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STRENGTHENING CANADA'S TIES WITH SAUDI ARABIA

Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade Michael H. Wilson, following two days of meetings with Government and business leaders in Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, expressed satisfaction at his warm reception and obvious signals of strengthened ties between the two countries. Mr. Wilson is leading a 40-member trade mission to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, concluding on May 8.

On the first full day of meetings in Riyadh, May 4, the Minister met with the Ministers of Defence, Finance, Commerce, Industry and Electricity, as well as with the Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones. The Canadian business delegation meanwhile held meetings with their Saudi counterparts and banking and industry authorities for briefings on the Saudi economy and business opportunities. A luncheon hosted by the Saudi Minister of Commerce, Dr. Soliman Al-Solaim, was attended by four senior Cabinet Ministers and scores of Saudi business leaders.

In Jeddah, the commercial centre of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Wilson and the business delegation yesterday met with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce for a full round of commercial discussions.

"Throughout these meetings, the Saudis have openly indicated their desire to do more business with Canada," Mr. Wilson said. "Canada and Saudi Arabia were allies in the coalition that enforced the UN Resolutions during the Gulf war, demonstrating Canada's commitment to the region. The work that Bell Canada International did in establishing the Saudi system of telecommunications in the 1980s clearly established Canada as a dependable source of high technology. As well, there are 12 Canadian companies