

## CANADA-U.S. TOP LEVEL TALKS ON GREAT LAKES POLLUTION

Ministers and representatives of the Governments of Canada and the United States met on June 23 in Ottawa to discuss common problems of pollution in the Great Lakes.

The meeting discussed the recommendations in a special report submitted in April by the International Joint Commission on potential oil pollution, eutrophication and pollution from watercraft.

It was agreed that:

(a) The Canadian contingency plan for the Great Lakes for spills of oil and hazardous materials, which will shortly come into operation, will be fully co-ordinated with the new United States plan.

(b) Inputs of phosphates into the Great Lakes should be reduced in order to arrest and reverse eutrophication of the Great Lakes. Canadian legislation will permit the Canadian Government to implement the Commission's recommendations for reducing and eliminating phosphates from detergents and the Canadian Government has announced its intentions to take action that would meet the IJC recommendations. Standards are in effect on the United States side of the Lakes which will require the achievement of an 80 percent removal of all phosphates from municipal and industrial sewage (including detergents) by 1973, and in advance of the target date of 1975 recommended by the Commission; the United States Government is continuing its intensive review of the removal of phosphates from detergents.

(c) In both countries legislation exists for the regulation of waste disposal by commercial vessels and pleasure craft, and the ministers concerned have agreed to achieve compatible regulations.

### LESS GAS DRILLING

It was noted that the Ontario Government intends to modify its gas-drilling program on Lake Erie to con-

form to the recommendations of the Commission in the special report. There is no gas-well drilling by Michigan, Ohio, New York or Pennsylvania in Lake Erie. It was further noted that phosphate-removal facilities were being initiated by Ontario with a view to meeting the recommendations of the Commissioners.

Ministers and representatives expressed deep concern about the critical situation in the Great Lakes, and noted the determination of the Governments to take decisive action.

The Ministers have agreed to the establishment of a working group to consider common water-quality objectives and implementing programs that may be proposed by either Government to the working group. This working group will report back to this ministerial conference, which will be reconvened subsequent to the final report of the IJC.

### DELEGATES

The United States delegation was led by Mr. Russell E. Train, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, United States Ambassador Adolph Schmidt, Mr. Carl L. Klein, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Water Quality Research and Rear Admiral Robert W. Goehring, Chief of Operations, U.S. Coast Guard, who were accompanied by senior officials from the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Transportation and the Council on Environmental Quality.

The Canadian delegation was led by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. J.J. Greene, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. J. Davis, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Mr. Herb Gray, Minister without Portfolio and Mr. George Kerr, Minister of Energy and Resources Management for Ontario.

### AIRFIELDS FOR EASTERN ARCTIC

Construction of the first of six airfields to be built in Canada's Eastern Arctic will begin early in August at Pangnirtung on Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island, Mr. Jean Chrétien, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced recently. Construction will be carried out by engineers of the Canadian Armed Forces, using local labour as much as possible, during the next five summers.

The \$2-million project is part of the \$5,616,000 Remote Airports Program planned and financed by the Indian Affairs Department, calling for a total of ten airfields in the next nine years in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. These are designed to make the Arctic regions more accessible to year-round air traffic and to improve medical, educational and other services in the North.

In the Eastern Arctic, airfields are planned at Chesterfield Inlet, Pond Inlet, Whale Cove, Igloodik and Cape Dorset, besides Pangnirtung. These communities are all located on Baffin Island or on the mainland near Hudson Bay.

### RUNWAY DESIGN

The basic runway design provides for gravel strips at least 2,600 feet long and 100 feet wide, suitable for two-engine aircraft. Where possible, forces engineers will increase the size of the basic field to 4,000 feet by 150 feet to accommodate large military transport planes. The cost of these extensions, estimated at \$650,000, will be borne by the Department of National Defence. Primitive airstrips accommodating only light planes are in existence at some sites but are not suitable for year-round use.