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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE TUNISIAN MINISTER
OF PLANNING AND FINANCE, MANSOUR MOALLA,
OCTOBER 4-6, 1981

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Mr. Mansour Moalla, the Tunisian Minister of Planning and Finance, will pay an official visit to Ottawa this coming October 4, 5, and 6. The visit is part of the renewal of Canada-Tunisian relations that began last June with the visit of Justice Minister M'Hamed Chaker. While Mr. Chaker's visit set the stage for future endeavours in the field of co-operation, this visit by a minister with an economic vocation will lay the groundwork for parallel undertakings in the sector of industrial and trade exchanges. Both visits will help to accelerate preparations for the next meeting of the Canada-Tunisian joint commission, which is to take place by the end of the year.

The Canadian government representatives will discuss with Mr. Moalla the trade prospects offered by Tunisia's 6th Plan and will present the new mechanisms of co-operation prepared mainly by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Export Development Corporation. Mr. Moalla's Canadian hosts will also want to discuss the two accords that are in the final negotiation stage, namely the double taxation agreement and the investment insurance agreement.

During this visit, Mr. Moalla will meet with the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, and the Honourable Edward Lumley, Minister of State for Trade. The Tunisian Minister will also talk with Mr. Marcel Massé, President of the Canadian International Development Agency, and Mr. Sylvain Cloutier, President of the Export Development Corporation