

PRINT

CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS

BOUNDARY DISPUTES

EDITORIALS

Le Devoir Oct. 16/84  
(by Jean Claude LeClerc)

The International Court in The Hague decision on the Georges Bank dispute last Friday was of prime importance for Canada and other countries with coastlines. The Americans were asking for a monopoly in the area, they should now be content with the major part of the territory and resources. The 200-mile limit has eliminated an area of friction and war but is the cause of conflict when the zones overlap. Insurmountable disagreements should be brought to international jurisdiction. The Hague's decision was well received in Canada despite Ottawa's loss of potential petroleum contracts. The International Court didn't solve the problem of managing and protecting fish stock between the two competing countries however. A lot still needs to be done if Canada and U.S. are serious about protecting marine resources from ecological disaster. The Court's decision puts an end to a litany of complaints from fisherman and local politicians which promised to become bitter. Québec should now find a way of sharing the resources of the St. Lawrence Gulf - hopefully it won't take 20 years to solve the problem to the advantage of all the provinces with coastlines.

Toronto Star Oct. 15

American Ambassador Paul Robinson says Canada should stop worrying about Garrison because it is too expensive to ever be built. The editorial states Canada cannot stop worrying because there is a possibility it will go ahead as planned and if it does it will cause untold problems for Canada. Several possible alternatives acceptable to Canada are mentioned.

Winnipeg Free Press Nov. 13/84

A U.S. Commission has confirmed the correctness of Canada's opposition to the project. Canada's interest will be best served by continuing to monitor steps taken to protect against biota transfer. Whatever protection is taken there can be no guarantee that a biota transfer will not take place.

Winnipeg Free Press Nov. 20/84

The Garrison Diversion Commission's final report should satisfy most of Canada's environmental concerns about the project. Canada's major win will be the postponement of the part of the project which would divert the transfer of Missouri River water to the Hudson Bay system.

Winnipeg Free Press Nov. 23/84

Paul Robinson's claim that the Garrison Project will be stopped for lack of money is as remote as his 1981 prediction that the project would get no more federal funds.

Globe and Mail Nov. 26/84

Paul Robinson's claim that the Garrison Project will not be completed is "however soothing, worth less than the paper the commission's final report will be written on". If it goes ahead it will result in disaster for fishermen and farmers in Manitoba.