

The need for urgent action is based on the Commission's findings that Lake Erie, particularly its Western Basin, is in an advanced state of eutrophication, and that accelerated eutrophication is taking place in Lake Ontario.

The report recognizes that governments will have to enter into agreements for the carrying out of programmes and of measures and schedules to achieve them. The report recommends that the Commission be given the authority, responsibility and means for co-ordinating and ensuring the necessary surveillance and monitoring of water quality and of the effectiveness of pollution abatement programmes. It further recommends that the reference of October 1964 be extended to authorize it to investigate pollution in the remaining boundary waters in the Great Lakes system and waters flowing into it.

A meeting with the United States at the ministerial level in Ottawa last June initiated discussions which are now continuing between the two countries aimed at more effective co-operative action to control pollution and water quality in the Great Lakes.

The June meeting, at which Canada was represented by members of the Federal and Ontario governments, established a joint Canada/U.S.A. working group to study various ways of creating a more effective basis for co-operation to deal with Great Lakes pollution in light of the findings and recommendations to be contained in the final I.J.C. report as now presented.

The joint working group met in Washington in September and organized ten sub-groups to examine in detail particular aspects of the problem. On the Canadian side, some 100 experts from several Federal Government departments and from Ontario Government departments and agencies are involved, together with a corresponding number of officials from United States Federal departments and Great Lakes States governments.

The joint working group will report to a second ministerial meeting on Great Lakes pollution planned to take place later this year. Decisions taken at this second ministerial meeting will provide for concerted programmes aimed to achieve agreed water quality objectives and the means to put such programmes into action. These programmes will include a commitment to implement other recommendations contained in the report and to establish effective mechanisms to perform the necessary surveillance functions.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the many people in Canada and the United States who have contributed to the work behind this important report. In particular, I would like to thank Mr. Christian Herter, Chairman of the