

The report I am submitting to you today, and the recommendations contained in it, are framed by what we know and what we don't know about acid rain. The seriousness of the problem, especially as it affects diplomatic relations with Canada, dictates that we act; the uncertain effects and high costs of control dictate that we act prudently.

These recommendations are not intended to be a final solution to the bilateral acid rain problem. Our two nations must continue to talk and work together, and our respective national policies must continue to evolve in the years ahead. The recommendations we are making today are intended to help foster the fruitful bilateral dialogue and actions that are essential to any final solution.

Mr. President, today the Special Envoys are submitting to their respective governments a report and a set of recommendations that we believe represent solid, substantial progress toward the resolution of a difficult, complex question. If you accept our recommendations, I believe they should be incorporated as a part of official U.S. acid rain policy already being implemented through the Environmental Protection Agency.

I hope these recommendations are accepted and implemented in the same spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation with which they were developed. The shared political, economic, and environmental history of the United States and Canada is too important to both countries to allow this initiative to falter.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Drew Lewis

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL ENVOYS ON ACID RAIN, JANUARY 9, 1986

I would like to thank the Honourable William Davis and his counterpart Drew Lewis for an outstanding effort.

The report and its recommendations constitute a significant departure from positions taken in previous discussions by the U.S. administration. The recommendations include several important, concrete proposals for tackling this trans-boundary problem.

The recommendations also outline the mechanism — a Senior Cabinet Official Bilateral Committee — for ongoing future progress and ultimately, a definitive solution.

This vital issue had been largely ignored during the last five years. Actions taken by the Canadian government domestically, combined with the nomination of the envoys, moved the issue front and centre to the political arena where it will finally be resolved.

The report and its recommendations constitute an important step forward in this process, although our goal has to be a bilateral accord that deals once and for all with this issue.

I will be raising the acid rain question as a priority agenda item when the President and I meet in March.