

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States have responded to recommendations contained in the International Joint Commission's report of May 1976 entitled "Further Regulation of the Great Lakes". The Report concluded that the Great Lakes already possess a high degree of natural regulation and that only a limited reduction in the range of water levels is practicable.

In response to recommendations 1 and 2 of the Report, the Governments have requested the Commission to undertake two studies related to Great Lakes water levels. Both of these take the form of References pursuant to Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. In the first study, the Commission will examine the possibilities for limited regulation of Lake Erie consistent with the principle of systemic regulation of the Great Lakes. In the second study, it will examine the effects on Great Lakes water levels and flows of existing and proposed diversions within, into or out of the Great Lakes Basin, and of existing and reasonably foreseeable patterns of consumptive uses of Great Lakes waters.

In the latter Reference, the Commission has been specifically instructed to examine the effects on water levels and flows in the Basin of the proposed study and demonstration programme to increase diversions at Chicago as authorized by United States legislation passed in October 1976.