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MINISTER REGAN'S VISIT TO USSR

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), led a Canadian Delegation to Moscow for the third Canada-USSR Mixed Economic Commission, from June 1 to 3, 1983. Meetings between officials of the Canadian Department of External Affairs and the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade covered the whole range of bilateral commercial issues. Mr. Regan emphasized Canada's continuing interest in supplying grains to the USSR. He also stressed the quality and competitiveness of Canadian manufactured goods, particularly for oil and gas machinery and equipment and products associated with agribusiness.

During the meetings, discussions also were held regarding export development financing of Canadian exports. Mr. Jean Arès, Senior Vice-President of the Export Development Corporation (EDC) reiterated the corporation's wish to assist in facilitating the sale of Canadian capital goods to the USSR. All applications by Canadian exporters are considered by EDC on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Regan was accompanied by ten Canadian businessmen representing a variety of products and services from five provinces.

The businessmen had individual meetings with Soviet foreign trade organizations and client users. Special meetings were arranged at the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology and with officials at the Ministry of Foreign Trade. One business representative, Mr. Ken Whitelegg, President of Corod Manufacturing Ltd., of Nisku,

Alberta, signed a contract for the supply of oil drilling equipment. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce was represented by Mr. George Urquhart, Chairman of the Board, who met with the Chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Regan was accompanied on the visit by Mr. W. Yurko, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East.

During his stay in Moscow, Mr. Regan met with Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, Member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He also had meetings with Soviet Ministers interested in procuring Canadian products.