

Ministers and representatives of the governments of Canada and the United States met today in Ottawa to discuss common problems of pollution in the Great Lakes. The Canadian delegation included the Minister of Energy and Resources Management from the Province of Ontario. At the meeting they discussed each country's current plans, programs and legislation to improve water quality in the Great Lakes.

Ministers and representatives discussed the recommendations in a Special Report submitted in April by the International Joint Commission on potential oil pollution, eutrophication and pollution from watercraft. It was agreed:

a) The Canadian contingency plan for the Great Lakes for spills of oil and hazardous materials which will shortly come into operation, will be fully coordinated with the new United States plan.

b) Inputs of phosphates into the Great Lakes should be reduced in order to arrest and reverse eutrophication of the Great Lakes. Canadian legislation will permit the Canadian Government to implement the Commission's recommendations for reducing and eliminating phosphates from detergents and the Canadian Government has announced its intentions to take action that would meet the IJC recommendations. Standards are in effect on the United States side of the Lakes which will require the achievement of an 80% removal of all phosphates from municipal and industrial sewage (including detergents) by 1973, and in advance of the target date of 1975 recommended by the Commission; the United States Government is continuing its intensive review of the removal of phosphates from detergents.

c) In both countries legislation exists for the regulation of waste disposal by commercial vessels and pleasure craft; and the Ministers concerned have agreed to achieve compatible regulations.

It was noted that the Ontario Government intends to modify its gas drilling program on Lake Erie to conform to the recommendations of the Commission in the Special Report. There is no gas well drilling by Michigan, Ohio, New York or Pennsylvania in Lake Erie. It was further noted that phosphate removal facilities are being initiated by Ontario with a view to meeting the recommendations of the Commissioners.

Ministers and representatives expressed deep concern about the critical situation in the Great Lakes, and noted the determination of the Governments to take decisive action.

The Ministers have agreed to the establishment of