

Acid rain reduction plan

Canadian and United States representatives attending a major acid rain conference in Quebec City, have indicated that a plan to reduce acid rain emissions will be ready for the annual meeting of eastern Canadian premiers and New England governors to be held in St. Andrews, New Brunswick in June.

"We feel strongly that the conference has been a success," James Hoyte, Massachusetts secretary of environmental affairs said after the three-day international meeting. "We now have the basis for common exchange of ideas, and it's imperative to recognize the statements of political will made here," he added.

The meeting, sponsored by the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference, was attended by representatives from seven provinces, 15 states, the federal government, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. It was hosted by Quebec and Massachusetts and co-chaired by Premier René Lévesque and Governor Michael Dukakis.

During the conference delegates reviewed the progress in the fight against acid rain being made in different regions.

Jean Piette of the Quebec Environment Ministry said the fight against acid rain in all of eastern Canada is increasing. "All governments are working together to promote a clean-up program which should bring us close to the objective of 20 kilograms per hectare per year (in acid deposits)," he said.

Ontario, which is responsible for close to 50 per cent of the emissions for eastern Canada, has committed itself to reducing acid emissions by 1 164 000 tonnes, or 53 per cent, by 1994.

Quebec has committed itself to reducing its emissions by 45 per cent, or 485 000 tonnes, by 1990.

The conference also heard reports on the phenomenon of "dieback" that is affecting Quebec's maple trees and its maple industry. Dieback, which involves slower growth, loss of bark and ultimately death, is affecting as much as 73 per cent of the maple stands studied.

"Acid rain and air pollution have been retained as the most likely causes of ... the dieback phenomenon in maple stands," concluded a report presented by Quebec forestry scientist Lise Robitaille.

Mr. Hoyte said the conference would work to "educate" the Canadian and US acid rain envoys — former Ontario Premier William Davis and former US Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis — and to lobby for action by the US government.

Canadian and Romanian leaders discuss mutual-interest issues

Socialist Republic of Romania President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena Ceausescu, paid an official visit to Canada from April 14 to 17, 1985, at the invitation of Governor General Jeanne Sauvé and the government of Canada.

In addition to attending meetings and functions in Ottawa, the Romanian party visited Montreal and toured Hydro-Quebec's, Gentilly II nuclear power station in Bécancour. The Gentilly plant with a Canadian Candu reactor is similar to a nuclear plant being constructed in Romania where five Candu

reactors are being built and contracts have been signed for two more units.

Official talks were held between Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and President Ceausescu to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries, as well as on international issues of mutual interest. They noted the favourable evolution of Romanian-Canadian relations during recent years and the continued exchange of visits, the development of economic, technical and scientific exchanges, and the intensification of bilateral consultations at all levels.

Economic relations

A joint statement on the development of long-term economic relations was issued and the two leaders stressed that the level of economic development of the two countries offered favourable conditions for the promotion and diversification of commercial exchanges, bilaterally, and jointly in other countries. (See box.)

Concerning international issues Mr. Mulroney and Mr. Ceausescu emphasized their similar objectives in connection with the necessity of preserving peace, promoting a constructive dialogue, and creating a climate of confidence and co-operation among states. They expressed their concern with the international situation and the continuing arms race, especially the nuclear aspect.

Arms control

The two sides held the view that sustained efforts are needed for halting the arms race, agreeing on genuine and durable mea-



Governor General Jeanne Sauvé greets Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on his arrival to Canada.



International Trade Minister James Kelleher (right) and President Ceausescu at a meeting.