



## News Release

## Communiqué

No. 59

March 25, 1992

### WILSON WELCOMES ISRAELI DELEGATION TO CANADA-ISRAEL JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, announced today that the Canada-Israel Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will meet in Ottawa, March 31-April 1.

"I welcome Mr. Moshe Nissim, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade, as Head of the Israeli delegation, and all delegates to this important event," Mr. Wilson said. "I am very pleased that our two governments are looking at ways to improve our bilateral relationship through this JEC. To support us in these efforts, over 20 of Israel's most important private sector companies will be here for this occasion, with an equal number from Canada taking part."

The purpose of the Commission is to promote bilateral trade between Canada and Israel, and to facilitate economic and technical co-operation in mutually agreed sectors of importance.

"During the JEC sessions, our discussions will focus on priority sectors that match Canadian and Israeli capabilities and commercial interests, such as building products, telecommunications, and environmental products and services," Mr. Wilson said. "I am particularly pleased at the prospect of concluding a new memorandum of understanding that will incorporate all substantial aspects of our trading relationship and will address improved market access between our two countries."

Prior to the meeting of the JEC, Minister Nissim and the Israeli business delegation will attend a Canada-Israel Technology Co-operation Forum to be held in Toronto, March 26-27 and in Montreal, March 30. This forum is designed to foster greater company-to-company linkages through joint ventures and technology transfer.

"The Technology Co-operation Forum provides a concrete opportunity to bring together Canadian and Israeli firms in face-to-face meetings to discuss industrial technology co-operation," Mr. Wilson said. "The contacts made here will be an essential and, we hope, enduring outcome of the Israeli delegation's visit to Canada."

Two-way trade between Canada and Israel in 1991 was evenly balanced at approximately \$130 million each way. Canada's main exports were crude and refined sulphur, aluminum, lumber, aircraft engines, and copper and zinc products. Israel's largest exports to Canada included diamonds, yarns, agricultural products and medical equipment.

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