

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, today released the interim report of the International Joint Commission on the regulation of the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain. The report is being issued simultaneously in Ottawa and Washington, D.C.

The Richelieu River flows from Lake Champlain, which is located in the states of New York and Vermont, across the international boundary into the Province of Quebec. Flooding has occurred on both sides of the boundary for many years and has been particularly severe since 1970. In Canada, where most of the flooding occurs, damage has been accumulating at the rate of about \$900,000 per year. Concern over this situation in both countries was reflected in early 1973, when the governments of Canada and the United States asked the International Joint Commission to investigate the desirability of regulating the Lake and River for the purpose of moderating extreme high or low water conditions.

Mr. MacEachen indicated that the Canadian Government is studying the Commission's report closely and intends to consult the Province of Quebec and the Government of the United States before taking any position on the recommendations. Copies of the report are available in English and French at the offices of the International Joint Commission, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa.