

IJC AIR-POLLUTION REPORT DETROIT-ST. CLAIR AREAS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the Minister of the Environment Mr. Jack Davis, announced on October 12 that a report on transboundary air pollution in the Detroit-Windsor and Sarnia-Port Huron areas had been presented by the International Joint Commission to the Governments of Canada and the United States.

The report is the product of extensive investigations carried out by the Commission over the past six years. The inquiry involved a meteorological study of the two areas, measurement of the contamination of air masses crossing the international boundary, identification and quantification of the sources of transboundary air pollution and determination of the resulting adverse effects.

The Commission found that there is transboundary pollution in both areas. In the Detroit-Windsor area, roughly 90 per cent of particulates (small pieces of solid matter, like dust) and 94 per cent of sulphur oxides originated in the U.S.

In the Sarnia-Port Huron area about 52 per cent of the particulates and 27 per cent of sulphur oxides originated in Canada.

The malodours experienced in Port Huron and Marine City, Michigan, were owing to transboundary movement from the Canadian side. The principal sources of the major pollutants, particulates and sulphur oxides in the Detroit River areas were the steam-electric power plant and metallurgical industries in Wayne County, Michigan. The principal sources of these air contaminants in the St. Clair River area were the steam-electric power plants in Michigan and the oil refineries and chemical industries near Sarnia.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission has submitted a comprehensive plan of action for correcting this serious situation. It recommends first, that the federal, provincial and state authorities adopt the general and specific air-quality objectives proposed by the Commission; secondly, that the Governments of Canada and the United States, with appropriate participation by the Province of Ontario, the State of Michigan and Wayne County, "enter into an agreement on schedules for the implementation, at the earliest practicable date, of preventive and remedial measures to achieve the

said air-quality objectives and a uniform method for assessing air quality"; third, that the governments concerned enter into agreement on co-ordinated procedures under which the regulatory agencies in both countries will respond quickly to adverse atmospheric conditions when these arise; fourth, that the two governments, in concert with provincial and state agencies and industry, expand their air-quality research programs; and finally, that the Commission itself be assigned a new role of surveillance and monitoring the programs and making further recommendations. In this connection, the Commission has proposed the establishment of a permanent international advisory board, and citizens advisory groups, to assist it in carrying out its duties.

SITUATION SERIOUS

The Canadian authorities agree that the IJC has made a sound analysis of the problems of transboundary pollution in these areas, and has confirmed that a serious situation exists. The Canadian Government views with concern the situation described by the Commission and considers that the recommendations, if implemented by the responsible authorities on a co-operative basis, should result in a more rapid improvement in air quality in these areas, and protect air quality in the future. Canada is ready to play its full part in the kind of measures recommended by the Commission. The provisions of Canada's Clean Air Act of 1971, would provide the necessary basis for participation in the kind of international agreement recommended by the Commission.

Canadian Government officials are consulting the responsible authorities in the United States, with a view to discussing the implementation of the co-operative measures recommended by the IJC. The first meeting for this purpose will take place in Washington later this month.

Recognizing that the implementation of the Commission's recommendations could not be achieved without the full co-operation of the Government of Ontario, federal officers are consulting closely with provincial authorities. Ontario officials will probably join with federal officials in future discussions with the United States Government, as they did in the negotiations leading to the conclusion of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement signed last April.

CANADIAN-MADE FOREIGN COINS

The Royal Canadian Mint has contracted with the Central Bank of Venezuela to provide 100 million coins, the first complete major contract for circulating coinage ever carried out by the Royal Canadian Mint for a foreign country. The value of the contract is approximately \$1 million in Canadian funds.

The Mint will be producing 40 million 5-centimo

pieces and 60 million 10-centimo pieces, out of cupro-nickel (75 percent copper, 25 percent nickel) metal.

The Mint also has a number of foreign contracts for numismatic coinage from Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, the Isle of Man, Iran and Bermuda and has recently completed a large two-year contract with Brazil for the supply of cupro-nickel coinage blanks. In addition, the Mint is negotiating an exceptionally large order in the Far East.