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## HOCKIN ANNOUNCES VISIT OF VIETNAMESE TRADE MINISTER

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, today announced the visit to Canada of Le Van Triet, Viet Nam's Minister of Trade and Tourism, from August 21 to 28, 1993. Mr. Triet will visit Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, London and Montreal.

"The visit of Minister Triet is an indication of the considerable interest in Viet Nam by Canadian businesses, which see the growth potential of the country and are eager to develop closer commercial ties," said Mr. Hockin.

Minister Triet will meet with representatives from a number of companies in each of the five cities. Mr. Hockin added that Canadian companies have much expertise to offer Viet Nam, particularly in the areas of oil and gas, telecommunications, transportation, agriculture, airport development and environmental technology.

Mr. Triet and Mr. Hockin will meet in London on August 26. Mr. Hockin said that while the visit will focus on trade and economic development, it will also provide an opportunity to discuss other aspects of the bilateral relationship, including human rights.

During their talks, the Ministers are expected to sign a declaration on economic co-operation between Canada and Viet Nam. This declaration will commit both countries to the early conclusion of a formal economic co-operation agreement and the eventual negotiation of agreements on foreign investment protection and the avoidance of double taxation.

Mr. Hockin said that all of these agreements will help the private sector pursue business opportunities in Viet Nam.

The visit by the Vietnamese trade minister is the latest in a series of activities between the two countries designed to strengthen trade and economic ties.

"We have assigned a senior trade commissioner to our embassy in Hanoi and have planned a number of trade delegations and trade shows in Viet Nam for the coming year," said Mr. Hockin. "Canadian companies have bid on projects in Viet Nam that would involve the export of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of equipment and services and create many jobs at home."

Trade between Canada and Viet Nam, while modest, is growing. Bilateral trade in 1992 was valued at nearly \$31 million.

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