

with Minister of Communications Essa Al-Mazidi, who will visit Canada this year.

Canadian exports to Kuwait have increased steadily 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 in hydrocarbons from Kuwait in 1981.

During his visit Mr. Regan toured the installations of the Kuwait Oil Company and discussed development of the petrochemical industry in that Middle East country.

#### Meetings with Saudi ministers

The Canadian delegation, led by Mr. Regan, also visited Saudi Arabia, January 9-13, where they met with Minister of Commerce Suleiman Al Solaim and a number of Cabinet ministers. They reviewed commercial and industrial relations between the two countries and explored the possibilities for intensifying trade relations and broadening co-operation.

Saudi Arabia has been one of the fastest growing markets for Canadian products and services; exports of goods in 1981 totalled \$455 million, and the total for services (essentially management and consulting) was roughly equivalent. The totals for 1982 are expected to be even higher, but nevertheless the Canadian share of the Saudi market is still small with Saudi imports estimated at over \$40 billion.

In addition to his meeting with Dr. Solaim, Mr. Regan met with His Royal Highness Prince Badr Bin Abdul Aziz; Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Re-

sources, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani; Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones Alawi Darwish Kayyal; Minister of Industry and Electricity and Acting Minister of Health Ghazi Al-Gosaibi; and Minister of Communications Hussein Al Mansouri.

The minister called on the civil aviation authorities and was briefed on Saudi development priorities by officials of the Ministry of Planning. Mr. Regan also toured the industrial city of Yanbu, one of two large industrial complexes being constructed by Saudi Arabia to produce and export petrochemical products from that country's vast reserves of natural gas. In addition, he met with Canadian businessmen active in Canada's trade relations with Saudi Arabia.

Minister Regan said he was satisfied with the results of his visit, which had met his objective of supporting and advancing current Canadian projects in the fields of rural electrification, management services, telecommunications, and high technology and related services, worth approximately \$2 billion. He also explored with Saudi officials possibilities for broadening Canadian exports to Saudi Arabia in such sectors as urban transport and agricultural products.

"I am confident that as a result of my visit some important contracts will be signed in the next few months," said Mr. Regan. The Canadian minister also expressed strong support for several upcoming Canadian trade missions to Saudi Arabia. He called for increased contact between Saudi Arabian and Canadian officials and businessmen and extended invitations to visit Canada to Mr. Man-

souri and to Abdul Aziz Al-Zamil, vice-chairman and managing director of Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), which is responsible for the two industrial complexes at Yanbu and Jubail. "I am hopeful that these visits may take place in the next few months, thereby affording another opportunity to demonstrate Canadian capacity to provide the very sophisticated products and services required by Saudi Arabia," said the minister.

#### UAE trip

The final leg of Mr. Regan's trip was a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from January 13-17. Minister Regan was received at the Dubai airport by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Saeed Al-Ghaith and spent a private weekend in Abu-dhabi.

The following day he met with Dr. Kruha, Director-General of Abu-dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to review the world energy situation and ADNOC's downstream development plans. Mr. Regan later met with the Abu-dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Canadian minister held talks with the UAE Minister of Communications Rashid Al-Makhawi on the UAE's development plan, specifically in the communications sectors. They discussed the possibility of the use of Canadian expertise and technology in furthering the UAE's development plan.

The Abu-dhabi Chamber of Commerce also gave a reception for the Canadian delegation.

The delegation travelled to Dubai where Mr. Regan met with Minister of Defence Mohamed Bin-Rashed. They discussed closer economic relations between Canada and the UAE and the Middle East situation. Mr. Regan spoke of a possible sale of Canadian telecommunications equipment and aircraft to the United Arab Emirates.

The Canadian delegation also took part in a round table discussion with Dubai businessmen which led to the establishment of a joint committee on direct investment in Dubai for industrial development co-operation. The committee, which is still in the planning stages, is currently composed of Canadian embassy personnel and members of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

On the last day of his visit, Mr. Regan hosted a reception which was well attended by UAE government officials and senior businessmen in Dubai.



Talks with Kuwaiti officials: (left to right) Canadian Ambassador Ian Wood; Minister of State for International Trade Gerald Regan; Minister of Commerce and Industry Jassim Khalid Al-Marzouk and Minister of Finance and Planning Abdul-Latif Al-Hamad.