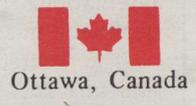


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## Canada and U.S. have mutual obligation to preserve environment

Canadians and Americans share a moral responsibility to ensure that North America's resources are not left "ravaged and extinct", said Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan in an address to the Conference on Acid Rain held at the State University of New York in Buffalo, New York, May 2.

The minister told delegates to the conference that it was the responsibility of both countries to each ensure, through the rule of law, that North America's environment is not destroyed because of lack of "foresight or the will to protect it for future generations of North Americans".

During his visit to Ottawa in March, United States President Ronald Reagan assured the Canadian government that negotiation of an agreement to deal with the acid rain problem would proceed as planned and that the U.S. wanted to cooperate with Canada to control air as well as water pollution. Dr. MacGuigan said he regarded the President's assurance as an important commitment by the U.S. government.

### Acidic lakes

The minister invited those who doubt the seriousness of acid rain to visit Canada and see the disastrous effects that several million tons of sulphur dioxides and nitrogen oxides each year have on the Canadian environment. At least half of these airborne pollutants originate in the United States and are transformed chemically in the atmosphere and fall in Canada each year in the form of acid rain, said the minister.

Many Canadian lakes have reached levels of acidity which make it impossible to support fish and related forms of life, he said. In Nova Scotia, nine rivers no longer support the salmon population as a result of acid rain. Elsewhere, the leaching of calcium and magnesium from the soil is threatening Canada's boreal forest — a resource that provides employment to 10 per cent of the Canadian



labour force, said Dr. MacGuigan.

The minister cited several examples in Canada where joint efforts by scientists, industry and government have succeeded in reducing noxious emissions. The best example, he said, was the smelting operation of the International Nickel Company at Sudbury, Ontario — the largest single producer of acid-causing emissions in Canada. "Had no controls been imposed, that smelter today would be producing some 7,200 tons of sulphur dioxide daily. However, for several years, it has been operating at 50 per cent control or below. New regulations in 1980 have reduced the legal limit from 3,600 tons a day to 2,500 tons. In 1983, it will drop to 1,950 tons and we are examining ways to reduce emissions to the lowest possible level," said Dr. MacGuigan.

In addition the containment of sulphur emissions at a new copper smelter in Timmins, Ontario will reach 97 per cent, he added. Ontario's thermal power stations have also been required to reduce their total sulphur dioxide emissions by 43 per cent during 1980 — even though like the United States, Canada is anticipating considerable growth in demand for electricity, said the minister.

"...Acid rain is a serious bilateral issue because Canadians perceive that further delays in tackling the burgeoning threat of acid rain can result in further incal-



Thirty-two years ago today... Newfoundland joined the Canadian confederation in March 1949 and on May of that same year held its first provincial general election. The Liberal Party was returned to office under Premier J.R. Smallwood.

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