negotiations with the United States and as it is now doing in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Mr. Wilson also said that Mr. Weekes and his team would be working closely with the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC) and the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGIT), which include representatives of business, labour and academia, and with other interested partners in the private sector in developing the Canadian position. "We have already received excellent co-operation from the private sector in the exploratory phase of these negotiations. I call on all those interested to work closely with Mr. Weekes to ensure the best possible results for Canada," the Minister said.

Mr. Weekes' curriculum vitae is attached.

- 30 **-**

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office External Affairs and International Trade Canada (613) 995-1874