

Turning to matters of bilateral concern, Members discussed in depth questions relating to protection of the environment and trade in energy materials.

The Members of the Committee recognized the high importance which both countries attach to the need to make a concerted attack on the urgent problem of pollution along the common frontier and especially in the Great Lakes. They noted that proposals designed to provide a more effective framework for cooperative action to protect the Great Lakes, in keeping with the recommendations of the International Joint Commission, would be considered by appropriate ministers from both countries at a meeting to be held early next year. Members reaffirmed the commitments of their respective governments to move forward as quickly as possible to constructive consideration of these recommendations for better water quality objectives in the Great Lakes.

Members of the Committee reviewed the sharply growing energy requirements of North America and both the present availability and probable location of future sources of supply. They agreed that discussions should be continued to work out mutually acceptable arrangements, consistent with the responsibilities of the regulatory bodies concerned, for an increasing trade in crude oil, petroleum products and other fuels between the United States and Canada.

Referring to earlier representations, Canadian ministers strongly urged the early removal of the effective embargo that the United States applies to imports of uranium for civilian consumption through its enrichment regulations. Reference was made also by ministers to the importance of coal produced in the United States to the steel industry and to thermal power in eastern Canada and the importance of the Canadian market to United States producers.

It was noted that a prolonged and drastic disruption in overseas shipments of crude oil to the east coast of North America might require the diversion of some U.S. produced oil to eastern Canadian markets to meet shortages there. Ministers recognized that in such circumstances it would be reasonable to expect that