

The Department of External Affairs announced that representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada are meeting today in Washington as part of an ongoing bilateral exchange on energy matters of common interest. The United States delegation is headed by Julius L. Katz, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs and the Canadian delegation by Gordon M. MacNabb, Deputy Minister, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The primary issues to be discussed are bilateral oil exchange arrangements, the possible use of storage facilities in Canada in the United States' strategic oil storage programme, and natural gas supply and demand conditions in the two countries. Information will also be exchanged on consideration now being given in both countries to natural gas transportation systems from northern areas.