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VISIT TO CANADA OF MEMBER OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL AND IRAQI
MINISTER OF TRADE, HIS EXCELLENCY HASSAN ALI

The Honourable James Kelleher, Minister of International Trade, today released the agreed summary record of the first meeting of the Canada/Iraq Joint Commission. The two-day meeting in Ottawa May 7-8 was jointly presided over by Mr. Kelleher and Member of the Revolutionary Command Council and Minister of Trade of Iraq, His Excellency Mr. Hassan Ali.

The meeting took place in the context of Mr. Hassan Ali's five-day official visit to Canada at the invitation of Mr. Kelleher, during which the two Ministers explored together means of expanding and strengthening bilateral economic ties between the two countries. While in Ottawa Mr. Hassan Ali also met with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Honourable Marcel Masse, Minister of Communications, the Honourable Sinclair Stevens, Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, and the Honourable Charles Mayer, Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board.

The visit by His Excellency Mr. Hassan Ali, accompanied by a member of the National Assembly of Iraq and a Delegation of senior officials, is the first visit by a Minister of the Government of Iraq to Canada, and testifies to the common will of the two governments to develop further their mutually-beneficial friendly relations. It also afforded the Iraqi Minister and his Delegation the opportunity to become acquainted with some elements of Canadian industrial development. They visited the facilities of Bell Northern Research near Ottawa. Earlier the Iraqi Minister of Trade had visited the James Bay hydro-electric installations, as the guest of the Quebec Government.