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INCREASE IN CANADA-MOROCCO ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Trade relations between Canada and Morocco have been further enhanced with the acceptance by the Moroccan government and businessmen of an invitation to visit Canada to explore investment possibilities, the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of External Relations, has announced.

Mr. De Bané explained that the Moroccan Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mr. Azeddine Guessous, will head a delegation of businessmen to Canada to complete negotiations on a number of projects singled out for Canadian participation at the first Canada-Morocco Bilateral Commission meeting.

Mr. De Bané told the meeting that relations between Canada and Morocco have reached new significance and structure with the opening of the First Session of the Bilateral Commission. The Commission was established last fall when the two countries met in Ottawa to create a permanent mechanism for exchanges between Canada and Morocco.

The Bilateral Commission will allow both countries periodically to examine and assess co-operation and exchanges to their mutual benefit. "These meetings," Mr. De Bané said, "will allow the two countries to work towards a common goal of developing our economies and a better assimilation of our cultural values."

"The enhancement of our relations cannot be solely satisfied with an increase in exchanges but must also be reflected in the investment sector in such a way as to prolong our ties", the External Relations Minister added.

He also urged the Moroccan government to work in co-operation with Canada in directing Canadian knowledge and expertise to assist Third-World countries.

During his visit to Morocco, Mr. De Bané will be received by His Majesty King Hassan II. He will also meet with the Prime Minister and government ministers to discuss future co-operation between the two countries.

The Canadian delegation is made up of officials from various Government of Canada departments and some 20 Canadian businessmen.