

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
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MINISTER WILSON LEADS CANADIAN DELEGATION INTO KUWAIT

Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade Michael H. Wilson yesterday led a group of 40 Canadian business executives into Kuwait City for meetings on how Canada can participate further in the post-war reconstruction of Kuwait. The group flew to Kuwait from Saudi Arabia in a Canadian Forces Hercules that had just completed a scheduled series of relief flights, dropping supplies to Kurdish refugees along the Turkish-Iraqi border.

The Minister was received by the Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, and later met with the Ministers of Petroleum, Commerce and Industry, Public Works, and Communications. He then rejoined the Canadian business delegation, which had met with the president of the largest trading organization in the country and with officers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is supervising much of the emergency phase of reconstruction. At a reception at the Canadian Embassy, local business and government leaders met with the Canadian delegation to discuss business opportunities.

"Having seen, first-hand, the damage done to this country, and after being briefed by Kuwaiti Ministers on their reconstruction needs, I am fully convinced of the strong role that Canada can and will play in rebuilding, repairing and refurbishing this country," Mr. Wilson said. "Their requirements and our assets, particularly in the fields of energy, engineering, construction, telecommunications, and transportation, form an excellent match.

"Importantly, we have learned on this mission that Canada should place more emphasis on providing Kuwait with goods and equipment. Their shelves must be restocked and their factories revived. Virtually all the commercial vehicles are gone."

Damage assessments heard by the Canadian group put the cost of Kuwait reconstruction at considerably lower than half the