

Canadian business ties with Vietnam have been increasing in the past few years. Canadian investment in Vietnam reached over \$115 million last year, and is expected to increase significantly this year. In July 1991, Canada opened an office in Hanoi to promote trade and investment between the two countries.

Referring to the recently concluded North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mr. Wilson stressed that NAFTA is a means of accelerating trade liberalization and promoting the principles of freer trade that are fundamental to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "Recognizing that trade is a two-way street, I also want to assure our Asia-Pacific regional trading partners that a NAFTA will not impede the overall flow of goods and services with other countries."

Mr. Wilson will be meeting with key government and business leaders in both countries, including his Ministerial counterparts responsible for trade.

En route to Malaysia and Vietnam, Mr. Wilson will make a brief, private visit to Taiwan. The Minister has been invited to Taiwan by the Canadian Society, a private association made up of Canadians in Taiwan, and will meet with both Canadian and Taiwanese business representatives. Current trade between Canada and Taiwan amounted to some \$3.3 billion in 1991, with Canadian exports of \$1.06 billion.

The visit to Taiwan represents neither a change to, nor a contradiction with, Canada's "One China" policy, under which Canada recognizes the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate government of China.

Following the trade mission, the Minister will attend the Fourth Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting, September 10-11 in Bangkok, Thailand.

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