

Canadian High Commission



Haut Commissariat du Canada

The Hon. Donald S. Macdonald, P.C.
High Commissioner for Canada

URGENT

Macdonald House
1 Grosvenor Square
LONDON W1X 0AB

July 24, 1990

The Rt. Hon. Tim Sainsbury, M.P.
Minister for Trade
Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1H 0ET

Dear Tim,

By the time you receive this letter we may have had the opportunity to speak on the telephone.

My first words are those of congratulation on your new appointment. Questions of trade and industry will supplant those of defence and security as important in the relations of nations in the decade to come, and you are fortunate to be in a position to influence your government's policy on these matters.

My second words are to draw to your attention a matter upon which a decision is pending between your department and the Office of Development Assistance (ODA) in which the Government of Canada is very interested. The matter is the contract to construct an underground transit system for Ankara, Turkey. The prime contractor selected by the Turkish government for this project is the Montreal firm Lavalin Inc., but an important sub-contractor is Hawker-Siddeley. A complex financial structure to fund the project has been designed involving the private sector, the export development agencies of our two countries, and the Canadian International Development Agency and your Office of Development Assistance.

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We understand that the only remaining commitment to be secured is that of ODA, and that the final decision on that commitment will be taken this week. When your predecessor visited Canada several weeks ago he was, I understand, fully briefed on the industrial benefits for both countries from the Ankara project, and on future benefits from similar contracts in Bangkok and Toronto. John Crosbie, our Minister of International Trade asked Lord Trefgarne for his support of the proposal. I have made the same request to your colleague, Lynda Chalker.

I know that this will be a busy time for you, but I write firstly to bring this pending decision to your attention and, on behalf of my government, to ask for your positive support of the project.

Best personal wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Don Macdonald

Donald S. Macdonald