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INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
ON POLLUTION OF RED RIVER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States of America have approved the recommendations of the International Joint Commission for the control of pollution of the Red River at the boundary. The recommendations are contained in the Commission's report of April 11, 1968 which was released today.

The Commission reported that during the period of survey (1964-66) the waters of the Red River crossing into Canada were not polluted to such an extent as to cause injury to health or property in this country. However, the Commission recommended that in order to maintain these waters in satisfactory condition the states of Minnesota and North Dakota comply with certain water quality objectives set out in the report. At the same time the Commission concluded that injury to health or property in Canada was not likely so long as these states adhere to the water quality standards which they have established by legislation.

The Commission also recommended that it be given authority to supervise the maintenance of water quality at the boundary and to recommend changes or additions in the objectives as necessary. In approving the recommendations the Canadian and American Governments had the concurrence of Manitoba, Minnesota and North Dakota.