

The Department of External Affairs announced today that United States and Canadian officials met in Ottawa on August 28, 1974, to discuss the Garrison Diversion Unit. These discussions were forecast in an exchange of Notes between Canada and the United States in late 1973 and early 1974. In the exchange of Notes, Canada stressed its concern about the effect of return flows from the North Dakota irrigation project on water quality in the Souris and Red Rivers in Manitoba. The United States, in the exchange, stressed its commitment to Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 which specifies that neither country shall pollute water crossing the boundary "to the injury of health or property" in the other country.

At the August 28 meeting the two sides discussed in some detail a recent report from the U.S. Department of the Interior entitled "Irrigation Return Flows to the Souris River and Canada", as well as other technical aspects of the project which could affect Canadian rights and interests. The U.S. officials described the project and its proposed implementation schedule and explained the data and conclusions which had been provided to Canada earlier.

The Canadian officials outlined questions raised by the U.S. Department of the Interior report. Some questions were answered at the meeting and the U.S. side undertook to provide answers to others in the near future. Based upon its analysis of the U.S. data,