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VISIT TO ALGERIA BY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister for External Relations, completed an official visit to Algeria, April 25 - 30.

The purpose of the Minister's visit was to coordinate the results of various meetings which had been held in both Algiers and Ottawa in recent months between Canadian and Algerian Ministers. It confirmed the breadth of the economic and political links between the two countries and provided further stimulus to the relationship. Mr. Pepin took advantage of the visit to discuss a number of international issues, particularly those relating to Africa and the Middle East.

The Minister reviewed with his interlocutors, notably the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdelhamid Brahimi, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the growth which has occurred in the bilateral relationship since his first visit to Algeria in 1971, when he inaugurated the Canadian Embassy in Algiers and conducted the first negotiations between the two countries. He discussed the possibilities for increased technological and commercial cooperation and underlined the expertise of the Canadian public and private sectors in such areas as telecommunications, transportation, agro-industry, tourism and public works. Mr. Pepin also drew to the attention of Algerian Ministers a whole range of projects which are of interest to Canadian companies and for which a \$542 million EDC line of credit is now available.

The Minister reviewed the various mechanisms established by the Canadian government, particularly by CIDA, to promote exchanges in the field of technical and scientific training, mainly in the areas of communications and agriculture. A number of training programs in Canada and in Algeria will be undertaken in the next few months. A particular effort will be devoted to exchanges between Radio Canada and Algerian Radio and Television.