

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of Canada, and the Department of the Interior of the United States of America,

CONSIDERING that the Government of Canada (hereinafter called "Canada") and the Government of the United States of America (hereinafter called "the United States") have under their respective charges the protection from forest fires of lands within the Yukon Territory in Canada and the State of Alaska in the United States; and

CONSIDERING that it has been decided to enter into an agreement for mutual co-operation between Canada and the United States in the detection and suppression of forest fires by designating an area along the boundary separating the Yukon Territory and the State of Alaska within which such co-operation may be achieved and thereby exercise more effective control over any fire in the territory of one of the Parties which may escape to the territory of the other Party;

AGREE as follows:

1. In this agreement,

- (a) "Party" or "Parties" means the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of Canada or the Department of the Interior of the United States, or both, as the context requires, which are the respective agencies directly responsible for protection of particular lands in the buffer zone;
- (b) "boundary" means the boundary separating the Yukon Territory and the State of Alaska;
- (c) "buffer zone" means an area 10 miles in depth at all points on each side of the boundary;
- (d) "fire" means a forest fire which is located within or partly within the buffer zone;
- (e) "territory" means the land within the buffer zone which may be within the jurisdiction of one or other of the Parties;
- (f) "suppression action" means the act of fighting a fire within or partly within the buffer zone.

2. The Parties will co-operate with each other in the detection and suppression of fires by recognizing a buffer zone in which immediate suppression action may be initially started by either Party. In order to facilitate such co-operation the coming into effect of this agreement pursuant to Section 11 hereof shall be construed as permitting officers, employees, agents and conscripts of either Party, when engaged in the detection or suppression of a fire, to pass and repass across the boundary and proceed in the buffer zone without the necessity of obtaining passports, permits, or any other documents whatsoever.

3. Upon the detection of a fire anywhere in the buffer zone, either Party shall have the right to commence immediately suppression action without prior notice to the other. However, when the fire is on the lands of the other Party, the Party which has commenced suppression action will, as soon as