

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1968 Oden<sup>1</sup> suggested that acidity in precipitation in Sweden was largely attributable to emissions of sulfur compounds in Central Europe and England. By 1972 Rodhe et al<sup>1</sup> had developed the first quantitative analysis of the long range transport of sulfur in Europe. They showed that distances of transport frequently exceed 1000 kilometers, the residence time of sulfur in air was 2-4 days and the fields of deposition were roughly symmetrical and slightly displaced to the northeast from sources of emission.

In 1978, the Governments of Canada and the U.S.A. established a Bilateral Research Consultation Group on the Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants to co-ordinate the exchange of scientific information on acid precipitation. This group documented the transboundary exchange of sulfur and nitrogen oxides between the U.S.A. and Canada in 1979. In the fall of 1978, the United States Congress passed a resolution calling for bilateral discussions with Canada to preserve and protect mutual air resources. On August 5, 1980, the two governments signed a Memorandum of Intent "to develop a bilateral agreement on transboundary air pollution including the already serious problem of acid rain". To provide a suitable technical and scientific foundation for the

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<sup>1</sup> From Cowling, E.B. (1982). Acid precipitation in historical perspective. Environmental Science and Technology, Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 110-123.