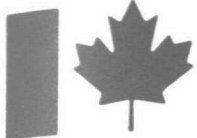


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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

N°:
No.: 138

August 1st, 1986.

CANADA-UNITED STATES REFERENCE TO THE
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON
GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States have forwarded to the International Joint Commission a Joint Reference requesting the Commission to examine and report on ways to deal with the problems caused by fluctuating water levels in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin.

The Joint Reference is in response to the serious problem of flooding in the Great Lakes region that has resulted from an extended period of abnormally high precipitation. The flooding has caused considerable property damage and shoreline erosion. The Commission has been asked to examine and evaluate all possible measures to address the problem of fluctuating water levels on both a short- and a long-term basis and to recommend to governments the most practicable means of alleviating the problem. An interim report, focusing on measures to alleviate the current problem, is expected in 1987.

Earlier this year both the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Thomas McMillan, and the Province of Ontario announced a number of programs to address the current flooding problem. These programs will continue as long as necessary in order to provide assistance in addressing the serious situation being experienced in the Great Lakes region.

Dept. of External Affairs
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OTTAWA

SEP 19 1986