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GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT REVIEW:
RESPONSE TO THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT

The Right Honourable Joe Clark and the Honourable Tom McMillan are pleased to announce that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has transmitted an interim response to the Third Biennial Report of the International Joint Commission (IJC) on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Under the terms of the Agreement, the release of the Third Biennial Report requires Canada and the United States to conduct a comprehensive review of the operation and effectiveness of this major bilateral accord. The interim response sets out the premises of this review, which began with the release of the Third Biennial Report on March 18, 1987.

The interim response reiterates the commitment of the Government of Canada to the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; it also acknowledges that much remains to be done to achieve them. It expresses the intention of the Government to direct efforts in the review process toward strengthening implementation of the Agreement, rather than toward its comprehensive re-negotiation.

The response is a first attempt by the Governments of Canada and Ontario to deal with the substance of several of the recommendations made by the IJC. It was prepared under the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of the Environment, by Environment Canada officials in consultation with other federal and provincial departments. The full text of the interim response is available on request from the Department of External Affairs or Environment Canada.

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