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PEMBINA RIVER REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced the tabling in the House of the report of the International Joint Commission on the Cooperative Development of the Pembina River Basin in Manitoba and North Dakota. This report, which was received from the Commission by the Canadian and United States Governments, is responsive to their request to the Commission of April 12, 1962.

The report is the product of an extensive investigation by the Commission's International Pembina River Engineering Board, composed of three senior officials from each country; of public hearings in June of 1965 in Manitoba and North Dakota; and of additional studies undertaken by the Commission.

The recommended plan calls for construction of two dams on the Pembina River - one just west of Walhalla, North Dakota and the other south of Manitou, Manitoba. The project would be intended to provide adequate flood control protection, an assured water supply of suitable quality for municipal and industrial purposes, and irrigation. It would also be designed to provide water-related recreational sites and to improve the quality and quantity of game fish in the area.

The appropriate Canadian and United States authorities are currently studying the report with a view to future joint consideration of its recommendations.