

On Sunday, June 4, the tanker "World Bond" discharged approximately 12,000 gallons of crude oil into the sea while engaged in unloading operations at the Atlantic Richfield Refinery at Cherry Point, which is just south of the Canada-United States boundary in the State of Washington. Some of this oil quickly spread into Canadian waters.

The incident at Cherry Point is a stark reminder of what we have stated on many occasions: that far more serious spills will inevitably take place on other occasions if oil is moved by tanker through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It demonstrates that in the event of a spill on the United States side, damage will almost certainly be suffered in Canada, and this damage could be severe. Even the small quantity of oil which escaped on this occasion moved rapidly northward across the boundary and collected on some five miles of one of the finest beaches of the area.

We have, of course, registered with the United States Canada's grave concern about this ominous incident. On instructions, our Embassy yesterday emphasized to the State Department that the incident confirmed our anxieties over the threat to the ecology and resources of this inland marine area from oil tankers. The Embassy made clear that the Canadian Government expects full and prompt compensation for all damages suffered in Canada, as well as full clean-up costs, to be paid by those responsible. The Embassy restated our broader concerns about the hazards which will arise from the movement by tanker of large quantities of oil into the Cherry Point refineries. We have made repeated representations to the United States Government about the proposed increase in oil tanker traffic into this area, and indeed we raised this matter with President Nixon when he visited Canada in mid-April.

We proposed to President Nixon that the International Joint Commission should be requested by the two Governments to conduct a thorough investigation of the hazards of marine transport of oil into this area. We have since made specific proposals for this investigation, and in the light of this recent incident our Ambassador in Washington is pressing for an early and positive response from the United States Government.

We appreciate that this particular spill was small in comparison with the magnitude of predicted spills, and that the refinery and authorities concerned on both sides took prompt action to contain the spill and minimize the damage. Consequently, the damage to Canadian waters and shoreline was less than might have otherwise resulted. We appreciate also that Atlantic Richfield Corporation has apparently recognized its obligation to meet the cost of the clean-up