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CANADA-USA MIGRATORY CARIBOU AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs today released the text of a discussion paper which outlines the possible nature of a proposed Agreement with the United States on migratory caribou. This paper is being sent to interested native and conservation groups and territorial governments for comment and as a basis for later discussion. Comments from the interested public would also be welcome. The proposed Agreement would provide for the conservation of caribou herds which migrate between Canada and the United States across the Yukon/Alaska border. The major migratory herd covered would be the Porcupine herd of some 100 000 animals, on which a number of Indian and Inuit communities in both countries depend.

The concepts outlined in the discussion paper represent the preliminary views of Canadian officials following extensive consultations with interested groups in Canada, informal meetings with U.S. officials, and a careful analysis of the responses to an earlier discussion paper sent out in December 1979. The discussion papers are part of a special ongoing process of consultation between the Government and interested groups concerning the proposal. The U.S. State Department is engaging in a similar process in the United States.

The discussion paper can be obtained and comments on the paper may be addressed to the Department of External Affairs, Bureau of U.S.A. Affairs, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G2, telephone number (613) 996-4583.