



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

N°:
No.: 18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 15, 1983

SIGNATURE OF A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND ALGERIA

The Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), and His Excellency, Abdelhak Brerhi, Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, signed, on Monday February 14th in Ottawa, a general scientific and technical cooperation agreement. This agreement will enable Canada and Algeria to intensify and broaden their bilateral relations and to put in concrete form their special relationship.

Trade between Canada and Algeria has increased dramatically during the last decade; the Algerian Republic now ranks as Canada's 12th most important trade partner and first in Africa. During their meeting in Algiers in May 1981, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau and His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Algerian Republic, had agreed that it was necessary for both countries to establish a stronger basis for their mutual relations.

The agreement signed by ministers Lapointe and Brerhi will enable Canada and Algeria to strengthen, develop and diversify their scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of training, technology transfers, scientific and technological research and specialized manpower development.

The purpose of the agreement is to promote direct cooperation between governmental institutions in training and research fields such as exchange programs, joint research projects and other forms of cooperation. The realisation of these programmes will be entrusted to the competent authorities, organizations, institutions and enterprises.

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The general agreement envisages the development of specific sectoral arrangements in various fields of activity. This will enable both parties to determine the objectives and plans of action in each field, as well as the technical implications, implementation procedures, funding, and all other necessary administrative arrangements.

Last November, the Honourable Charles Lapointe and the Algerian Ambassador, His Excellency Salah Mohamed Dembri, signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the financing of exploratory missions, which will enable interested Canadian government departments to develop programmes of cooperation in their respective fields of responsibility, particularly agro-industry, telecommunications, energy, fisheries, construction, water resource engineering and other sectors of mutual interest for both countries.

His Excellency Abdelhak Brerhi and his delegation are on an official visit to Canada from February 14 to 18, 1983.