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PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ON MIGRATORY CARIBOU

The Department of External Affairs today announced the commencement of a new phase in preparing for the negotiation of a proposed agreement with the United States on migratory caribou. A letter is being sent to native and conservation groups, and to the two territorial governments, covering a list of questions on significant issues which arise in the formulation of such an agreement.

Views are being sought from interested groups before proceeding with discussions with the United States. A similar list of questions is being circulated in the United States by the Department of State. Canadian responses are being requested by January 31, 1980.

Some of the same groups were involved in a series of discussions earlier this year organized by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Although the letter is being sent to those groups most directly concerned with conservation or use of caribou, comments from other members of the interested public regarding the proposed Agreement would be welcome at this time and as discussions proceed.

The list of questions is available on request from the United States Transboundary Relations Division, Department of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2 (telephone: (613) 996-4633).

The proposed migratory caribou agreement would cover caribou herds which migrate between Canada and the United States across the Yukon-Alaska border. The major migratory herd covered would be the Porcupine herd of some 100,000 animals on which a number of Indian and Inuit communities in both countries depend.