

INTERNATIONAL JOINT
COMMISSION

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151 SLATER
OTTAWA, ONT. Our File: 101-3-1:1
KIP 5H3

August 5, 1976

The Honourable A.J. MacEachen, P.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
L.B. Pearson Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0G2

Dear Mr. MacEachen:

Reference is made to the Commission's letter of July 6, 1976, advising the Government of Canada that our report on the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota would not be available by October 31, 1976 as requested. The letter also indicated that the Commission would write the Governments further in this regard after receipt of more detailed information from the Garrison Diversion Study Board following the Board's meeting July 27-29.

The Commission met with the co-Chairmen of the Garrison Study Board on Friday, July 30, 1976, at which time the reasons for the delay in completing the Board's report were discussed thoroughly. The Commission also gave lengthy consideration to the development of a more accurate time table for submission of its report to Governments.

The Board's inability to meet an August deadline for its report to the Commission is due primarily to the need for a detailed and professional assessment of the available water quality data, including their reliability. These data provide the basis for predicting the impact the project will have on the quality of the Souris and Red Rivers in Canada. This question is, as you know, the very heart of the study under the Reference and is therefore a controlling