

their main assessments and conclusions. That is the purpose of the article. In its preparation, Mr. Sharp notes that he has had the benefit of the advice and assistance of his colleagues in the Government and of officials in the Department of External Affairs.

ST. JOHN RIVER POLLUTION

A two-stage international approach has been developed to speed up the improvement of water quality in the St. John River Basin. To help control and prevent pollution in the international section of the St. John River and its tributaries crossing the border, a joint Canada-United States committee is being created. Further, the International Joint Commission is to review the findings of this committee and submit to the two governments its recommendations for action.

The new Committee on Water Quality in the St. John River will consist of an equal number of members from each country. They will represent the Governments of Canada, United States, New Brunswick, Quebec and Maine, and also include spokesmen for the St. John River Planning Board and the Northern Maine Regional Planning Commission.

A program to improve water quality is already being carried out co-operatively by the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick, with a similar program in the State of Maine. The new committee will review progress in improvement of water quality throughout the international section of the St. John River and will provide for exchange of information, consultation and co-ordination of activities. It will also make recommendations to the appropriate authorities for the improvement of water quality in the basin.

This is a further important step in the joint Canada-United States battle against pollution in boundary waters. The use of the International Joint Commission, established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, in combating pollution has been increasing in recent years. An important example of its efforts was the lengthy study which formed the basis for the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, signed at Ottawa in April of this year by Prime Minister Trudeau and President Nixon.

The St. John River is also receiving special attention from the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society. Within this committee Canada is the leader of a pilot project on the control of inland water pollution. The new arrangements will be presented to the NATO committee as an example of international co-operation in the management of water quality.

These arrangements were brought about through an Exchange of Notes between Ottawa and Washington and the submission of a reference to the International Joint Commission by the two governments last month.

AIRCRAFT SALE TO SPAIN

Canadair Ltd of Montreal is to start immediately on production of 20 CL-215 water-bombers, eight of which have already been sold to the Spanish Government, Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, announced recently.

"The order from the Government of Spain is a welcome one," Mr. Pepin said, "but a production run of just eight aircraft is not economically viable. For this reason, Canadair has undertaken to finance the building of an additional two aircraft and my Department will finance the remaining ten.

"I must emphasize that this is not a government grant to Canadair. It is merely a matter of good business to help Canada's export drive," Mr. Pepin said. "As each of the aircraft being built for inventory is sold, the Crown will be reimbursed with the full cost."

Mr. Pepin said the contract would provide three years of work for 1,000 employees at Canadair.

"It is estimated that there is a potential market for as many as 100 CL-215s and inquiries have been received from 12 countries in Europe, South America, Africa and the Orient," Mr. Pepin said. Fifteen CL-215s are already in use in the Province of Quebec, 11 in France and two in Spain.

Mr. Pepin added that "the sale of these aircraft and spares for some \$16 million is a substantial boost to our exports to Spain, which totalled \$64 million in 1971. Our imports from Spain were \$38.5 million. One of the more pleasant recent imports involved the purchase of some \$6.5 million of Spanish wine by the Quebec Liquor Commission."

SIZE STANDARDS FOR ENVELOPES

The Canada Post Office has developed a set of standards for envelopes and cards processed through its new mechanical sorting equipment. The Department is announcing the standards now and, while they are not mandatory, compliance will become more necessary as the program advances.

The standards will apply to both the physical characteristics of envelopes (size, shape, weight, sealing procedures, etc.) and to the placing of the address, postal code, etc.

There are for instance, minimum and maximum height and length sizes specified for letters mailed in Canada going to Canadian destinations. In the case of letter-size envelopes, the minimum is three and one-half inches by five and one-half inches. The maximum is five and seven-eighths inches by ten inches.

Although mail not conforming to these standards will be accepted, it will have to be sorted manually. The standards are aimed at improving the performance of new sorting equipment which, as it is installed across the country, will handle all mail conforming to the new specifications.