Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade



Ministre de l'Industrie, des Sciences et de la Technologie et ministre du Commerce extérieur

News Release

Communiqué

No. 147

July 7, 1992

TO WILSON AND EXECUTIVES

KIEV, Ukraine -- For the first time since the independence of Ukraine in 1991, a major Canadian trade delegation arrived last night in Kiev to explore trade and investment opportunities in that former Soviet republic. Ministers Michael Wilson and Harvie Andre and more than 50 Canadian company executives are encouraging the process of Ukrainian market reform in meetings at the highest level, just as G-7 leaders are discussing related issues at the Munich Economic Summit.

Wilson and Andre discussed Canadian assistance to Ukraine's economic adjustment and prepared to sign a joint declaration on economic co-operation on Tuesday. While Canadian business executives met separately with various Ukrainian counterparts, Wilson met President Leonid Kravchuk for a late evening briefing on the unfolding diplomatic situation in the former Soviet Union, and an exchange of views on economic co-operation.

Wilson and Andre will hold a press conference at 4:30 p.m. (local time) on Tuesday in Kiev with Anatoly Voronkov, Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

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