

Garrison Diversion Unit — IJC recommends some delay

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, announced on September 19 that the Governments of Canada and the United States had received from the International Joint Commission its report on the "Transboundary Implications of the Garrison Diversion Unit" in North Dakota.

The IJC concluded that the construction and operation of the Garrison Diversion irrigation project in North Dakota would cause significant injury to health and property in Canada as a result of adverse impacts on the water quality, and would damage some important biological resources in Manitoba.

The IJC International Garrison Diversion Study Board had proposed an improved fish screen at McClusky Canal and a closed system of water transport. However, the Commission concluded that because of possible overland flow from accidents or for other reasons, although unlikely, the fish screen and closed system could not be relied upon.

The only acceptable policy at present, concluded the Commission, was to delay construction of those features of the Garrison Diversion Unit until the question of biota and fish-diseases transfer was no longer a matter of concern to the governments.

Go-ahead for Lonetree

With regard to another part of the project, the Commission concluded that Lonetree Reservoir and its dams could be constructed without an unacceptable risk to Canada, if all outlet works from the

reservoir discharge only into the Missouri River Basin (James River) and if fishing in the Reservoir were forbidden.

The Commission concluded that the concentrations of dissolved solids in the return flows to Canada could be reduced by removing irrigable areas with highly saline soils and replacing them with less saline soils. However, this would not improve the situation with respect to nitrates.

The IJC further concluded that seepage from the Velva Canal would be reduced by lining certain areas of the canal to decrease the amount and concentration of total dissolved solids flowing from the canal.

Wildlife protection

The Commission noted that the project would have an adverse impact on the waterfowl resources in Manitoba, but it concluded that this would be largely offset by the implementation of a wetland habitat-restoration program.

The Commission resolved to verify both the quality and quantity of return flows from the project, and to determine by research the ultimate fate of nitrogen in the Souris River before there is irrigation development in the river area.

The IJC report also states that management practices by farmers in North Dakota should be required by law and duly monitored.

Finally, the Commission concluded that the two governments should negotiate appropriate water quality agreements for the Souris and Red Rivers.

are likely to reach extraordinary levels this year.

In offering assistance to Portugal, Canada is associating itself with the group of countries which announced recently that they would provide assistance to Portugal in the form of balance-of-payment support.

In the course of the past two years, Canada has provided various forms of aid to Portugal, including the grant of over half-a-million dollars, through the Red Cross, for assistance to refugees from former colonies now in Portugal and the provision of training for Portuguese military personnel with Canadian forces in Germany.

New Finance Minister heads list of Cabinet changes

Prime Minister Trudeau named Jean Chrétien as the new Minister of Finance on September 16 to replace Donald Macdonald, who resigned on September 6. Mr. Chrétien, the first French Canadian



Jean Chrétien

Richard Vroom

appointed to the finance portfolio, was formerly the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

First Deputy PM

Twelve Cabinet positions were changed, including the appointment of Allan J. MacEachen as Deputy Prime Minister — a newly-named post — which Mr. MacEachen fills while remaining President of the Privy Council.

Other ministers are:

- Warren Allmand, from Indian Affairs and Northern Development to Consumer and Corporate Affairs;
- Hugh Faulkner, from Science and Technology to Indian Affairs and Northern Development;
- Marc Lalonde, from Health and Welfare to the new portfolio of Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations;
- Judd Buchanan, who remains Minister of Public Works and also becomes Minister of State for Science and Technology.
- Leonard Marchand, from Minister of State for Small Business to Minister of State, Environment;
- Monique Begin, from Revenue to Health and Welfare;
- Anthony Abbott, from Consumer and Corporate Affairs to Minister of State for Small Business;

Wheat grant to Portugal

Canada will give \$15-million worth of wheat in a grant to Portugal, announced Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson on August 31. Portugal will also be added to the list of beneficiaries of the Generalized System of Preferences and Canada will fund a small technical co-operation project in the field of fisheries. The Government of Portugal intends to finance a program to encourage contacts between the people of the two countries.

The wheat grant will have an immediate beneficial effect on the Portuguese economy since its requirements in wheat