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MINISTER REGAN'S VISIT TO KUWAIT

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), completed a two-day visit to Kuwait on January 9, 1983. In addition to meeting with his host, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, His Excellency Jassim Khalid Al-Marzouk, with whom he discussed the further development of our trade relations particularly in the fields of telecommunications, high technology equipment, urban transit and consulting services, he met with the Minister of Petroleum, the Minister of Finance and Planning as well as with the President of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Discussions were also held with His Excellency Essa Al-Mazidi, Kuwait's Minister of Communications, who has confirmed his intention to visit Canada at the invitation of the Canadian Government during 1983.

Kuwait, with a GDP of \$39 billion and the world's highest per capita income, imported some \$5 billion worth of products in 1981. Canadian exports to Kuwait have regularly increased from \$37 million in 1977 to \$83 million in 1981, and consist mainly of cars, trucks, automotive parts, high technology products and primary goods. Canada imported some \$165 million worth of hydrocarbons from Kuwait during the same year.

Minister Regan, who noted that Canada's trade with Kuwait is relatively modest, met his objective of establishing a long-term relationship that should lead to stepped up trade activity over a broader front.

During the course of his calls, the Minister was able to support the various projects being pursued by a group of Canadian businessmen who had travelled to Kuwait on the occasion of his mission.

At the end of his stay, the Minister visited the installations of the Kuwait Oil Company and discussed the development of the downstream petrochemical industry in Kuwait.

The Minister left Kuwait for a three-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.