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CANADA EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT

-- The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, today released the text of a diplomatic note expressing the Canadian Government's concern that important new funds may shortly be appropriated for the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota.

The Canadian Note was prompted by indications yesterday that the Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate will be considering on June 19 in Washington an additional appropriation of \$9.7 million for the Garrison Diversion Project. While the proposed appropriation would be used to fund work not directly affecting Canada, the Government is concerned that the new funding, if subsequently approved by the Congress, could ultimately result in actions damaging to Canada.

The Canadian Ambassador in Washington was accordingly instructed to formally express both to the United States Administration and to members of the Congress, Canada's concern at this development.

The potential adverse transboundary impacts of the Garrison Diversion Project, particularly the risks posed to Manitoba's fisheries and water quality by inter-basin transfers of water and associated harmful foreign biota, remain a source of serious concern to Canada. In its 1977 Report the International Joint Commission characterized the biota transfer problem as a concern "over-riding everything else", and recommended that the project not go ahead until this concern had been eliminated. The Canadian Government remains firmly of the view that the only way to eliminate this concern is for the project to be modified to eliminate all inter-basin transfers of water. The Government is continuing to press United States authorities for such modifications to the Garrison Project.