



news release

Date

January 21, 1988.

No. 023

For release

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT TO VISIT TURKEY AND ASIA

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Honourable John Crosbie will be visiting Turkey, Nepal, India, and Thailand later this month. The visits reflect Canada's growing relations with Turkey and the countries of the Asia Pacific region and will contribute further to the building of closer economic and commercial ties.

Mr. Crosbie will visit Turkey January 21-22. Mr. Crosbie will meet with Prime Minister Ozal and several of his senior Cabinet Ministers to discuss our expanding bilateral relationship and in particular, major commercial projects currently being pursued in Turkey by Canadian firms. The most visible of these projects is the \$400 million Ankara urban transit system on which UTDC of Toronto is the leading contender. Other important projects being pursued by Canadian firms are in the defence, aviation and telecommunications sectors.

The visit to Nepal, January 23-25, is at the invitation of the Minister of Finance who visited Canada last fall. While in Nepal, Mr. Crosbie will meet with senior Ministers of the Royal Nepal Government. Included in the discussions will be support for Canadian companies interested in the sale of goods and services to Nepal, particularly in the aviation sector.

Mr. Crosbie will arrive in India on January 25 for a five day visit hosted by the Minister of State for Railways, M. R. Scindia. The Minister will meet with Indian Ministers to discuss projects of interest to Canadian companies, particularly in the transportation sector. These projects include the supply of Canadian goods and services in such areas as railways, aviation and urban transit. Senior representatives of several Canadian companies will accompany Mr. Crosbie to India, including Bombardier, CANAC International, UTDC, CAE Electronics, de Havilland Canada, and Canada Steamship Lines.

.../2

The visit to Thailand, January 30 to February 4, comes at a time of rapidly expanding commercial relations between our two countries, and will contribute further to cooperation in several important economic areas. During his visit, the Minister will meet Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda and the Minister of Communications and Interior, with responsibilities for transportation, to discuss specific projects in such areas as mass transit, railways and telecommunications. Several Canadian companies, including Lavalin Inc, Consortrim Group, Alberta Telecoms, CPCS, and CAE Electronics, will accompany the Minister during his visit. Minister Crosbie will also visit the Northeast Fisheries Project at Khon Kaen, which is a CIDA supported project under the direction of Mr. Herb Davis from Newfoundland.