



News Release

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WILSON PUTS CANADIAN LUMBER CASE TO GEORGIA PACIFIC EXECUTIVES

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, today met with senior executives of Georgia Pacific Limited, the Atlanta-based forest products giant and an important member of the coalition which supports the decision by the United States government to initiate a countervailing duty investigation of softwood lumber imports from Canada.

"There is no basis for the countervailing duty investigation of softwood lumber being carried out by the United States. The Canadian industry is not subsidized and the U.S. industry is not injured. I have made our position clear to Georgia Pacific," Mr. Wilson said.

Mr. Wilson explained why Canada made the decision to terminate the 1986 Softwood Lumber Memorandum of Understanding and confirmed the strong resolve of the Canadian government, the provinces and the industry to fight this countervail case to the end, and win.

The Minister also noted that both the United States and Canada had recently introduced measures to increase housing starts over the next year. "A countervailing duty will only serve to undermine these important initiatives and increase the cost of new housing starts in the United States," he added.

Mr. Wilson concluded the meeting by stressing the importance of Canada and the United States working together to ensure the viability of the forest products industry on both sides of the border.

On March 6, 1992, the United States Department of Commerce is scheduled to make public the preliminary determination of subsidy in its countervailing duty investigation of certain softwood lumber products from Canada.

While in Atlanta, Mr. Wilson held meetings with a number of other Atlanta businesses, including Coca-Cola Corp. and Delta Airlines, met with Governor Miller of Georgia, and visited Canadian companies exhibiting at the Technical Association of Paper and Pulp Industries Exhibition (TAPPI).

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