



news release

Date **August 12, 1992**
For release

No. 165

CANADIAN OBJECTIVES MET IN NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, said today that Canada's objectives "have been fully achieved" in the successful negotiation by Canada, the United States and Mexico of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Mr. Wilson made the announcement in Washington, D.C., following the successful conclusion today of negotiations with his counterparts, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and Mexican Trade Minister Jaime Serra Puche.

Canada's primary objectives at the NAFTA negotiations were to secure better access to the Mexican market, safeguard and improve the gains made in the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and maintain Canada as an attractive investment location in North America.

"The NAFTA talks have been a success for Canada," Mr. Wilson said. "We have improved parts of the FTA without giving up any of the gains we already achieved under that agreement. With the preferential market access we will now have to both the United States and Mexico, Canada will be even more attractive to potential investors.

"This NAFTA deal is FTA-plus. It improves on the FTA by providing clearer, more precise rules for determining whether goods manufactured in Canada are eligible for the reduced and eventually eliminated duties into the United States and Mexico under the NAFTA. This will ensure that Canada remains a competitive location for investment in, for example, the automotive sector."

"We also keep all the gains we have made in the FTA with the United States. Our system of settling trade disputes -- which has been very successful -- will be maintained and strengthened. In addition, our cultural industries will continue to be exempt, while our supply management system for agriculture won't be touched."