

"Our most important concern, however, is that the risk of transfer of foreign biota to the Hudson Bay drainage basin has not been eliminated or significantly reduced by the draft revised plan. The plan indeed anticipates the transfer of such biota to the Red River via the Sheyenne River. The Commission in its report under the Reference characterized the need to prevent biota transfer as 'over-riding everything else' and examined and rejected the contentions that precautions such as the McClusky Canal fish screen or a 'closed system' of irrigation would 'with any certainty prevent biota and disease transfers which would cause severe and irreversible damage to the ecosystem, and in particular to the commercial and sport fisheries of Canada'.

"We would be grateful if these observations could be passed to those United States agencies participating in the Administration's review of the Department of the Interior's draft revised Garrison plan, and trust that the international aspects of the project will be fully considered in this process. We would also recall in this context concerns regarding international effects of the Garrison Diversion Unit expressed in the United States Congress during past consideration of the project, and would accordingly request that this letter also be passed to those committees of the Congress which are or will be charged with examining the draft revised plan or any subsequent revisions.

"We would welcome the opportunity to enter into consultations regarding the international implications of any revised Garrison plan at such time as you are in a position to discuss a specific proposal in terms of its potential transboundary effects and, in particular, of the report of the International Joint Commission. Such consultations were of course envisaged in our Note of October 12, 1976, and your reply of February 18, 1977. We would be grateful in due course to receive full details of your Government's eventual proposal, so that we can study it before entering into formal discussions. We would be interested in the meantime to be informed of any reaction you might have to these, our preliminary comments, and would also welcome any indication you may be able to provide of the proposed timetable for consideration of the current draft revised plan by the U.S. Administration and Congress.

"We deeply appreciate the cooperation extended by the United States Government in dealing with this important issue in environmental relations along our common boundary, and look forward to the achievement of a mutually satisfactory outcome."