

Mr. MacEachen recalled assurances given by President Reagan during his visit to Canada in 1981 that both countries must cooperate to control air pollution that respects no borders.

Minister Caccia noted that unilateral programs in Canada to reduce acid-causing emissions by twenty-five per cent by 1990 have already been adopted. "Canadian federal and provincial governments are ready to proceed with an additional program of emission reductions which, in conjunction with USA abatement measures, would achieve a target loading for wet sulphate deposition of 20 kilograms per hectare per year (18 pounds per acre per year), the level needed to protect moderately sensitive lakes and streams. The damage already caused by inaction is enormous for both countries and will grow with each postponement of the action," the Minister said. "This damage has been established by clear and convincing evidence."

The Canada-USA Memorandum of Intent signed almost four years ago recognized the already serious problem of acid rain and the urgent need to protect the environment from damage being caused by transboundary air pollution by reducing emissions. The MOI is based on Principle 21 of the Stockholm Declaration that states have "the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction." It is also consistent with the obligations undertaken by both Canada and the United States under the 1979 ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. The long-standing commitment of our two countries not to cause damage to the environment of the other is also enshrined in the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. "Canada had anticipated and expected that control measures could be taken shortly, in view of these commitments", said Mr. MacEachen. "We therefore deeply regret there is no indication in statements by the Administration that these undertakings will be given priority. Acid rain is a grave threat unless both countries reduce their emissions now."

There have already been over 3000 scientific studies on acid rain. The Canadian Government firmly believes that sufficient scientific evidence has already been accumulated by prestigious scientific bodies in