

A draft modified plan, reducing the currently authorized 250,000 acre plan to 96,300 acres, was made public in 1978; however, the revised plan retained the crucial feature of inter-basin transfer of water. On this basis, the revised plan was strongly opposed by Canada.

Last summer, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$9.7 million for continued work on Garrison. While this is a relatively small amount, any new construction heightens Canadian fears that momentum will mount for completion of the already partially built project. In the absence of any significant project redesign, any such construction would appear to be leading inexorably toward completion of features that would ultimately result in violation of the Boundary Waters Treaty.

Canada was encouraged by a Department of the Interior announcement in November 1980 that the portion of the \$9.7 million appropriation relating to project features affecting Canada would be placed in a "reserve fund" pending the conclusion of consultations with Canada. In December, however, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget disapproved this deferral. Despite informal assurances by the Department of the Interior that the money will be spent only on the West Oakes Test Area, which involves no effect on Canada, the uncertainties connected with the project continue to cause concern.

The United States has proposed that a process of bilateral consultation commence in March of this year. Canadian scientific and technical experts have been briefed on the latest U.S. technical developments in order that these consultations can be based on a firm understanding of the technical issues involved.

Canada is concerned that the implementation of the project as it is now designed, involving as it does no guaranteed protection against the inter-basin transfer of biota, would cause serious injury in Canada and would violate the Boundary Waters Treaty.