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MINISTER REGAN'S VISIT TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), made an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman from January 5 to 8. On this first official visit by a Canadian Minister to Oman, Mr. Regan was accompanied by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, a businessmen's delegation, and officials of his Department.

The Minister's host was His Excellency Mohammad Al-Zubair, the Sultanate's Minister of Commerce and Industry, with whom the Minister discussed cooperation in several sectors including telecommunications and mining as well as Canadian participation in the implementation of Oman's Second Five-Year Plan, which will provide for \$28 billion of investments. The Minister also met with the Deputy Prime Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs with whom he reviewed the Middle East situation in particular. Minister Regan also participated at a round table discussion at the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals. The Omani Ministers expressed a keen interest in Canada's aerospace industry, in particular the Canadian "Challenger" and in obtaining additional De Havilland "Buffalo" and "Twin Otter" aircraft.

The accompanying businessmen also held a series of meetings with state organizations and business leaders. The Minister and his delegation visited a large copper mining and refining complex, including a townsite and power plant, developed by a series of Canadian companies, which incorporated equipment from many Canadian manufacturers.

Minister Regan extended an invitation to his host to visit Canada at a mutually agreeable date, which was accepted.

The Minister left Muscat, Oman, for Kuwait, the next stop on his four-nation tour of the Gulf region.