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Reference to the International Joint Commission on Pollution
in the Great Lakes

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States of America have placed jointly before the International Joint Commission a Reference on pollution in the Great Lakes. The text of this Reference is as follows:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Governments of the United States and Canada have been informed that the waters of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the international section of the St. Lawrence River are being polluted by sewage and industrial waste discharged into these waters. Having in mind the provision of Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty signed January 11, 1909, that boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other side, the two Governments have agreed upon a joint Reference of the matter to the International Joint Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Article IX of said Treaty. The Commission is requested to inquire into and to report to the two Governments upon the following questions:

- (1) Are the waters of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the international section of the St. Lawrence River being polluted on either side of the boundary to an extent which is causing or is likely to cause injury to health or property on the other side of the boundary?