



communiqué

N°:
No.: 52

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 10, 1983

MINISTER REGAN'S VISIT TO MANILA

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade) arrived in Manila Saturday evening on the third stop of a six country trade mission to Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

Immediately upon arrival, Minister Regan and the 40 businessmen delegation were received at Malacanang Palace by Madame Imelda Marcos, First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements. The occasion was marked by the joint signing by Madame Marcos and by Minister Regan of a memorandum of understanding for the supply of six 3.1 megawatt wood burning power plants valued at \$29 million. The National Electrification Administration of the Philippines and the Canadian consortium led by Babcock and Wilcox will now enter detailed technical and commercial negotiations.

The Philippines dendro-thermal program is a unique rural electrification scheme involving plantation harvesting of fast growing ipil-ipil trees as fuel. Minister Regan said at the signing ceremony: "I congratulate Babcock and Wilcox on their success in marketing the wood-fired energy technology that they have developed in Canada. Through the use of these plants, the Philippines will be able to reduce its foreign exchange outlays for imported oil. Since the Philippines plans to commission a considerable number of these mini-generating plants, I am convinced that the installation of successful Canadian produced units will enhance the good chances for Babcock and Wilcox to supply duplicate plants in the future".

On Saturday afternoon, in recognition of the importance of reciprocity in trade, the Minister, accompanied by officials and businessmen, visited an exhibition of Philippine manufactured goods. The exhibition had been opened by Roberto Ongpin, Philippine Minister for Trade and Industry. During his tour of the exhibits, Mr. Regan complimented his hosts: "I am impressed by the design and workmanship of these products which demonstrate the impressive capabilities of the Philippine industry. These exhibits help me appreciate the possibility for mutually advantageous trade".