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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE
MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
TO TUNISIA AND MOROCCO FROM FEBRUARY 8-16, 1982

The Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister for External Relations, today announced that he will visit Tunisia and Morocco from February 8 to 16 to preside over the Bilateral Commission meetings between Canada and these two Maghreb countries. He will be accompanied by a delegation of officials from various departments and twenty or so Canadian businessmen whose companies wish to extend their activities into this region.

The meeting of the eighth session of the Canada-Tunisian Commission comes as a sequel to the visits to Canada during 1981 of Mr. Mohamed Chaker and Mr. Mansour Moalla, the Tunisian Ministers of Justice and Finance. Its main purpose is to mark a change of emphasis to relations of a more economic nature with a country that has traditionally been a major recipient of Canadian aid in Africa.

During his stay, Mr. De Bané will meet with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and with Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid Essebsi to discuss Canada-Tunisia relations in general and to consider new perspectives for co-operation in the coming years. He will also meet with a number of ministers having economic and technical portfolios to examine Canadian participation in the Sixth Tunisian Development Plan and to establish with them the terms and conditions of this contribution. Finally, during his visit to Tunis,