

GOVERNMENT



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE
12 NOON (E.S.T.), WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 12, 1949.

NO. 2

January 12, 1949.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States have agreed on terms of reference to the International Joint Commission requesting it to investigate complaints of air pollution along the International Boundary in the vicinity of Detroit and Windsor. Text of the reference being submitted to the Canadian section of the Commission is attached.

The terms of reference request the Commission to investigate complaints that vessels passing through the Detroit River are causing the pollution of air in the vicinity of those two cities. The reference also requests the Commission to ascertain other major factors which might be contributing to this air pollution by the discharge of smoke, soot and fly ash in quantities sufficient to be detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare of citizens.

The reference, which is made under the provisions of Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty signed January 11, 1909, asks the Commission to conduct inquiries and to report to the two Governments upon a number of questions, and also calls for recommendations as to remedial or preventive works which may be considered necessary to prevent pollution of the air in the vicinity of the International Boundary.