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The Department of External Affairs announced today that officials of the United States and Canadian Governments met in Washington on Thursday, December 15, to review immigration and customs procedures affecting travel between Canada and the United States. In these talks, it was recognized that only a very small proportion of individual border crossings, which number many millions annually from each side, give rise to any difficulties. The causes of possible and existing difficulties were examined in a frank, friendly and co-operative spirit within the framework of the laws and regulations of both countries. The meeting explored the possibilities of the improvement of administrative practices which might serve to facilitate border crossings and thus maintain, to the fullest extent, the traditional freedom of the international boundary.

Good progress was made in these discussions, and it is hoped that, as a result, difficulties in individual cases will in future be reduced to a minimum.

On the United States side, officials from the State Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Bureau of Customs participated, and on the Canadian side, the Canadian Embassy in Washington, the Department of External Affairs and the Immigration Service in Ottawa were represented.