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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CANADIAN CONSULATE PERTH, AUSTRALIA

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), officially opened the Canadian Consulate in Perth, Australia, on November 14, 1983. The Consulate is Canada's fourth trade post in Australia.

The Honourable Horst Schmid, Minister of International Trade of Alberta, participated in the opening ceremony, which was attended by several senior members of the Australian Government.

Mr. Regan is leading a 15-member mission of Canadian businessmen to Australia and New Zealand to assist in developing joint venture operations for Canadian companies. He will also officially open Canada's exhibit at Petroleum Technology Australia '83 (PTA), Australia's largest oil and gas exposition, November 15-18, 1983.

Mr. Schmid, who will be one of the guest speakers at the Fourth Australian Oil and Gas Conference running at the same time as PTA '83, is in Australia to support Alberta companies in their quest to supply equipment and technology to Australia. Fourteen of the eighteen Canadian companies in Canada's national exhibit at PTA '83 are from Alberta.

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Mr. Regan and Mr. Schmid will also make joint visits to several Western Australian Cabinet Ministers and other parliamentarians while in Perth to encourage cooperation in oil and gas development projects and to discuss other trade-related matters.

Canada's national exhibit at PTA '83 is sponsored by the Department of External Affairs.

Guests at the official opening of the Consulate were welcomed by its first Consul General, Mr. Roger Blake. Canada has a High Commission in Canberra and Consulates in Sydney and Melbourne, as well as Perth.