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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TRADE MINISTER VISITS OTTAWA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs the Right Honourable Joe Clark and the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher, yesterday met with Dr. Gerhard Beil, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic. During their meetings the Ministers reviewed the progress made in the relations between Canada and the German Democratic Republic since the signing of the first Trade Agreement between the two countries in 1983. The volume of commercial exchanges has increased from \$31.2 million in 1982 to \$200 million in 1984. Since the signing at the same time of a separate three year Grain Agreement, Canada has become the largest supplier of feed grains to the German Democratic Republic exporting 950,000 tonnes of feed barley and 50,000 tonnes of durum annually. It was agreed by the Ministers to open negotiations later this year to seek extensions of both these Agreements.

The Honourable Charles Mayer, Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board), hosted a luncheon in honour of Dr. Beil and his delegation which highlighted the importance of the Grain Agreement in the development of bilateral economic relations. Dr. Beil also met with Mr. Marcel Massé, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, to review a range of bilateral topics in the political and economic fields.

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