

West coast tankers

The transportation of oil by super-tankers from Alaska to refineries in the Puget Sound area of the west coast is a matter of great concern to Canada. The central issue is the threat posed to Canadian interests by the possible pollution of Canadian shores and waters. During a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State in September at the United Nations, the Secretary of State for External Affairs described the intensity of Canadian concern and its causes. In December, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System was authorized by Congress, with a provision for establishing a \$100-million fund to be used to compensate for damage caused by spills of Alaskan oil. In the light of this development, the Canadian Government formulated specific proposals to the United States designed to minimize the environmental risk posed by the current and anticipated increase of tanker traffic on the west coast. These proposals subsequently were presented to the U.S. early in 1974.

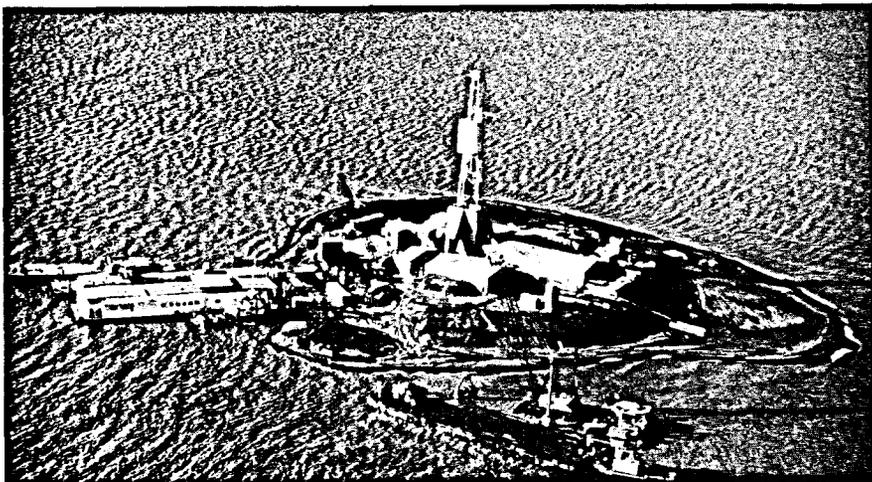
Oil-spills contingency plan

The hazards of oil spills have a special significance for Canada because of its vulnerability on the Great Lakes and on the west and east coasts. In recognition of the need for plans to counter pollution incidents, Canada and the United States held discussions to formulate a joint Canada-U.S. marine contingency plan. This plan will provide for a co-ordinated and integrated response to pollution incidents by federal, state, provincial and regional agencies of both countries. The plan was completed by the end of 1973, and awaited promulgation by the Canadian Ministry of Transport and the United States Coast Guard.

Garrison Diversion Unit

The Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota has caused concern in Canada about the adverse effects this irrigation project may have on waters flowing across the international boundary into Manitoba. In October 1973, the Canadian Government sent a diplomatic note to the United States Government urging that the project be delayed until it could be demonstrated that there would be no consequences detrimental to Canadian interests. Canadian opposition was based on the terms of Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, under which both countries pledged not to pollute the waters of the other to the injury of health or property. The United States has acknowledged the applicability of the Treaty to this case, thus recognizing for the first time that this provision provides protection against activities that are expected to result in pollution. Both sides agreed to enter into discussions in 1974 with a view to ensuring that Canadian rights and interests are protected.

Drilling at Immerk, man-made island in the Beaufort Sea.



Skagit Valley

A subject of prime concern to the Canadian Government during 1973 was the expressed intention of the Seattle City Light Company to raise the height of Ross Dam in Washington State and flood land in the Skagit Valley of British Columbia. Opposition to this project by the federal and B.C. governments was reinforced by a unanimous resolution passed by the House of Commons in November.