



No. 160

July 10, 1991

MINISTER WILSON TO PURSUE CANADIAN BUSINESS INTERESTS IN SPAIN

The Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, will visit Spain July 12-16 following his participation in meetings with the European Commission in Brussels.

Accompanied by a senior business delegation, Mr. Wilson will hold discussions with Spanish Cabinet Ministers, visit the Expo '92 site in Seville, address the Spanish Federation of Business Organizations and meet Spanish industrialists.

Mr. Wilson and the Spanish Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism will sign a Joint Declaration on Industrial and Technological Co-operation and Investment.

Signalling Canada's desire to consolidate and expand bilateral relations with Spain, Mr. Wilson will explore trade and investment possibilities, joint venture and third country market opportunities as well as industrial co-operation.

The Minister will also press for an end to overfishing of fish stocks in the waters of the northwest Atlantic, including effective control of Spanish vessels to ensure compliance with the decisions of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

"With the dramatic growth of Spain's economy, its ability to attract foreign investment and the high-profile events taking place in Madrid, Barcelona and Seville in 1992, the world is focusing increasing attention on Spain. These factors, combined with Spain's strategic historical, economic and geographic position in Europe, mean real prospects for Canadian companies wishing to establish

themselves in order to pursue business opportunities in Spain, in the unified market of Europe and in the Spanish-speaking world," Mr. Wilson said.

In addition to being received by the King of Spain, Mr. Wilson is scheduled to meet with his counterpart, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, as well as with the Secretaries of State for Defence, Industry and Trade, the President of the Spanish Federation of Business Organizations, the Chairman of Banco Central, and other senior Spanish industrialists.

During his visit to Seville, Mr. Wilson and Canadian company representatives supporting Canada's participation in Expo '92 will meet with the Commissioner General of Expo '92, tour the world exposition site and receive dignitaries in the almost completed Canada Pavilion.

"Expo '92, with its theme of discovery, will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase Canadian expertise and leadership in developing new and advanced technologies," Mr. Wilson said.

The business delegation accompanying Mr. Wilson includes Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and senior executives representing Bombardier Inc., Bristol Aerospace, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, CAL Corporation, DSMA International Inc., Memotec Data Inc., Northern Telecom, and Spar Aerospace -- all pursuing significant commercial interests in Spain.

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