



news release

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CANADA RESPONDS TO UNITED STATES INACTION ON ACID RAIN

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, and the Minister for Environment, the Honourable Charles Caccia, today officially registered Canada's deep disappointment with the United States Administration's announcement that efforts to combat acid rain would be limited solely to research for the foreseeable future.

A diplomatic note delivered to the USA Administration asks the United States to clarify how it intends to meet its obligations to Canada in the matter of transboundary air pollution. "We are asking our good friends to confirm their willingness, on the basis of undertakings already given, to accept their shared responsibility to protect the North American environment and move immediately towards mutually acceptable programs to combat acid rain," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

At least half of the acid rain falling in Canada comes from the USA. "The continued delay in adopting effective abatement measures is not acceptable to Canada. Canada considers that the decision fails to take full account of USA undertakings and ignores principles contained in bilateral treaties directed at protecting the North American environment. The development of complementary control programs will be delayed as a result of the position taken by the Administration," Mr. MacEachen said. "Even if Canadian sulphur dioxide emissions were to cease altogether, we could not alone protect the Canadian environment".

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