

Space

The United States launched its first earth-resources technology satellite (ERTS-1) in July 1972. Under the terms of a bilateral earth-resources technology satellite agreement (ERTS) with the U.S., Canada has had access to resource and environmental data collected by the ERTS-1 satellite as well as *Skylab*. Meanwhile, Canada has developed internationally-recognized expertise in the field of satellite-data reception and dissemination. The Canadian ERTS receiving system is being examined by other nations that wish to receive ERTS data directly. A temporary *Skylab*-tracking station in Newfoundland will be reactivated under an extension of an earlier agreement to monitor the joint U.S.-Soviet *Apollo-Soyuz* space venture.



Environment

The attention being paid by the United States and Canadian Governments to bilateral environmental issues continues to increase, reflecting a strong concern expressed by provincial, state and local governments and the public generally.

The main focus has been on water quality, especially in the Great Lakes, the Souris River in Manitoba and the coastal waters of British Columbia. An awareness of the expanded role the International Joint Commission can play in dealing with problems of this nature is reflected in the responsibilities given to the Commission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Specific issues in this area that received priority attention during 1973 include:

Great Lakes water quality

Measures designed to restore and enhance water quality in the Great Lakes system were embodied in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement adopted in April 1972 by the Canadian and U.S. Governments. Officials of both governments meet frequently to assess progress in achieving the goals set by the agreement.

The responsibilities given to the IJC under the agreement mark a new departure from the type of function the Commission has hitherto exercised. For example, the Commission is called on to recommend improvements in objectives, regulations and programs. In 1973, the Commission opened a regional office in Windsor, Ontario, to assist in carrying out these duties. The Commission reports annually to the two governments on progress under the agreement, providing advice and recommendations; it may publish any of its findings.

Great Lakes levels

The IJC presented a special report to the Canadian and U.S. Governments on June 28, 1973, recommending changes in the method of regulating outflows from Lake Superior. The Commission's proposal is designed to provide relief throughout the lower Great Lakes system during periods of high or low water, without causing undue detriment to Lake Superior interests. This is an interim recommendation only, pending a final report by the Commission on long-range possibilities for the regulation of levels and flows within the basin. At the end of the year, the two governments were in consultation on the decision that should be taken on the Commission's recommendation.

Satellite-data receiver at Prince Albert, Sask.