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COMPLETION OF THIRD STOP OF MR. REGAN'S TRADE MISSION

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), completed today his visit to the Philippines, the third stop on his trade mission to Southeast Asia. Minister Regan heads a delegation of forty businessmen, representing a cross-section of Canadian industrial capability. The group held discussions with key Philippine Cabinet Ministers regarding trade opportunities in the field of energy, transportation and communications and natural resources.

President Marcos and Philippine Minister of Energy, Geronimo Z. Velasco, assured Minister Regan that two major projects on which Canadian companies are bidding are near the head of the Philippines Government priority list. These are a project of \$250 million for a coal burning power plant in the Southern Philippines and a \$100 million project for upgrading a major segment of the coal railway transportation system.

A Canadian consortium headed by Babcock and Wilcox has been short-listed for the construction of a coal burning power plant on the Island of Mindanao. This Southern area of the Philippines has suffered from a severe drought that has created serious hydro-power shortages. In congratulating the Canadian firms, Minister Regan said: "The Canadian group has demonstrated that it can deliver efficiently operating coal-burning power plants. This capability will be crucial in responding rapidly to the decision of the Philippine Government to rely more heavily on thermal power generation".

In the second project, Canadian Pacific Consulting Services has also made significant progress in its negotiations for upgrading a 110km railway project based on transportation of coal destined for industrial users and power generation in the Manila area. The coal transportation project is one of the highest priorities of the Philippine Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

During his meeting with President Marcos and Philippine Minister of Trade and Industry, Roberto V. Ongpin, Minister Regan also expressed his satisfaction at learning that the Canadian company, Reid Collins Ltd., has been selected to complete a national industrial tree plantation study in the Philippines.

"Canada has, for many years, been aware of the potential of forest resources and has developed wide expertise in this area. I am pleased to learn that the Philippines intends to assume reforestation on over 45% of her territory under forest cover", said Minister Regan.

During this visit Minister Regan also participated in the signing of a technical assistance contract to Acres International, consultants, valued at \$700,000 for the power master plan study for Bangladesh. Minister Regan noted: "This is another well-earned success by Acres in their long term commitment to participating in development of the Pacific Rim countries".

On Tuesday morning, Minister Regan called on President Fujioka and senior staff of the Asian Development Bank whose headquarters are in Manila. When meeting later with Canadian professionals employed at the Bank, he said: "I am most conscious of the valued contribution that you make to the functioning of this development institution and, at the same time, your importance to Canadian businessmen seeking trade opportunities through the Bank".