector, and have indicated to me that they will compete vigorously for Indian power projects. Both EDC and CIDA are prepared to assist them, EDC by providing competitive project financing and CIDA by aiding India's power development plans." Mr. Regan also drew to the Minister of Energy's attention Canada's interest and capability in the design, construction and operation of large natural gas pipelines. "Canadian pipeline companies are the best in the world," said Mr. Regan, "and want to cooperate with their Indian counterparts in sharing the technological advantages we possess".

Mr. Regan also called on the Indian Ministers of Commerce and of Chemicals and Fertilizers, raising with them Canadian concerns about a recent cutback in Indian imports of newsprint, and Canadian interest in establishing a vaccine plant in India respectively.