



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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The Department of External Affairs and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources announced today that the following statement will be made this afternoon in the House of Commons by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Honourable Jean Lesage. A similar announcement is being made in Washington.

"The Canadian and United States Governments have decided to examine together the subject of waters which flow across the international boundary between the two countries.

"The last time both governments examined this matter thoroughly together was before the conclusion of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. During the forty-six years which have elapsed since its ratification, the International Joint Commission, which was established by the Treaty, has worked with outstanding success in solving water problems within the framework of this treaty.

"It has recently appeared, however, that the development of the resources of such basins as the St. John, the Columbia and the Yukon, requires, among other things, the solution of various complicated legal, economic and engineering questions. In agreeing to examine the matter of waters which cross the boundary, the two governments realize that there may be no easy or quick answer to the problems which are arising today in such areas and that the studies may reveal that the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 is sufficiently broad to meet present problems. The two governments believe, however, that a full and confidential exchange of views may contribute to the resolution of these problems and it is in this spirit that the discussions have been agreed to. At the same time, the two governments desire that the International Joint Commission shall press forward its studies under the Columbia River Basin Reference of 1944 and the other similar references which it has under consideration."
