

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

IJC PUBLIC HEARINGS ON GARRISON DIVERSION UNIT

March, 1977

Mr. Chairman, Commissioners:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish to commend the Commission's International Garrison Diversion Study Board and the members and consultants of that Board's various committees, for the preparation of the comprehensive report on the transboundary implications of the proposed completion and operation of the Garrison Diversion Unit as instructed by the Commission on October 30, 1975, under the Reference dated October 22, 1975.

The Government of Canada has noted the Board's conclusions, particularly its conclusion that the Garrison Diversion Unit, as presently envisaged, will have adverse impacts on water uses in Canada. The Canadian Government has also noted the Board's technical recommendations and considers that they can serve as a sound basis for the major recommendations we expect from the IJC. It is clear from the Report, however, that implementation of the Board's recommendations concerning measures to reduce damages would not eliminate some of the negative water quality impacts of the project on Canadian waters.

In considering the Recommendations of the Board, the Canadian Government strongly urges the Commission to stress the importance of test measures that the Board recommends be undertaken prior to project