The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, announced today that the Government of Canada has conveyed to the International Joint Commission a combined Canadian response to the recommendations to governments contained in the Commission's Third Annual Report on Great Lakes Water Quality.

Since the signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States on April 15, 1972, Canada and the United States have been developing and implementing programmes and other measures designed to meet the specific water quality objectives set out in the Agreement. The International Joint Commission, charged with the responsibility to report on progress toward meeting these objectives, observed in its Third Annual Report on Great Lakes Water Quality that 1974 brought a heightened and highly accelerated bi-national effort to restore and enhance the water quality in the Great Lakes System. While concluding that the water quality of the open waters of the Upper Lakes is generally good, and that progress is being made in Lake Erie, the Commission's report drew to the attention of governments that Lake Ontario for the first time shows early signs of oxygen deficiency in the deep waters of the open lake. The report also expressed concern over continued oxygen depletion in the lower strada of Lake Erie, the PCB situation, and scattered areas of depressed water quality.

The Government of Canada, in consultation and co-operation with the Government of Ontario, recently completed a comprehensive review of Great Lakes water quality matters, and, as noted above, has now conveyed to the IJC a combined Canadian response to the recommendations to Governments contained in the Commission's valuable report. The Canadian response sets out the specific status of Canadian programmes, both federal and provincial, which relate to the Commission's recommendations. The response reaffirms that the Governments of Canada and Ontario continue to give high