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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that Canada and the United States have agreed on the text of a joint reference to the International Joint Commission concerning the Richelieu River - Lake Champlain Waterway. The two governments in similar letters have today requested the Commission to conduct a study of the feasibility of improving the existing waterway or of developing other routes for a waterway from the St. Lawrence River in Canada through Lake Champlain to the Hudson River at Albany, New York. The Commission was specifically requested to make a study of whether improvement or development of a waterway would be feasible and economically advantageous and, if so, with what governing dimensions. The Commission was further asked to make an appraisal of the costs and the value to the two countries of any such projects. The governments requested the Commission, in making its examination and report, to bear in mind the effects which any such projects would have on conservation, recreation and other beneficial uses.