

established here and more than 3,000 Canadian residents. This trade mission is helping to deepen and broaden Canadian-Saudi relations and should contribute to the realization of several billions of dollars in new business currently in the works."

The Minister was pleased to confirm the resumption of two important events that had been postponed due to the Gulf war:

First, a major 10,000-m² exhibit entitled "Saudi Arabia: Yesterday and Today" will tour Canada this summer, following a number of showings in European, Middle Eastern and American cities. The exhibit, which depicts Saudi Arabia's people, history, culture and dramatic economic progress, will be shown in Montreal, July 12 to 28, and in Toronto, August 14 to September 2.

Second, the Saudi Government has agreed that the sixth meeting of the Canada-Saudi Arabia Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will be held in Ottawa in late September.

"The JEC brings together Government and business leaders from both countries. It is a major event, at which we will mark the economic milestones in relations between the two countries, reinforce business ties, and plan the further development of our partnership," Mr. Wilson said, adding that two-way trade is now in excess of \$1 billion annually.

He noted that a bilateral agreement signed with Saudi Arabia in 1983 granting both countries Most Favoured Nation status with respect to tariffs has improved Canadian access to the Saudi market. Also, a bilateral air agreement signed when former Minister of Defence Bill McKnight visited Saudi Arabia in November paves the way for discussions regarding direct flights between the two countries.

Mr. Wilson and his delegation are travelling to Kuwait City today, and then on to Abu Dhabi, May 7, and Dubai, May 8.

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