

The Department of External Affairs announced today that an economic delegation from Algeria, comprising senior officials from a number of Algerian ministries, has just completed a visit to Ottawa from the 12th to the 16th of November. The Algerian delegation was led by Mr. I. Jazaïry, Director of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs in the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also represented in the delegation were the Algerian ministries of Finance, of Commerce, of Industry and Energy, of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, of Transport, of Primary and Secondary Education and of the Permanent Committee for the Development of Algiers.

The delegation had been invited to Ottawa for the purpose of discussing with senior Canadian officials a wide range of commercial, economic and development assistance questions. Discussions have included the possibilities for increased sales of Canadian products to Algeria, the possible granting of Canadian credits to facilitate such sales, development assistance projects already under negotiation and possible new projects.

During the course of the visit of the Algerian delegation, two development assistance agreements involving Algerian fishery and forestry projects were signed.

The delegation signed, on behalf of the Algerian Government, a long term wheat agreement with the Canadian Government for the purchase of from 850,000 to 1,000,000 tons of Canadian wheat. This agreement will extend from August 1, 1971 to July 31, 1975.

The visit of the Algerian economic delegation reflects a desire on the part of the governments of Canada and Algeria to improve and strengthen economic and commercial ties between our two countries to their mutual benefit.