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OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOROCCO BY THE MINISTER OF STATE (EXTERNAL RELATIONS)

At the invitation of the Moroccan Government, the Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), paid an official visit to Morocco from May 4 to 6. The visit was intended to intensify economic relations between that country and Canada.

During his stay in Morocco, Mr. Lapointe had an audience with Prime Minister Maati Bouabid. He was also received by his counterpart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi, with whom he examined ways and means of strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries and discussed some international problems of the day, namely the Middle East, the situation in Northwest Africa and the OAU.

The Minister of State also met with several other ministers of the Moroccan Government, including Mansouri Ben Ali, Minister of Transport, and Energy and Mining Minister Moussa Saadi, with whom he discussed the objectives of their forthcoming visits to Canada. The communications sector, also considered a priority in Canada-Morocco relations, was discussed with Mohand Laenser, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications.

With Finance Minister Abdellatif Jouahri, Mr. Lapointe signed an agreement to establish a line of credit for \$15 million (Cdn). Administered by the Canadian International Development Agency, this line of credit will be used in parallel with financing provided by, amongst others, the Export Development Corporation to sell Canadian goods and services to Morocco at competitive rates.

With Moulay Mustapha Belarbi Alaoui, Minister of Justice, the Canadian Minister also discussed judicial